

A Play Policy for Conwy (2015) *'Making Conwy a play friendly place'*

This Play Policy relates to Conwy County Borough Council and the range of statutory and third sector partners who contribute to children and young people's lives in the County. It is based on the concept that play is a fundamental part of a healthy childhood and it is every child's right to be able to play.

We recognise and adopt the definition of play in Wales' National Play Policy (2002) as; *"children's behaviour which is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated"*. That is, it is what children do when they follow their own ideas for their own reasons. ¹

We believe that ALL children have a right to sufficient time and space for playing as enshrined within article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and further defined within General Comment 17. ²

We believe that in order to secure sufficient opportunities for playing we need to work in partnership with organisations and communities to cultivate the conditions of TIME, SPACE and PERMISSION for play. ³

We believe that, to support children's right to play is to provide a whole range of benefits to children and the communities in which they live and conversely, to deny that right can have serious implications for children and the wider community. ⁴

We recognise the link between resilient communities and resilient individuals and foresee a future in Conwy where ALL children and young people can be visible participants within the life of their communities through playing. ⁵

We recognise that play is a cross cutting theme and urge all stakeholders, organisations and communities to understand the role they have in securing sufficient opportunities for playing within children's communities as part of the statutory duty⁶. This also includes understanding that providing quality play opportunities contribute to many of the aims around tackling child poverty. ⁷

Finally, we are committed to securing sufficient opportunities for playing by;

- 1) Supporting organisations to better understand play and how best to support it
- 2) Identifying barriers to children's freely chosen play in their communities and working together to find ways to remove or reduce them
- 3) Supporting the development of new play provision
- 4) Supporting the increased quality and quantity of existing play provision
- 5) Co-ordinating the development of projects, partnerships and work programmes in order to secure sufficient opportunities for playing as required under the Children and Families (Wales) Measure and to co-ordinate and produce Conwy's Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan.

¹ Welsh Assembly Government National Play Policy (2002);

http://wales.gov.uk/dcells/publications/policy_strategy_and_planning/early-wales/playpolicy/playpolicye.pdf?lang=en

² International Play Association Website; <http://article31.ipaworld.org/article-31/a31-general-comment/>

³ 'The role of adults in children's play'; <http://www.playwales.org.uk/eng/information sheets>

⁴ 'Play Deprivation, Impact, Consequences and the potential of playwork'; <http://www.playwales.org.uk/eng/information sheets>

⁵ Play for a change (2008); <http://www.playengland.org.uk/media/120438/play-for-a-change-low-res.pdf>

⁶ <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/play-and-leisure/?lang=en>

⁷ Wales: A Play Friendly Country; <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/play-and-leisure/?lang=en>