

**Our Time**

**Our Space**

**Our Choice**



**Torbay's Play  
Strategy  
2005-10**

**'OUR TIME, OUR SPACE, OUR CHOICE'**  
**Torbay's Play Policy and Strategy for Torbay**

**Executive Summary**

Torbay Council, the Children's Society, the Play Forum in response to the Government's Play Review 2003, have developed a Play Policy and Strategy to inform future development and delivery of play services throughout Torbay. The Government will also be allocating £155m to improving play provision across England to meet recommendations identified in their Play Review. The Government will be allocating 75% of this funding to meet the needs identified in play plans and strategies.

This strategy will look at current provision specifically for informal and casual play activities for children and young people aged 0-19 years. The method of establishing the priorities will also focus on what children would like to do themselves rather than what adults would like them to do.

The need for a Play Strategy was identified as part of the Torbay Community Plan and Action Plan and the Cultural Strategy. These plans identified the need for play provision of both good quality and that are accessible to all.

The Cultural Strategy acknowledged that the Sports Strategy and Youth Strategy did look at some aspects of activities undertaken by children and young people, but it noted that the specific issues relating to informal play has not been addressed.

There are 29,101 children and young people aged 0-19 living in Torbay. This figure can more than double during the six weeks of the school summer holidays with many families visiting Torbay on holiday. The consultation identified the need to have play facilities and services close to main residential areas, and the area demographics have been mapped to ensure that play provision is focused in the areas where these are needed most.

In consulting with the children some interesting patterns emerged particularly in relation to children wanting to have the freedom to play out with friends, but with the proviso of feeling safe from bullying by older children. Many parents also have a fear for their children's safety when out playing alone. This together with the increase in fear of litigation by providers, has resulted in the quality of play provision deteriorating across the UK. These factors do contribute to the growing trend in the number of children and young people choosing to stay in to play with computers or watch TV.

The issues facing Torbay reflect many of the recommendations in the Governments play review and reflect nation-wide trends. The need for more exciting play provision particularly focusing on creative, informal and natural play settings, to have additional facilities which cater for very young children and those of the older age brackets, were considered by all those consulted as key priorities.

The review of the current provision, through demographic profiling shows opportunities to rationalise the more formal play areas now located in inappropriate areas, and identifying new natural environment informal spaces close to high populated areas. Torbay is rich in natural environment spaces and this offers Torbay opportunities to develop new innovative play spaces often lacking in more urban areas.

As well as looking at provision of play activity the strategy identifies a Play Policy for Torbay, which sets out a standard to which all practitioners and agencies can sign up to. The development of a Play Policy is now a requirement of the Government under their Best Value Performance Indicators.

Although Torbay Council, the Children's Society and local play groups invest significant sums in play provision each year, more is needed. By refocusing existing provision to areas of most need, with additional funding allocated by the Government and new funding opportunities from revising the planning guidance through the new framework, the opportunities for Play has never been better. This strategy will identify a co-ordinated approach to where Torbay wants to invest in play provision and how this will be delivered.

## **SECTION 1**

### **CONTEXT**

#### **1.1 Developing Torbay's Play Strategy – National, Regional and Local Context**

- 1.1.1 A National Play Review was launched in October 2002, and followed an announcement in June 2001 of a £200 million boost for children's play for the UK funded from the New Opportunities Fund. A proportion (£155 million) has since been allocated for distribution across England. The aim is to improve play opportunities for children and young people aged 0-16. The bulk of the funding is likely to be available from late 2005/2006 and will be allocated by the Government based on need.
- 1.1.2 The nature of play provision by Local Authorities has also radically changed over recent years, prompted by recent reforms in litigation and recommended standards (the new European Standards introduced in 1999), leading to a number of different responses. These have ranged from the wide spread closure of almost all play facilities by some, to enormous investment of capital by others in order to comply with every new recommended requirement.
- 1.1.3 In response to the development of this national strategy and changes in legislation, Torbay Council, the Children's Society, and the Play Forum came together to look at developing a Play Policy and Strategy for Torbay which will provide an across agency approach to service delivery.
- 1.1.4 The need for a play strategy was identified as part of the Torbay Community Plan and Action Plan. This aims to 'Improve the condition of parks and open spaces' to meet the needs of our community. It is important that the needs of children and young people as part of the wider community should not be overlooked. Children need places to play and things to do. Adults have a responsibility to create the circumstances and provide opportunities for play. This may include indoor and outside provision, staffed and un-staffed, to satisfy the needs of children of different ages, abilities, cultures and interests. Children and young people playing freely and safely is an important part of a healthy vibrant community.
- 1.1.5 The main objective is to develop a multi-agency Play Strategy which each department within the Council and external organisation can use to raise the profile of play and identify future development of play facilities and opportunities for those living in the Bay, under the following criteria:
- Provide an overarching view of play shared by different local authority departments, other agencies and voluntary groups.
  - Set out why children need to play and the benefits of play for children.
  - Develop criteria to evaluate and protect existing provision – both physical and in terms of play opportunities.
  - To influence policy and planning decisions relating to housing and loss of play provision.
  - Address issues to do with the need for formal and informal space.
  - Address issues to do with quality (i.e. children's access to space, opportunities, facilitation and the role of play work/youth work services).
  - Provide a framework for the improvement and development of provision and services.
  - To provide links with other corporate policies, strategies and community plans.

- To provide a co-ordinate approach across all agencies both in the public and voluntary sector to provide the best possible play facilities and opportunities for the community of Torbay.

1.1.6 There are 29,101 children and young people aged 0-19 years living in Torbay. It must also be noted that the population can more than double during the six weeks of the school holidays with many families visiting Torbay. In developing the strategy and identifying the needs of the community, care is taken to include this visiting group of families, children and young people.

## 1.2 Definition of Play

1.2.1 The definition of play widely shared by national play organisations including the Children's Play Council and the National Playing Fields Association is:

***Play is freely chosen, personally directed, intrinsically motivated behaviour that actively engaged the child or young person.***

1.2.2 This means children are playing when they are doing what they want to do, in a way they want to and for their own reasons. Play may take place with or without other children or any adult involvement. Although supportive, sympathetic adults can significantly improve the quality and range of opportunities for play.

1.2.3 The Audit Commission in response to government's recent review acknowledged the importance of Play. Their definition of a 'quality' Play experience is based on the 'degree to which children are provided with opportunities to experience directly:

- **The natural elements**
- **Fabricated and natural materials and tools**
- **Challenge**
- **Free movement**
- **Emotions**
- **A variety**
- **Play with identity**
- **Varied social interaction Change**

1.2.4 Children and young people of all ages play. As they get older the words they use to describe their activities may change. For the purposes of this strategy the term "play" is used to describe the free-time activities of children and young people aged 0-16.

1.2.5 Through play children and young people learn what cannot be taught. For example, self-confidence and self-esteem, the sense of themselves as individuals capable of making choices. Where there is adult support for play children feel valued and respected. By playing, children learn and develop as individuals, and as members of the community.

1.2.6 Play is an essential part of every child's life and vital to the processes of human development. It provides a mechanism for children to explore the world around them and the medium through which skills are developed and practised. It is essential for physical, emotional, and spiritual growth, intellectual and educational develop and acquiring social and behavioural skills.

1.2.4 As children grow up, their play needs and wishes develop. In particular, as they grow more independent they want to spend more time away from their home and parents. Therefore in developing a Play Strategy for Torbay, reference is made to the changing and developing play needs of children and young people of different ages from pre-school age to nineteen years old. Although the national review is limited to children and young people aged 0-16 it was felt that Torbay needed to also address the needs for

informal activity of those to the age of 19. Few teenagers would describe what they do as play but it was felt that because youth activities are limited in Torbay the Play Strategy should also address the needs of this age group. Older children and young people also need the time, space, freedom and opportunities associated with the younger age groups.

- 1.2.5 As well as being age related, children's play needs may also be influenced by their family situation and circumstances; physical, sensory and learning abilities; ethnicity or culture; the type of area they live and their individual interest and character. It is therefore important for the development of the Play Strategy for Torbay that all of these considerations are addressed and provision of play facilities considered for the many families and children that visit the Bay during the summer season.

### **1.3 Scope of the Torbay's Strategy**

- 1.3.1 The Play Policy and Strategy will specifically look at play provision and opportunities within the following criteria:

- Where play activity is freely chosen by the child or young person
- Where play is classed as informal, casual and not part of an organised sports activity or special trips outs.
- During the 'free time' of the child or young person
- Play opportunities in the home environment
- Informal play spaces, purpose built facilities such a playgrounds and chosen participation opportunities
- Where the role of the adults involved is to support the playing child e.g. within staffed provision by experienced, trained play workers
- Where providers are providing play opportunities outside the categories of formal education, activity imposed on children and young people by adults or child.

It is important that 'play' is not confused with other provision within the traditional education role, formal sports activities and the childcare sector. Children and young people may play in these settings but in the context of this strategy, play is defined as 'freely chosen, at their own time and in their own space' and based on casual play activity.

- 1.3.2 A Play Facilities Review undertaken by ILAM for Torbay Council has looked predominantly at the equipped play areas provided by the Local Authority and other private organisations. The council also commissioned a Disabled Access Audit of all the playgrounds and informal play spaces throughout Torbay. Both these reviews feed into to this Torbay Play Strategy and give a strong focus to developing the action plan.
- 1.3.3 It is often assumed that play relates only to fixed facilities provided in local communities. For example this would include traditional swing parks and children's play grounds. It is clear from the Government's recent review and changes in thinking on play and youth activities that most children's play does not revolve around fixed equipment facilities and is often more creative and personally driven. The importance of adult involvement is also recognised. Not directing children's play but in a more supportive role. This may mean supervision from a distance as well as providing more direct opportunities based on children's interests and needs.

### **1.4 Torbay's Demographic Population**

- 1.4.1 The current population of Torbay is 131,300 (Census 2001) The proportion of people from ethnic groups other than 'white British' is 3.1%. 25.8% of the population are of pensionable age; this is higher than the national average of 18.4%.

- 1.4.2 Torbay has seen a population increase of 6.6% since 1991 compared to a 5.2% increase across the South West Region.
- 1.4.3 Tourism increases the population predominantly in the summer months. Currently it is estimated that 1.45 million visitors come to Torbay each year.
- 1.4.4 Torbay is ranked 94<sup>th</sup> out of 354 English councils in the Indices of Multiple Deprivation rank of average scores. Four out of the 89 super output areas (SOA's) are among the 10% most deprived in England, with a further 8 among 20% most deprived. Torbay has Objective 2 status as a result.
- 1.4.5 The mapping of the family population (see Chart 1, in appendix 1) shows the concentration of children and young people (0-19 years) in the Torbay area. This shows that the following areas have the highest population of children and young people are located:
- Shiphay with the Willows
  - Watcombe
  - Tormohun
  - Ellacombe
  - St Marychurch
  - Blatchcombe
- 1.4.6 This coincides with areas of high density populations and housing estates. Many of these areas also fall into housing association locations.
- 1.4.7 The mapping shows (Chart 2 – Appendix 1) where 'Deprivation is affecting children aged 0-19 years'. These are located in 4 Super Output Areas (SOA's) in the top 10% , and 9 areas in the top 20% most deprived areas in the UK. A further 15 SOA's are in the top 30%, which takes in all the wards identified in 1.4.5 plus Clifton with Maidencombe, Wellswood, Cockington with Chelston and the two Brixham wards.
- 1.4.8 The mapping also identifies the formal and informal play areas available across Torbay and their relationship with the main areas of child/young people population and income deprivation affecting children.
- 1.4.9 From this analysis it identifies a lack of formal and informal play facilities for children in the 2<sup>nd</sup> ranking level of child population in deprivation areas. Therefore one of the key actions to be considered, is the commissioning or reallocating of play space in these areas. There are also shown play facilities in areas where there is very limited numbers of children and young people. These could be relocated to areas lacking in these facilities, maximising current use of the resources.

## 1.5 How the Play Strategy fits with other key plans and Strategies

- 1.5.1 Play is an important aspect of children's lives. The right to play is enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Torbay Council is a signatory to the Convention.
- 1.5.2 Torbay Council is leading a major reorganisation of children's services and has created a new Children's Services Directorate in April 2005. This is part of the change agenda initiated by the *Every Child Matters* green paper following the Victoria Crimble Inquiry.
- 1.5.3 *Every Child Matters* identifies 5 key outcomes for children. In future, all children's services including health, education and social services will be working towards these outcomes. This will require a much more holistic view of the child with services based on need and early intervention to prevent problems escalating:
- Being healthy
  - Staying safe
  - Enjoying and achieving
  - Making a positive contribution
  - Achieving economic well-being
- 1.5.4 Play and recreation has been identified as part of the *Enjoying and Achieving* outcome. However, good quality play provision will also contribute to the physical health and mental well-being of children, develop confidence and self-esteem and provide opportunities for children to contribute to the wider community and is therefore a key component of any preventative strategy.
- 1.5.5 Play is also identified in a number of other initiatives including Extended Schools. This will look at opening up the use of school grounds and premises for out of school activities including children's play. Brixham Community College will become the first full-extended school in Torbay. Extended Schools based around the concept of clusters of schools will also be located in Paignton and Torquay. The Youth Service also plays a major role in young peoples activities and services.
- 1.5.6 Out of school childcare providers will also need to demonstrate how they provide opportunities for play. This includes childminders, playgroups, day nurseries and out of school clubs. All providers must:
- “Provide activities and play opportunities which allow children to use their imagination and in which they have as much choice as possible.”  
(*National Standards for Day Care and Childminding*)
- 1.5.7 The need to play is also recognised in Planning Guidance. Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 *Open, Space Sport and Recreation* (PPG17) aims to safeguard open spaces and playing fields . It was revised in 2002 to become much more focussed on assessing the need for different types of open space. This is the national context for the play space and open space aspects which are addressed in this Play Strategy.
- 1.5.8 Children's play can be seen as a 'cross cutting' activity in relation to Torbay's Community Plan themes. Play can address issues around 'reducing antisocial behaviour' and 'improving people's feeling of safety and well-being ' in *Making Torbay a safer place; by Improving health and social care* in Torbay, by 'encouraging people to be more physically active', drawing children in to playing outdoors, rather than the growing trend of indoor activities. In *Valuing our environment*, there will be opportunities to 'improve the condition of parks and open spaces and their design' to enable children to have integrated facilities in these areas. *Developing Torbay's Culture* particularly focuses on Play and has the development of the strategy identified in the action plan. This theme more than any other identifies the need for children and young people to access play opportunities. The focus

on increasing participation by young people in all cultural activity, making greater use of the natural environment and developing quality facilities, shares many of the issues relating to play in today's society.

## SECTION 2

### CURRENT PLAY PROVISION IN TORBAY

#### 2.1 Torbay Council Playground Provision

2.1.1 In 2003 Torbay commissioned Institute of Leisure and Amenity Management (ILAM) to review the current play provision provided by the council, to look at trends in use of current facilities and make future recommendations for developing and improving play provision in Torbay.

2.1.2 During the review the play areas were surveyed and a sample of green spaces visited. The main findings from the review are:

- The play areas are often not in easily accessible places for children, many children needing to cross busy roads to reach them
- Some playgrounds were out of sight of housing/businesses which made children vulnerable without casual supervision
- New playground provided interesting and challenging equipment, however most equipment is old and with low play value
- Insufficient consideration is given to providing for a wide age range in the play areas
- There is some failing in maintenance, and limited funding has allowed some play areas to fall into disrepair and in some cases removal of the equipment completely
- Some play facilities are not sited close to areas of housing where children are located
- Limited use of formal Planning Guidance and dedicated funding provision through 106 contributions has resulted in new housing developments having limited open space play facilities for children and young people.
- children and young people who are tourists do not have easy access to free play facilities



PICTURE

2.1.3 The opportunities and challenges have been identified as follows:

- Tourists and local people have conflicting expectations from Torbay's public parks and open spaces. Tourists expect public parks to be easily accessible, very attractive, complimentary facilities such as cafes and quiet places for reflection; whereas local people want facilities for their young people and children, for walking their dogs, community activities and informal games.
- Torbay is distinctive in that much of the built up areas are on steep sided valleys, with limited flat green space. In addition the topography means that the roads are narrower than average, with car parking being a considerable problem, even in the quiet season.

- There is little evidence that policies introduced for tourists i.e car parking charges has taken on board local people's needs. This can be seen as one barrier to accessing play facilities and opportunities.
- Whilst there has been a historical commitment to providing play facilities for children, this has usually been done when the opportunity and finances have arisen, rather than through a coherent strategy.

2.1.4 The Play Facilities Review made the following key recommendations:

- i) Consider children's and young people's opportunities to play rather than restrict itself to specific facilities for play.
- ii) Aspire to children having play opportunities close to their homes, adopting a local standard to be which can be applied.
- iii) Provide a local standard as part of a Local Planning Guidance to be used for new housing developments, section 106 contributions and Neighbourhood Renewal Projects.
- iv) Consider 'tourist' free play opportunities in key seafront locations
- v) Involve children and young people before investing in improvement and new play areas, particularly with age groups currently under represented.
- vi) Ensure children and young people have an equal opportunity to play out and use deliberately provided facilities.
- vii) Reflect on Good Practice and provide the best play opportunities available for children and young people in Torbay.

2.1.5 The recent Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) requires providers to include disabled people, and, from October 2004, requires providers to make 'reasonable adjustments' to the physical features of their premises to overcome barriers to access. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) in 2003 published guidance focusing on 'the need to not focus on impairment-specific issues – rather than identify obstacles to play for any child who might wish to access the play space and think about ways to circumvent them'

2.1.6 In response to the new DDA regulations Torbay Council undertook an Access Audit of all the formal playgrounds (55). A summary of the results are included in Appendix 2.

2.1.7 The DDA inspection shows that out of the total of 55 playgrounds, that only 2 are classed as fully accessible. However, there are 8 new play areas planned or under construction which are fully accessible. One specific play area in Upton Park will have specifically adapted facilities for children and young adults with severe physical disabilities.

2.1.7 Clearly the number of inaccessible play areas is high representing 20% of the council's total provision. This is similar to other authorities in the country and will have to be addressed in the future allocation of resources.

## **2.2 Torbay Council Informal Play Areas, Leisure Facilities and Open Space**

2.2.1 Torbay Council currently directly or through partners such as the Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust manage a total of 970 hectares of public open space, 22 beaches, 2 skate parks and 55 formal playgrounds ( to be increased to 63 once new facilities have been adopted).

2.2.2 There are a range of informal recreation facilities which include basket ball, tennis and multi hard court facilities. These include Victoria Park Paignton, Upton Park, Torquay and Brewery Park in Ellacombe.

2.2.3 There is limited activities provided for young people in the older age ranges. Although in the last two years the council has, through partnership working with The Groundwork Trust, the Children's Fund, Safer Communities and Surestart, developed two skate parks

one in Torquay and one in Paignton, multi-games courts and a number of youth shelters around the bay.

2.2.4 There are three key leisure centre's provided by the council and their partners through grant aid; Torbay Leisure Centre, the Riviera Centre and Brixham Leisure Centre. In addition there are leased facilities including the Acorn Centre, Football Pitches/Rugby Pitches and tennis which are available throughout Torbay.

## **2.3 Other Play Provision In Torbay**

### *2.3.1 Private Sector*

There is a range of facilities provided by the private sector although the majority are aimed at the tourist market and are often open seasonally or/and charge for entry. These include:

- Pitch and Putt – in most seafront locations
- Crazy Golf at Torquay, Paignton and Goodrington
- Quay West – Water park at Goodrington
- Go-Karts – Torquay, Brixham and Goodrington
- Bumper boats/Pedelos – all seafront locations
- Fairground type attractions – all seafront locations
- Children's Play Zones – in a number of key restaurants and themed bars.

Some facilities such as Quay West have developed resident's discounts during the out of season periods. The take up of these has been very good with 70% of users of the facility in the holiday shoulder periods coming from the local resident population. This shows that price is often seen as a barrier to participation for local people.

### *2.3.2 Voluntary and Charitable Sector*

The Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust, Grenville House and Sharkham Point provide Adventure Play activities. These mostly relate to residential courses, although some day activities have taken place in school holiday periods. The Play Forum, through Adventure Play in the Bay have enabled those on low incomes or who are excluded from mainstream education to access some of these facilities. The YMCA has also developed extensive play and youth facilities.

### *2.3.3 Play Ranger Activity and Services*

The Torbay Children's Fund is a government initiative aimed at improving services for children aged 5-13 years. This identified healthy, safe activities in the community as one of its key themes. This was based on an extensive consultation with children and young people. The Torbay Participation Project – Take Part – jointly funded by the Children's Fund, Torbay Youth Service and Connexions has continued to involve children and young people in the planning and evaluation of services.

This has led to the development of a number services and projects including:

- Indigos – Go Wild in Brixham, provides children with access to natural play space within a school setting. Exemplary parent-led project which won ODPM award for the most innovative community project, and provides a positive example of how to secure funding from a number of sources.

- Torbay Youth Service Ellacombe Parks Project – a detached play/ youth work project based in Ellacombe Park.
- Torbay Youth Service Community Play Development Project – a mobile play project visiting a number of locations across the Bay in the summer school holiday.
- Torbay Play Forum Adventure Play in the Bay – providing opportunities for groups to take part in adventurous play activities at Grenville House and Sharkham.

### 2.3.3 Formal Childcare

There is a range of formal childcare available to parents throughout the Torbay area. In a survey undertaken by the Early Years Unit on use of childcare facilities it showed the range of formal supervised activity being accessed by parents (Sample size 1,252). Only 4.1% of parents did not access childcare as 'it was not available in their area'. 25% of those who responded identified cost as their main barrier to accessing formal childcare.

The range of childcare available is as follows:

- After and pre school care – clubs
- Holiday care and activity programmes
- Crèche
- Independent schools
- Private and public Nursery schools
- Day Nurseries
- Childminders/Nannies
- Relatives/friends etc
- Play groups

When asked parents said the most popular forms of childcare if offered were as follows:

- 16% After school care
- 14.1% Holiday care
- 12.6% Friend or relative
- 12.5% Pre-school/Playgroup

When asked – 'Where would you like to see this provision' the top preferences were as follows:

- 33.2% near their home
- 22% at school
- 14.3% near work
- 13.6% near school

## **SECTION 3**

### **SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION**

#### **3.1 Scope of the Consultation**

3.1.1 As part of the development of Torbay's Play Strategy 'Our Time, Our Space, Our Choice' a full consultation plan was developed.

During the extensive consultation, which took place between March and September 2004, the following groups were targeted:

- Members and Senior Officers of the Council
- Play Practitioners and Play Workers
- Children and Young People
- Educational Representatives
- Parents
- Disabled Children
- Organisations and Associations linked to Play

3.1.2 The methods of consultation were as follows:

- Member and Council Officer Workshop
- 2 x Workshops for play practitioners and linked organisations
- Presentations and distribution of questionnaires through :
  - Educational organisations and groups
  - Play and Youth Forums
  - Association and Agency Meetings
- Children and Parent Questionnaires at Fun Day and Locality Events throughout the summer – Children's Fund and the Play Forum
- Children and Young People's Group – Testing Best Practice Play Facilities Across the South West

3.1.3 The next step in the consultation process was to identify the emerging themes through surveys with the Viewpoint Panel. The final draft of the Play Strategy – 'Our Time, Our Space, Our Choice' will be available through key information services and the council web site. The public were asked to comment on the findings and the emerging themes and priorities of the draft strategy in the final stages.

3.1.4 In addition to the consultation specific to the development of the strategy a number of other research has been used to identify data used in this document. These are:

- 'Getting Serious About Play' – DCMS 2003
- 'Teaming Up for Torbay's Future' – 2004 Torbay Strategic Partnership Community Plan
- 'Chill Out – it's your life' Torbay's Cultural Strategy – 2003
- Harry Potter Questionnaire - Torbay's Early Years and Childcare Partnership
- 'Transforming Torbay' – Torbay Council's Strategy consultation on priorities 2003/4
- Every Child Matters – Government Green Paper

## 3.2 Results of Direct Consultation – Workshops

### WHAT THE ADULTS SAID.....

- 3.2.1 The Workshop provided a good insight in to the way adults remembered 'play' from their childhood and how that links to children and young people today. This also identified barriers for today's play environments and activity.
- 3.2.2 The experiences of the participants at this workshop to their memories of play followed a number of themes:

Where we like to play.....

- **Natural Environment /Elements** – most participants chose to remember their positive play experiences where they were interacting with nature either through building dens in the woods, climbing trees, ponds and streams and beach areas. Places where they experience change in the natural and built environment. Physically challenging environments.
- **In the Street/Informal Areas** – Many areas close to their home where they can interact with friends and neighbours, where they are formally unsupervised but close to adults they know
- **Parks and Informal Recreation Areas** – there was limited use of formal play provision such swings and slides and more playing football, roller-skating and hopscotch in an informal setting.

Who were you with.....

- **Friends and other children from the family** – opportunities for social interaction
- **Neighbours children** – friend and acquaintances from the local neighbourhood
- **Play Rangers/Scout leaders** – supervision when endorsed needed to be secondary to the play activity not directing it

What were your experiences.....

- **Experiences to stimulate the senses** – doing things, building things using creativity i.e rope swings, paddling in water
- **Opportunities to play with identity** – role play, lets pretend and cowboys and indians
- **Manipulating natural and fabricated materials** – Building things, being creative, changing the environment to suit their needs
- **Movement** – running, jumping climbing, swinging
- **Experience a range of emotions** – excitement, freedom, risk, and danger

- 3.2.3 Children and young people, when asked, still express a desire to play in similar environments to those of their parents and grandparents. Children want to access varied and interesting environments that contain natural features and where they have an opportunity to meet and play with friends. Where these opportunities exist many of the activities described – building dens, climbing, playing football – still occur.

- 3.2.4 The group of Children and Young People who tested various play experiences in the South West confirms this statement. This group had the opportunity to use the best formal play equipment but preferred the visit to Woodlands Adventure Play Park, where the natural environment plays a key role in the activity and where they could experience challenging and an element of danger in the play activity itself.

- 3.2.5 An interesting thought raised – ‘ Is the increase in vandalism a result of children and young people manipulating and changing their environment to make it their own - in the same way as their parents and grandparents did in the natural environment settings.
- 3.2.5 What has changed between the time when the parents and grandparents were children? The increase concerns of parents about safety of their children and the attitudes of other adults – particularly those with out children – playing in public spaces.
- 3.2.6 There is also more hostility to children and young people playing out. In a survey carried out for the Children’s Play Council 92% of children aged 7-11 years said they had been told off while playing outside. 25% of all teenagers said they had been threatened by violence from adults. (Young Voices, 2003) There is less tolerance of activities and behaviour – like playing football in the street, climbing trees, making dens – that many of the adults surveyed for this strategy identified as things they did in their childhood.
- 3.2.7 There have also been environmental changes with many more built environments and fewer informal places to play. Children’s access to play space has also been restricted by an increase in traffic use. Although Torbay is rich in natural environment settings, these need to give better access and provision for children’s play.
- 3.2.6 There is also now been changes in some of the technologies of play – skateboards and BMX’s have replaced roller-skates and standard bicycles – but these are still forms of wheeled play.
- 3.2.7 The downside to the new technology – is many children now find themselves isolated by the trends in new play technology. The boom in Internet use by children and young people and Playstations encourage children and young people to stay indoors and often to play alone.
- 3.2.8 There were many barriers to play identified by the workshop participants:
- **Lack of informal and formal play spaces** – more developments locally, with limited facilities for children and young people
  - **Increase fears of parents and attitudes of other adults** – parents do not allow their children to access hidden play areas (woods and countryside areas) alone, adult who do not have children and the elderly have a fear of children and young people and try to suppress informal play activity
  - **Too much emphasis on formal education rather than informal learning** – extended school times and use of school facilities outside normal school hours for extra activities. Community Education often being labelled as play.
  - **Fears about litigation** – many providers both facilities and organisation providing activities are fearful of the growing compensation culture and therefore ‘dumb down’ the play experience.
  - **Lack of investment and commitment by leading authorities** – the lack of investment in good quality play areas mean young people and children often have nowhere of their own to go. The lack of clear planning guidance and development money is restricting allocation of new quality play areas and open spaces in new residential developments.
  - **Cost of provision to children and families** – many of the most challenging experiences – theme parks and adventure play have a cost attached.
  - **Increase in traffic/roads** – roads are acting as barriers limiting children’s access to their local playgrounds and open spaces. They therefore in many cases can only participate when accompanied by adults
  - **Gaps in the provision and activities which interest some groups of children and young people** – there is limited provision for the 8-14 year olds and also girls between 12-18 years.

- **Children's lack of 'Ownership' of their spaces** – children often see the local open spaces as not 'theirs' – they see the spaces for tourists, dog walkers and elderly people.
- **Children's concerns about safety/ fear of bullying** – children to have genuine fears of other older children, gangs from other locations and some adults.

### 3.3 Results of Direct Consultation – Parents

3.3.1 When parents were asked where their children play each day– 96% said at home in the house or in the garden. The other 4% play in the street. There were no parents whose children played in open spaces on a daily basis.

3.3.2 Only 38% of parents said their children played in a park on a weekly basis, with 22% playing weekly on the beach – as a 'treat' and only 27% attending a playscheme or supervised play activity.

3.3.3 Parents said most of the time their children were supervised while playing, and no parent said they ever left their children to play unsupervised, even though 5 of the children were between 10-15 years old.

3.3.4 Parents main concerns for their children in relation to informal outdoor play were, in priority order:

**Lack of facilities for teenagers** – this related to both having somewhere for older children go and something to do as well as keeping them away from play parks designed for younger children

**Fears of strangers** – parent's fears of other adults show through in their key concerns. High profile cases in the media of child abduction and paedophilia have done little to reduce the fear for children safety

**Children spending too much time watching television or playing computer games-** this is a reality as 96% of parents said their children played at home in their free time.

**Children have less opportunities to play than when I was a child.....**

**Lack of opportunities for disabled children**

**Lack of facilities for younger children**

**Fear of Traffic**

... all came in third

**Cost of facilities**

**Lack of opportunities for skateboarding/BMXing**

**Children's lack of opportunities for physical exercise**

.....came in fourth.

3.3.5 When asked about future provision, parents said they would like to see, provision that caters for children in their local neighbourhood, more supervised play opportunities with play rangers etc and Adventure Play programmes particularly in the school holidays, as their top priorities.

Again lack of facilities for older children remained high on this list for future provision.

3.3.6 Parents felt their main barriers to using the facilities in the future would be transport, cost and health issues.

### 3.4 Results of Direct Consultation – Children and Young People WHAT THE CHILDREN SAID.....

3.4.1 The Groundwork Trust with a group of children of various ages visited a number of play experiences considered to be Best Practice examples of play provision throughout the Southwest. Here are their conclusions:

- 3.4.2 Through visiting alternative facilities outside of Torbay it enabled the organisers to actively engage with young people in a variety of play environments classed as good examples of adventurous/alternative play.
- 3.4.3 By using alternative equipment it gave the young people the opportunity to experience the pros and cons of each piece, as well as heightening their imaginations to suggest improvements or additions of their own.
- 3.4.4 Although some of the equipment looked good, when it came to using it, it didn't seem to fulfil its potential which could be quite frustrating for the young people e.g. Sky Walk Rails, Skate Run at Central Park in Plymouth.
- 3.4.5 It was felt that there is a general lack of adequate facilities for the children aged 2-4 years, as equipment does not cater for their height restrictions and safety requirements. Parents felt that a specific area for toddlers would improve the safety aspect within parks and increase a relaxed feeling, as it would reduce the possibility of accidents through being knocked over by older children on swings etc.
- 3.4.6 It became clear throughout that there is a need for multi purpose facilities, catering for all age groups and abilities and to encourage adventurous/imaginative play, which will stimulate young people by offering a range of challenges.
- 3.4.7 It was felt that equipment that is adaptable and multi functional, e.g. obstacle courses, which could be performed on foot, in wheelchair/pushchair, or by bicycle, would attract better use and create a feeling of inclusion. Other examples include adjustable basketball/netball hoops and sensory mazes.
- 3.4.8. Key Issues which emerged:
- **Better designed areas for 0-4's**
  - **Explore opportunities for sensory play – more imaginative play**
  - **Adventurous play – in natural environment settings**
  - **Adaptable/multi use equipment – Inclusive for all**
  - **Poor functioning of some modern equipment from catalogues**
- 3.4.9 During Fun Days this summer children were asked their views on play facilities they would most like to see in their play areas. The top five identified by the children were:
- Activity Centre – multi purpose equipment with a range of activities
  - Seating – they pointed out sometimes they 'just want to sit and watch others play, not run around all the time'
  - Swings and slides – were considered still very popular
- At the bottom end the least important feature in their play area's were:
- Multi Use Games Area's
  - Sand Pits
  - Fencing
- 3.4.10 Children were asked to choose .... I want my play to be somewhere.....top five choices were:
- To play safely
  - To meet friends
  - To relax
  - Be without adults
  - To feel free

Although children did not want adults present they 'wanted a ranger to teach them new games'

### 3.5 **Results of Direct Consultation** – Play questionnaire for stakeholders/practitioners

3.5.1 Most of the respondents considered themselves directly working with children, supervising provision or managing, supporting or developing play in Torbay

3.5.2 Those who were surveyed responded as follows to 'Access to Provision:

There is open access	-	14
They are referred by other agencies	-	11
Their parents buy places for them	-	22
Priority access for children from targeted grps		6

3.5.3 When asked what kind of play provision should be developed in the future .... The respondents identified in priority order:

1. **Unsupervised outdoor play/leisure facilities**
2. **Supervised open access play provision**
3. **Improved play opportunities in childcare settings**  
**Improving play opportunities in schools**
4. **Improving play opportunities in pre-school education provision**

3.5.4 Their choice of 'location and catchment' showed a strong emphasis on projects to cater for children in their local neighbourhoods and little emphasis on larger projects that cater for a wider catchment area.

3.5.5 Their choice on the age of children who should benefit from future developments. The majority gave an almost equally strong emphasis to children over 13 years, and those 5 to 13 years.

3.5.6 The respondents top five 'concerns' were, in priority order

- Lack of facilities for teenagers
- Children spending too much time watching TV or playing with computers
- Lack of Opportunities for disabled children
- Cost of paid facilities
- Children having less opportunities to play than when they were children

### 3.6. **View Point Panel – General Public Consultation of Play Priorities**

3.6.1 The View Point Panel is made up of local residents who have volunteered to be part of Torbay Council's consultation group. These local residents represent the demographic profile of the Torbay area.

3.6.2 The results showed that 23.4% of the respondents are currently using play provision in Torbay.

3.6.3 The satisfaction levels on standards of the provision of those who used facilities were high. Ranking play equipment at 74%, and the quality of the surrounding area and parkland at 89%.

3.6.4 Of those who responded , 67.5% felt cleanliness of the play facilities, and 55.3% that a secure fenced playground area were the most important requirements for children's play provision. This was closely followed by provision of facilities for 12-16 year olds and to access facilities and services close to where they live. The respondents felt the provision

of Play Workers in a supervised setting and to have close parking facilities the least important features for children's play activity.

- 3.6.5 In addition to the existing facilities the panel were asked to identify what was important to them when providing new facilities. The respondents identified 'consultation with adults on future play proposals' as their top priority. However from the associated comments on the questionnaires it is clear that a large proportion of people were expressing a concern on the affect children's play has on their lives, rather than the quality of the children's play experience. Also smaller local facilities which were close to residential areas, were considered more important than provision of larger centralised facilities.
- 3.6.6 Respondents felt that it is important to have separate facilities for differing age ranges as many felt that older children using play facilities restricted use by younger age groups. They ranked the fear of bullying high as a concern of children and adults when children are playing out alone.
- 3.6.7 Respondents felt that provision of more facilities for older children and teenagers as a top priority. With more paid childcare facilities being the least importance for additional investment.
- 3.6.8 When asked to rank what barriers there are in relation to children's play, fear of bullying and worries on the increase traffic ranked the highest, with lack of children's ownership of their play spaces, cost of paid play facilities and fears of litigation as the least important.
- 3.6.9 Many people felt that the problem with dog fouling was also a barrier to the quality of children's play experiences and may be a cause for children not choosing to use informal or formal play spaces.

### **3.7 Other Consultation Considered -**

#### **Harry Potter Questionnaire – Undertaken by Early Years Development**

- 3.7.1 Scope – Consultation with 9-11 year olds in Torbay. For completing the questionnaire the children were given free tickets to see the Harry Potter film. The questionnaire identified what children liked to do and participate in out of school time. Sample size 364.
- 3.7.2 A summary of the key findings are as follows (a full copy of the consultation can be found on <http://earlyyears.torbay.gov.uk>):

#### What planned activity did children do in their spare time?

- 37% of children visited a leisure centre 1-2 times a week with boys (21%) visiting more often than girls
- 32% of children attended a football club, making it the most popular activity. Yoga (0%), snorkelling (0.3%) and chess (0.6%) were the least popular activities identified in the survey.
- 33% of children had attended a holiday playscheme as opposed to 66% who had not.
- 73.5% of children attended an after school club
- 30% wanted to visit clubs but could not because of time/cost etc
- 37% wanted to visit clubs not in their immediate area
- Only 5% of children accessed formal childcare

#### How did 11 year olds prefer to spend their time?

16% preferred to spend their time at home indoors

23% preferred to spend time with their friends  
The views and use of Play Areas with Equipment

- 75% of children could easily visit a play area
- 83% could walk to a play area
- 44% went to the play area with an adult
- 36% (majority) of children rated their play area as satisfactory. with 31% rating as good
- Children disliked their play areas because.... 23% lack of equipment, 18% poor general upkeep, and 15% due to vandalism.
- Ways to improve their play areas were given as ....48% more equipment, 16% better upkeep, and 14% to have supervision of the play area

What did the children do when nothing was planned...

Most popular answers:

- 8% watched TV
- 6% used their computer
- 6% Playstation

3.7.3 The following conclusions from the survey were as follows:

- 9-11 year olds did not want to be put with groups older or younger than themselves because of worries of bullying.
- After school clubs were popular
- General lack of holiday provision for this age group
- Children did not consider they need 'childcare', but did welcome passive supervision
- 9-11 years old enjoyed a range of activity even though TV was their most popular pastime
- Outdoor play areas need to be made safe, clean and equipment regularly overhauled or replaced

## SECTION 4

### RESULTING STRATEGIC THEMES

#### 4.1. Themes

The themes that emerged from all the workshops were very similar. The key themes that were considered as priorities for future development are:

- i) **More facilities for teenagers** – this came out as the key area where more resources and attention is required. This is identified both locally in previous resident's surveys as well as in this consultation with both adults and children as a top priority.
- ii) **Children and Young People are consulted about future play provision** – The consultation with children showed that they want to own their spaces and want to have a say in how they are developed. Adults often assume that children will want certain facilities and these can often be wrong.
- iii) **Raising the profile of play** – ensuring that 'play' which is freely chosen is maintained as an important element of children development and receives adequate investment and commitment from key authorities and agencies.
- iv) **Provide more challenging play facilities which makes more of the natural environment** - In the consultation both children/Young people and adults both considered the more challenging natural environment setting provided a more creative space for children to play, Where you can explore and manipulate your environment and feed the imagination.
- v) **Involve adults in a passive role within the play environment to increase safety and facilitate challenging activity** – although children and young people preferred to play without adults present, they could see the benefits of a passive presence such as a Play ranger particularly for the younger age groups.
- vi) **Rationalise existing council play facilities** - ensuring that the facilities provided are located in the most appropriate place, are accessible and meet the needs of the community, and are well maintained. This may include disposal and decommissioning of redundant play spaces and playgrounds to reinvest in new or remaining well used spaces.
- vii) **Planning and developing for better play provision** – Most people felt during the consultation that quality play areas and open spaces did not feature as important when developing new residential areas. The provision of a standard of play provision and informal play spaces should be factored in to all new development through a Planning Guidance Standard and funding through 106 contributions.
- viii) **Provision for informal play and formal play spaces need to be close to neighbourhoods they serve** – locality featured in all the adult consultation as a priority. Many parents found it difficult to take children to the park due to distance/transport etc.
- ix) **Change attitudes of adults towards children's play activities and right to play spaces** – there is an older than average population within Torbay, and these older people have shown in recent surveys a fear of crime by older children and young people. There needs to be conscious effort to dispel these fears and show the benefits of allowing children and young people to participate in their activities, and develop a greater understanding of the youth culture by adults.

#### 4.2 Way Forward

4.2.1 The strategy themes identified in 4.1, together with the 'Policy and Values' identified in section 5, will form the basis of the Action Plan. The Action Plan will identify what tasks are considered priorities to deliver on the strategic themes.

The strategic themes identified in the consultation reflect the issues which have been identified nationally. In recent years many of the main urban areas have benefited,

particularly in the Midlands and the North, seeing central government investment sizeable sums in the large regeneration schemes which have included play and leisure facilities. It is hoped that the provision of Torbay's Play Strategy will enable our area to get a fair share of the new funding streams for play activity.

4.2.2 The strategic direction for Play in Torbay will also reflect the Audit Commissions quality standards as identified in section 5.

## SECTION FIVE

### PLAY POLICY AND VALUES

#### 5.1 STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

The statement of principles and values have been compiled a result of the consultation which has taken place, and takes on board the Audit Commission's Best Value indicator for Play (BV PI 115)

- 5.1.1 Torbay recognises the significance and value of play and the need for improvement of play opportunities in the general environment. Torbay Council and their partners are committed to ensuring that all children and young people have access to rich, stimulating environments, both in and out of doors, free from unacceptable risks, thereby offering them the opportunities to explore through their freely chosen play, both themselves and the world. This policy is based on the understanding that every child needs opportunities to play both on their own and with others.
- 5.1.2 Torbay is committed to ensuring that environments, services and provision for play, whom ever is the provider, are attractive, welcoming, safe, and accessible to every child and young person irrespective of age, gender, background or origin or of individual capacities and abilities.
- 5.1.3 The Torbay Play Policy and Strategy will provide a framework to develop targets and plans to increase play opportunities and eliminating barriers to the take up of play activities by disabled children and those with specific needs. It is recognised that separate provision may sometimes be a valuable resource for particularly vulnerable children. Use of a range of specialist services should only be at the choice of the child or their advocate and all mainstream services must be welcoming and accessible to all children and young people.
- 5.1.4 Based on the commitment Torbay's Play Values are:

#### **Children's Promise**

- children and young people have the right to have the freedom to play in their own space, though their own choice
  - children and young people have the right to be consulted on any new development for the provision of dedicated play facilities and informal open space environments
  - children deserve to have a variety of informal public spaces in which to play as well as dedicated provision
  - play environments should provide safe, and stimulating play opportunities that place children and young people at the centre of the play process
  - children and young people need to encounter and learn to manage an acceptable level of risk in their play
  - children and young people's have the right to their views and these to be sought and listened to
  - children and young people will have access to the widest possible range of play experiences and play environments, both indoors and outside.
- 5.1.5 The Audit Commission produced a Best value model to assess the quality of and access to good play provision. Their definition of 'quality' is based on the 'degree to which children are provided with opportunities to experience directly:
- **The natural elements**
  - **Fabricated and natural materials and tools**
  - **Challenge**

- **Free movement**
- **Emotions**
- **A variety**
- **Play with identity**
- **Varied social interaction**
- **Change**

It is proposed that this Play Policy is submitted to agencies for formal adoption in their future service and development proposals.

## SECTION 6

### PRIORITIES AND ACTION PLAN

6.1 The conclusions and recommendations based on the consultation received and the emerging themes have informed the development action plan to take forward the play experiences in Torbay.

Key = (TC) = Torbay Council

<b>Priority/Theme</b>	<b>Action/Target</b>	<b>Lead agency</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Funding</b>
More facilities for teenagers...	Develop skate parks for Brixham and central Torquay	Groundwork Cultural Services (TC)	Children's Society Youth Service (TC)	Dec 06	Children's Fund Local Network Fund
	Develop Ellacombe Youth Centre	Youth Service (TC)	Cultural Services	Sept 05	TC
	Set up groups for Young People in key areas	Cultural Services (TC)	Youth agencies YMCA		
	In the first instance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Willows/Barton</li> <li>• QED/YMCA</li> <li>• Foxhole/ Blatchcombe</li> <li>• Higher Brixham</li> </ul>	Youth Service (TC) Indigo's Brixham	Methodist Church, Torquay Groundwork Trust	Ongoing	
Consult with children and young people on future provision...	Identify the needs of 12-16 year olds (Survey)	Youth Service	Youth Agencies Children's Society	Sept 05	Torbay Council
	Develop a Torbay wide policy to ensure no play new spaces or facilities are initiated unless children and young people, and relevant agencies, have been consulted from design stage.	Cultural Services (TC) Planning Dept (TC) Other agencies	Children All agencies	Ongoing	All agencies
To raise the profile of Play..	Encourage play seminars/ conferences to take place in Torbay	Cultural Services (TC) Torbay Play Forum	Children's Society	Ongoing	To be identified
	Run local 'Play' seminars in Torbay	Early Years (TC) Torbay Play Forum	Children's Society	Ongoing	Self financing

<b>Priority/ Theme</b>	<b>Action/Target</b>	<b>Lead agency</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Funding</b>
	Develop mechanisms to share Best Practice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play – on Cultural Partnership web site</li> <li>• Articles in Torbay View and Play Forum Newsletter</li> <li>• Sharing on training on Best Practice themes</li> </ul>	Cultural Services Early Years (TC) Torbay Play Forum	All agencies	Ongoing	Torbay Council Torbay Play Forum
	Manage and develop play within the Cultural sector, rather than in the Education sector	Cultural Services (TC)	Education Service (TC)	Ongoing	N/A
	Provide frequent workshops for decision makers to raise the understanding and importance of Play: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One per annum</li> </ul>	Cultural Services (TC) Children's Society Torbay Play Forum	Other council departments, council members and agencies	One per annum	Torbay Council
	Investigate provision of newsletter and other mediums (i.e. web), for use by young people and play professionals	Youth Service (TC)	Cultural Services (TC) Torbay Play Forum	Oct 05	Torbay Council
	Develop web page for 'Play in the Bay' for all potential users	Cultural Services (TC)	Cultural Partnership	Dec 05	Torbay Council
Develop natural environment settings for Play Areas particularly for older children	Investigate the following areas for natural setting play areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cockington/Kitson</li> <li>• Wallshill</li> <li>• Copse at Quinta</li> <li>• Hollicombe Park – commercial facility</li> </ul>	Cultural Services (TC) Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust	Youth Service (TC)	Dec 08	To be identified
	Build on Best Practice – Indigo's – Go Wild across other parts of Torbay	Torbay Council Schools	All Agencies	Ongoing	To be identified

Priority/ Theme	Action/Target	Lead agency	Partners	When	Funding
	Develop specific woodland play areas for older children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monastery Woods</li> <li>• Brunel Woods</li> <li>• Willows</li> </ul>	Cultural Services (TC) Groundwork	Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust	Dec 06 Dec 07 Dec 07	Grant funding to be identified
	Develop proposals /funding opportunities to deliver supervised play activity in natural environments	Youth Service Cultural Services (TC) Children's Society	Children's Society Extended Schools	Ongoing	Big Lottery Extended Schools Torbay Council
Rationalise existing Council play facilities and spaces	Establish those areas where play provision is no longer required/ little used and those areas where new facilities or more investment is required. Key areas for initial investigations to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barton/Watcombe</li> <li>• Pendennis</li> <li>• Shiphay</li> <li>• Astley Park</li> <li>• QED</li> </ul>	Cultural Services (TC)	Local Ward Partnerships	March 06	Save to spend options will be pursued.
Involve adults in a passive role within the play environment	Support voluntary and parent-led play projects	Cultural Services (TC)	Local Community Groups	Ongoing	No additional funding required
	Provide advise on funding opportunities for parent-led and voluntary groups – assisting with applications	Cultural Services (TC)	Local Community Groups	Ongoing	External funding

<b>Priority/ Theme</b>	<b>Action/Target</b>	<b>Lead agency</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Provide more supervised play activities in formal/informal play areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support Parks Friend Groups to be trained as and assist as supervisors for play areas and develop capacity to deliver supervised play sessions within community parks</li> <li>▪ Encourage groups to join play networks e.g. Play Forum</li> </ul>	Cultural Services (TC)	Torbay Play Forum Youth Service (TC) Children's Society	Ongoing	Capacity Building Fund – Big Lottery
Develop capacity building for groups and play workers	Provide training for supporting volunteer play workers and groups	Early Years (TC)	Torbay Play Forum	Ongoing	Early Years
	Continue to deliver and extend programmes for Fundays, Network events and locality events	Torbay Play Forum Playlines Groundwork	Children's Society	Annual programme	Children's Fund Big Lottery
Develop formal Planning Guidance for Torbay to deliver Play priorities	Support groups to develop capacity: Surestart/Nurseries/voluntary sector	Early Years (TC) Children's Society	Early Years (TC)	Ongoing	Torbay Council Surestart
	Rationalise and develop play areas in deprived communities	Cultural Services (TC)	All partners	Dec 05	Torbay Council 106 contributions
	Provide adequate informal play space in appropriate areas within new housing developments	Cultural Services (TC)	All partners	June 06	Torbay Council Developers
	Develop 'commuted sum' structure for developers to enable play areas to be sustainable for at least 10 years	Cultural Services (TC)	All partners	June 06	Torbay Council 106 contributions
	Develop 1% for Play initiative for future funding of play activity and facilities	Torbay Council	All partners	Dec 07	Torbay Council Developers
Changing attitudes of adults of 'playing' particularly related to	Continue to develop annual Youth Festival to showcase children's and young peoples skills and activities	Youth Service (TC)	Youth Service	Annually	Youth Service

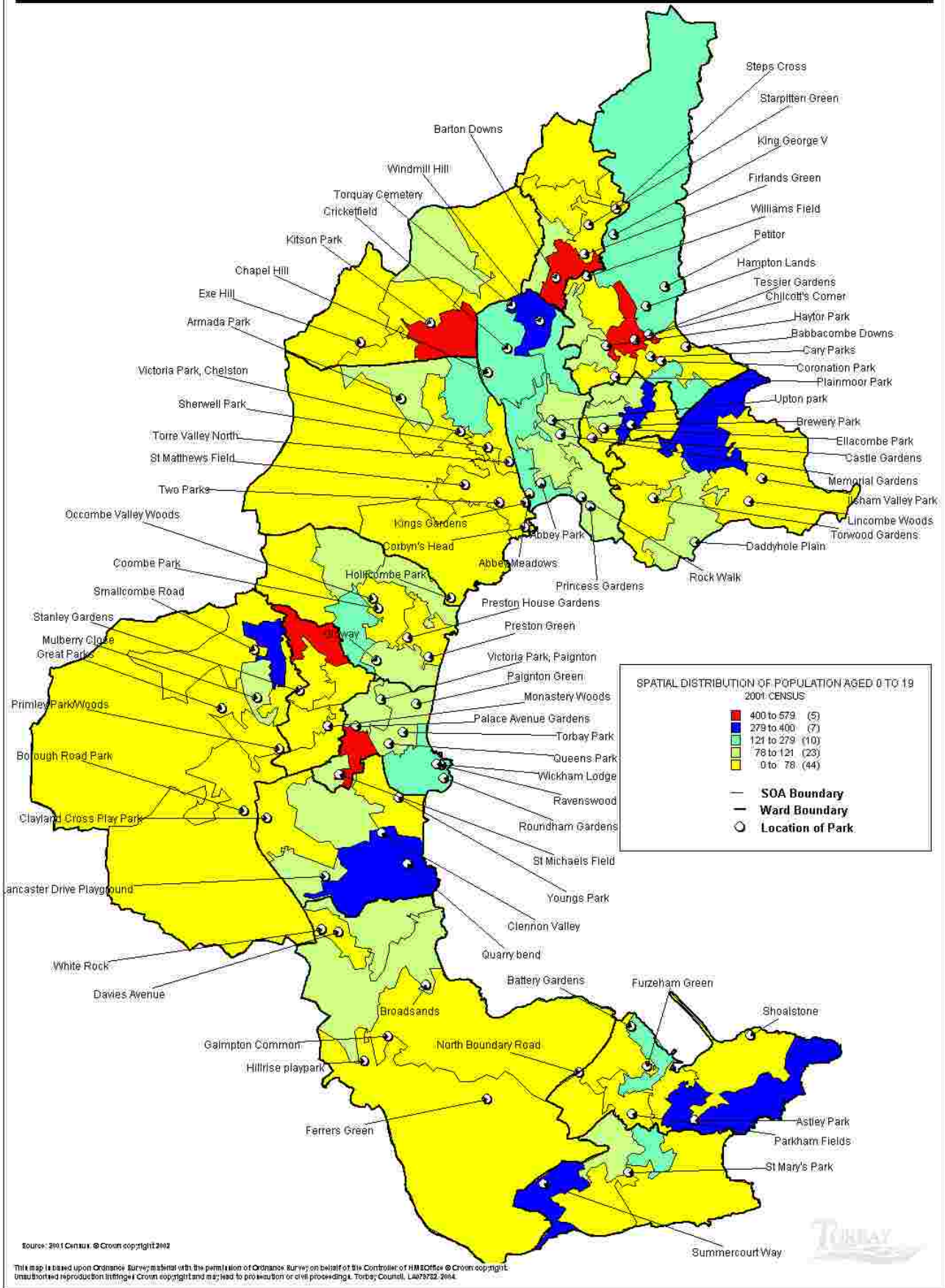
Priority/ Theme	Action/Target	Lead agency	Partners	When	Funding
teenagers and young people	Provide locality events particularly aimed and increasing understanding between young and older people – ‘Bridging the Gap’	Youth Service (TC)	Cultural Services (TC) Groundwork Youth Parliament	Ongoing	To be determined
	Develop Young People’s Roadshow to change public perception of young people	Youth Service (TC)	Groundwork Youth Parliament	One annually	To be determined

**NB New Provision:**

All new provision identified must meet the criteria set down in 5.1.5 of the Play Policy. Children and young people must be at the heart of designing and delivering future play provision in Torbay.

# Appendix 1 – Chart 1

## MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF PARKS AND THE LOCATION OF POPULATION AGED 0 TO 19 YEARS 2001 CENSUS





## Appendix 2

### DDA Audit of Torbay Council Playgrounds

In response to the new DDA regulations Torbay Council undertook an Access Audit of all the formal playgrounds (55). A summary of the results are as follows:

#### Key:

- Level 1 = Fully accessible – for those with severe disabilities
- Level 2 = Generally accessible – accessible to most but not all people
- Level 3 = Some accessible features- Access problems to the majority of people with disabilities but which may be able to be accessed with help.
- Level 4 = Severely limited access – Presents challenges to able-bodied users and is inaccessible to those with disabilities

#### Locality Facilities

<b>Access Level – No. of Playgrounds</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Disabled car parking spaces (minimum of 2)	8	14	16	10	20
Disabled bays by access route	9	14	13	11	8
Surfacing material	10	21	14	6	3
Car Parking slope	13	19	11	6	4
Distance from parking to play area	14	12	9	12	8

#### Internal Complimentary Access Facilities

Based on:

Route to the play area clear and accessible
Route from entrance and between equipment
Paths to meet access requirements
Surfacing meets access requirements as well as HIC requirements
Sand/water play on site
Ground Graphics/play panels
Seat provided
Any Play items easily accessible by any child
Do have access aids – ramps, rails, ropes
Are access aids present – ramps, transfer points etc

Then added to Access level to the site the scores are as follows

<b>Weighted Access Scores</b>	<b>Access Level – No. of Playgrounds</b>
<30 Fully Accessible	2
30-60 Generally Accessible	8
61-84 Some Access features	18
85-95 Severely Limited Access	16
>96 Inaccessible	11

#### Summary – Scored with weighting

<b>Access Level</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
No of Playgrounds meeting DDA Access requirements – at each level	2	8	18	16	11

The summary shows that out of the total of 55 playgrounds, that only 2 are fully accessible these are:

- Centenary Way, Barton
- Victoria Park, Paignton including Skate Board area

The playgrounds requiring the most work to improve accessibility are as follows:

- Mulberry Close, Paignton
- Lancaster Drive, Paignton
- Seacrest off Haytor Avenue, Paignton
- QED Great Parks, Paignton
- Stanley Gardens, Paignton

There are 8 new play areas planned or under construction. One specific play area in Upton Park will have specifically adapted facilities for children and young adults with severe physical disabilities.

Clearly the number of inaccessible play areas is high representing 20% of the council's total provision. This will have to be addressed in allocation of resources as part of the Council's priority setting process.