

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose

The Welsh Assembly Government has set up an advisory group to contribute to the development of the Standards and Guidance to Local Authorities in relation to the duty to secure sufficient play opportunities, under the Children & Families (Wales) Measure.

Background

The Children and Families (Wales) Measure received Royal Assent in February 2010. Part 1, Chapter 2 covers Play Opportunities and Participation. The Measure will place a duty on Local Authorities to assess for and secure sufficient play opportunities for children in their areas as far as reasonably practicable. During 2010 and 2011 the Welsh Assembly Government will be working with stakeholders in the area of Play, to develop the Standards, Regulations and Guidance to Local Authorities to enable them to fulfil their duty under the Measure. National Play organisations have been invited to advise on and contribute to the development of these documents.

Key Tasks of the Advisory Group

The key tasks of the Advisory Group will be to:

- provide expert advice on the content and organisation of the material to be included in the Standards and Guidance documents.
- contribute and advise as appropriate on examples of good practice/methodology in any areas relating to Play.
- advise on range and methods of engagement with the stakeholders
- engage with own colleagues, members or constituency and contribute experience from the sector to the development process.
- provide advice on amendments to documents following from consultation with other stakeholders

Representation

Nine all Wales organisations with expertise and an interest in Play have been invited to send a representative to this group. The organisations are:-

- Big Lottery, Childs Play Programme
- Children in Wales
- Clybiau Plant Cymru
- Fields in Trust
- Funky Dragon
- Play Matters
- Play Wales
- SkillsActive
- Welsh Local Government Association

Welsh Assembly Government officials will Chair and report back on the meetings.

Timescales

The first meeting of the Advisory Group is being held on 27th July 2010. The Welsh Assembly Government aims to engage with all stakeholders related to play opportunities and play provision during the autumn and winter of 2010. It is intended that the engagement process will enable the draft Standards, Regulations and Guidance to be drafted by the end of 2010. This will be followed by the formal consultation process during the spring of 2011, followed by redrafts of the documents, with the legislation being set no earlier than the summer/autumn of 2011. It is anticipated that the Advisory Group will be invited to meet during the autumn/winter of 2010 and again in the spring of 2011.

Working of the Group

It is anticipated that a lot of the work of the group can be carried out through email and telephone contact, with extra meetings as seems necessary. The intention is to incorporate the contributions of members into the documentation and achieve a consensus of opinion as far as possible. However members are asked to appreciate that all contributions whether at an initial or later stage in this process may not be included in the documentation.

Other engagement with stakeholders

Engagement with other national, regional and local stakeholders will take place through all Wales, regional and local meetings; questionnaires and information bulletins. This will include contact with other national play organisations; Local Authority and Third Sector Play Officers; Big Lottery Child's Play regional infrastructure project Leaders; Children & Young People's Partnerships; Parents Groups and children and young people. Advisory Group members are invited to support this process.

23.07.10