

YORK PLAYSPACE GROUP

Room 1, Danesmead Centre, 33 Fulford Cross
York, Y010 4PB
Tel. 01904 627285
REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 505921

VOLUNTARY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chair	Jessica Foulds
Vice Chair and Secretary	Suzanne Tattersall
Treasurer	Penney Mayall
Elected Members	Susan Peters Corbett Rebecca Guest Kabir Pandit Emilie Murphy
Co-opted Members	Julie Gunnell

ELECTION OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (Extract from Constitution)

- (a) Playspace is managed by a Committee of Management
- (b) The Committee shall consist of
 - i. Four officers; chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary and treasurer.
 - ii. Up to six elected members
 - iii. Up to five co-opted members as specified in paragraph (g)
- (c) Officers and elected members shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Co-opted members shall be co-opted at the AGM, or subsequently by the elected Committee.

EMPLOYEES

Playspace Manager	Alison Shepherd
Play Development Officer	Alex Leahy
Assistant Play Development Worker	Vacancy
Administrator	Sandra Housecroft-Jones
Chill Out Zone Senior Workers	Brigitte Mooney Sarah Cook Sarah Sylvester
Chill Out Zone Play Workers	Ramon Lutz Jenny Hartley Lydia Williams Graham Musgrove Buhe Pilime Zoe Luther Rachel Sylvester

As part of our commitment to quality of people and the service we provide, staff and volunteers are encouraged to undertake appropriate training throughout their employment. The appropriate checks such as references and Criminal Record Bureau Checks are made initially on joining the organisation.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

Broderick's
1 Heslington Court
Heslington
YO10 5EX

BANKERS

Lloyds TSB PLC
York

Northern Rock PLC
York

Scarborough Building Society
York

AIMS OF YORK PLAYSPLACE

Our aims are to provide and promote quality play opportunities for Children and Young People aged 0 – 18 years in and around York. Our constitution allows us to:-

- Provide Children's play facilities
- Encourage and support other Children's groups
- Work together in Partnership with other like-minded groups
- Promote awareness of the importance of Play
- Seek to increase the funding devoted to Children's play
- Provide and encourage the sharing of resources and equipment for Play
- Provide and promote training for Playworkers
- Support and promote networks in the field of Play
- Affiliate to organisations with similar aims and objectives

This Annual Report sets out to show how we have tackled these tasks during the year 1st April 2007 to 31st March 2008.

Our programme included: -

- Holiday Playschemes, both centre-based and mobile
- Provision of Chill Out Zones
- Development of Play in local Communities
- Play resources and equipment hire service
- Information and advice on Play provision
- Promotion of Playwork training
- Support and joint action with other local Play projects
- Active support of regional, national and international play organisations
- Development and promotion of Playwork volunteering.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the Playspace 2007/2008 Annual Report.

Time has really flown and it seems like such a short while ago since we were reviewing the previous year. As always we have been extremely busy and managed to achieve so much.

The past twelve months have been a period of growth and real change but the team have risen to every challenge ensuring that Playspace continues to be a great success. Details of all of this good work are contained within the report but I would just like to highlight some of the salient points from throughout the year.

We continued our three Chill Out Zone projects in York which have now benefited over 400 youngsters since their launch. The Children and Young People at the Zones managed to raise £3,500 for day trips to Dalby Forest, Bradford Film Museum and many other exciting places. Continuing on the media theme, both Moor Lane and Tang Hall zones received funding from Yorkash which paid for drama workshops and equipment. One group even started work on producing their own DVD which you will hear more about at the 2008 AGM.

In the Summer we ran the Mobile Playschemes again, again over 5 weeks and at over 30 venues; they were a huge success with over 1660 children attending. We received very positive feedback from children and parents alike. We also extended the schemes into Ryedale this year with two teams running events over 4 weeks in 8 different venues. These play schemes were further enhanced by professional workshops which were a great success, you can read the lovely letter received from one parent later in the report.

We have also spread our wings further afield by providing support in areas such as Chapelfields and Deighton, helping them to develop their own play schemes. Unfortunately there will always be financial limitations and we were unable to run static schemes or the ward funded mobiles this year.

One particular piece of work I believe we should all be proud of is the evaluation which was conducted to support our bid for re-commissioning funds for the Chill Out Zones. A huge effort went into collecting, consolidating and reporting on feedback to assess the impact Playspace and the Zones have had over the last few years, not only on the Children and Young People who are our main focus but also on the communities in which they live and attend school. More telling than any result is the fact that 35% of the children said if it wasn't for attending Playspace activities they would be committing crime or hanging around on the streets being a nuisance.

Behind the scenes the Management Team and Committee have also been very busy. A new three year business plan was drawn up to help guide Playspace in a clear direction and in making strategic decisions. Following our decision not to renew the Investors in People accreditation, due to cost implications, we took it upon ourselves to commence a thorough review of the policy documents as we want to continue the positive effect this accreditation had on us as an organisation. An 'Away Day' was also undertaken to provide the Play Workers, office Staff and Committee members with supervision training and an opportunity to build rapport as a team.

On behalf of the Committee, Staff and Volunteers of York Playspace I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all of our benefactors. We have received numerous donations and grants which have allowed us to continue promoting and developing Play in York and the surrounding areas. Without their support we would not have success stories to share and celebrate at events such as our Showcase in September 2007, at which we screened moving interviews with some of the children and young people.

On further matters of finance, given the uncertain future facing Northern Rock we decided to split our money across three banks opening a new account at the Scarborough Building Society and splitting the remainder with our Lloyds TSB account. At the AGM it was agreed we would close the resource centre as it generated such little revenue, this has however had a knock on effect on our member levels.

On a final note I would like to draw your attention to some good news stories on page six about our staff and volunteers. All of the team have shown commitment to the cause, but in particular Alison Shepherd the Manager who is now champion of play on York Compact and was invited down to London to speak on national policy and Alex Leahy our Play Development Officer who has successfully completed a Foundation Degree in Playwork to support her work for Playspace.

In reviewing the last year I am struck by the dedication and generosity of everyone involved in Playspace. Being a member of this charity may bring only a handful of tangible benefits but it brings endless satisfaction in seeing so many children and young people provided with a safe environment in which to play. I would like to personally thank everybody who has worked with us over this past year for your help, guidance and encouragement and of course thank you to the children who make all of it worthwhile.

Jessica Foulds
Chair

YORK PLAYSPACE MEMBERS

Membership of York Playspace can either be as

- a) **Group Membership** – Any Children’s Group can be a member of York Playspace.

Group Members have the right to

- i) vote at AGM
- ii) nominate individuals to sit on the Voluntary Management Committee
- iii) use the Resource Library

- b) **Individual Members** – Any individual who has an interest in the rights of Children to Play.

Individual Members have the right to

- i) vote at AGM
- ii) nominate individuals to sit on the Voluntary Management Committee
- iii) be nominated to sit on the Voluntary Management Committee
- iv) use the Resource Library

At the 2007 AGM members voted to change the Membership charges for both Individuals and Groups to £10, renewable every January. This was to reflect the fact that Group Members could no longer access the Resource Centre.

**York Playspace values its members and welcomes new members
both from Children Groups and Individuals.**

YORK PLAYSPACE MEMBERS CORRECT AS AT 1st October 2008.

- **ACOMB OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB**
- **JESSICA FOULDS**
- **MARK GLADWIN**
- **REBECCA GUEST**
- **JULIE GUNNELL**
- **PENNY MAYELL**
- **EMILIE MURPHY**
- **NEW EARSWICK SOCIETY OF FRIENDS**
- **KABIR PANDIT**
- **SUSAN PETERS-CORBETT**
- **SUZANNE TATTERSALL**
- **JANINE POTTS**
- **ORCHARD PARK PLAYGROUP**
- **HOLLY HENNEL**

Since the closure of the Resource Centre the number of Group Members has fallen dramatically. We are actively encouraging both Group and Individuals to join Playspace.

PLACEMENTS AND VOLUNTEERS

During the year we are very grateful to those who volunteered their help on the Playschemes, both centre-based and mobile, Chill Out Zones and the running of the office, contributing to the success of Playspace.

We actively encourage Youth Volunteers at all our provisions and particularly at the Chill Out Zones. Those Young People, who are over 13 years old and no longer eligible to attend the Zones, where appropriate, are encouraged to stay at the Zones and work as Youth Volunteers. Their contribution to the Zones is very beneficial to both the Zones and the Young People.

We are also very appreciative of the work of the Voluntary Management Committee without whose dedication and attendance at meetings, we would be unable to operate as a Charity.

We are always looking for new Committee Members to give a **minimum 12 hours per year** of their time, to work towards the strategic management of the organisation and fulfilling Playspace's objectives.

AFFILIATIONS

During the year Playspace has been a member of the following organisations: -

- North Yorkshire Forum for Voluntary Organisations
- York CVS
- York and North Yorkshire Play Association
- York Play

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORK

In October 2005 we achieved the Investors in People Standards. We learnt a great deal from the process and have continued to develop our practices and procedures over the last 3 years. In 2008 our application for Investors in People required renewing. This would be at a cost of over £1000. The Committee decided that at this time the cost of the process was too high and with regret we have not renewed our application. We will continue to draw on the experiences learnt and to develop our practices and procedures and planning including the development and on-going working towards of a Business Plan.

During 2007 we spent a considered amount of time considering and preparing an application to the Big Lottery Playful Ideas Funding. The funding was intended to fund innovative Play for a period of 2 years. Our application was unsuccessful.

We have also developed a Newsletter which will be circulated to funders, employees and members during the year as a way of informing them of our achievements, aims and aspirations.

In January and February Playspace contributed to the City of York Council's Joint Area Review on Children's Services. Following the review a report was published. The following is an extract from the report which mentions the contribution to the service that Playspace and the Chill Out Zones provide:-

“The council has an excellent range of resources to reduce anti-social behaviour, offending and re-offending by children and young people and this has led to a slight reduction in incidents. A relatively small number of young people are involved in low-level crime. Successful preventative initiatives have been developed and target well the most vulnerable individuals and groups. These are generally provided through the youth service and a broad range of innovative voluntary and community sector projects, such as Inspired Youth Arts and Media Project, Playspace and the Chill Out Zone programmes. Police and local communities report that these projects are effectively reducing anti-social behaviour in some of the most deprived areas. ”

Following on from the Away Day in February 2007 the Committee decided that they would like to continue to build their relationships with the staff and also make themselves more accessible to them.

In March the Committee, in pairs, visited each of the Zones to experience first hand the Playworkers working practices and challenges. They visited at least an hour during the session and staying to hold “surgeries” with the Playworkers to discuss any areas of their work. These “surgeries” were also a way of the Committee getting to know their employees and the employees getting to know the committee. The sessions were very beneficial to all involved and it is intended to have at least 2 “surgeries” each year at each of the Zones.

FUNDRAISING

We are very grateful to the following Grant Making Bodies and individuals for the financial support they have given us during the year: -

- City of York Council, including
 - The Play Grant
 - Arts Action York
 - Children's Fund
 - Ward Committees

- Clifton Moor Church
- Norwich Union
- Interchange & Consort Hotels
- Nestle Rowntree
- York Lions Club

- Yorkshire Forward Grant
- York Common Good
- Joseph Rowntree Foundation
- Marks and Spencer's
- Leeds Building Society

DEVELOPMENT WORK AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR CAPACITY BUILDING

During the year we have continued to actively be involved with York Early Years and Extended Schools Partnership. This work included being involved in Partnership meetings, decision making, networking and representing and promoting Open Access Play in and around York.

During the year we have also been active in supporting local communities develop Play in their area; they have included Community Development and consultation in the Chapelfields area of York and the provision of Playschemes at Sanderson Court, Chapelfields during the School holidays. We have also worked closely with a group of residents in Deighton to develop Play and provided holiday Playschemes at Sanderson Court, Chapelfields during the School holidays. We have also worked closely with a group of residents in Deighton to develop Play and provided holiday Playschemes.

In July 2007 we had a consultation evening with Young People at Sanderson Court Community House discussing what a Chill Out Zone would look like in their area. At the end of the evening the Young People had put together a funding application to Yorkash for £9000. This would be enough money to set up a Zone and run it for 6 months during which time more funding would be sort. The application was unfortunately not successful.

During the year Alison Shepherd, the Manager of Playspace was co-opted on to the Local Compact group as the Champion for Play.

In October Alison was asked to go to London to speak to the Skills Active Training Group, a group that reports to Government Office, to help to inform National Policy with local practices.

STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

At York Playspace we invest a great deal of time and money into the training and development of our staff and volunteers. We believe that by having staff and volunteers appropriately trained in their areas of expertise, we are providing our service users, whether they are Adults requesting advice about Children's Play facilities or Children and Young People using Playschemes and Chill Out Zones, with a quality service. In October Alex, our Play Development started an 18 month Foundation Degree in Playwork.

During the year Staff, and volunteers, including Committee Members of Playspace, have attended the following training courses and seminars:-

- Behaviour, and Social Difficulties
- Social and Emotional well-being
- Supervision – Away day
- First Aid For Childcarers
- Child Protection Training
- Level 2 Training In Playwork
- Level 3 Training In Playwork
- First Time Offenders: Spotting them and Supporting them
- Playwork Level 1 – a 3 day Introduction to Playwork Training course attended by Playworkers working on the summer holiday Playschemes.
- Employment Mentoring
- Responsibilities of Charity Trustees

STAFF AWAY DAYS

Our Staff and Volunteers are either based in the Office or at their various Zones and therefore do not have much opportunity to meet with each other. Playspace feels that it is important that the organisation's values and goals are shared. It was decided to do this effectively the Organisation would offer it's employees a least one Away Day each year; a day in which all staff and volunteers could meet up with each other away from their work place.

March saw the first of our staff Away Days. It was a huge success. The day was held at the Next Generation gym and twelve members of staff and committee attended. We spent the morning, which was lead by an independent trainer, working in teams discussing the advantages of supervision sessions. The general consensus was that, despite time and money constraints, supervision sessions would be beneficial for everyone at Playspace and would give workers the opportunity to have their views heard and to get feedback from their supervisor. The morning was followed by lunch and a chance to give everyone the time to mingle and enjoy the leisure facilities.

RESOURCE AND SUPPORT CENTRE

In the mid 1990's we had on average 100 members, largely represented by groups, including playgroups, church groups, Childminding groups and other out of School Children's groups. During the years the number of groups continuing to be members of York Playspace has declined considerably.

It was felt that members could access resources from other outlets and the amount of resources in terms of time and man-power required to offer an efficient, effective Resource Centre by Playspace was detracting us away from other areas of work. At the 2007 AGM Members decided to close the Resource Centre and withdraw the hire of equipment.

Any surplus stock was distributed to be used at the Chill Out Zones. Large pieces of equipment were sold to other user groups. Small pieces of equipment are being used by the Chill Out Zones and on other projects.

We have had a small number of individuals who are committed to the work of Playspace and wish to support us in the work we do by being members. We have continued to offer a range of books on a library system which members can borrow for up to 3 weeks at a time for 75p, including activity books, child development, multi-cultural ideas and themes etc.

PLAYSCHEMES

MOBILE PLAYSCHEMES

The Mobile Playschemes are funded by the City of York Council Play Grant. This grant enables us to have 2 teams of 3 Playworkers, who each have a van full to the brim of play equipment and materials and a tent for shelter from the elements. The elements can include blazing sun shine one day to flooding on other days. Each team, even in extreme weather conditions is expected to visit a programme of over 25 different open spaces over the five week period.

Each session is for 2 hours and is aimed at Children from 5 years to 13 years. As the sessions are held in open spaces we do not exclude any Children or Young People from the sessions and we regularly have children under the age of 5 coming with their parents or carers and Young People over 13 years attending. The sessions are open access which means that Children and Young People can come and go within the 2 hour session as they please.

Each session provides the Children and Young People with supervised activities including Clay work, Chinese lantern making, flag making, Mask making, biscuit decorating, making photo frames, face painting, other arts and crafts and sports activities including circle and team games. The Children and Young are also given a drink of juice and a biscuit all for FREE.

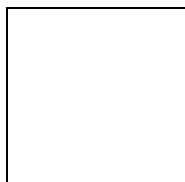
WHERE DO THE SESSIONS TAKE PLACE?

The table below show the most popular venues that we were able to visit over the 5 week Summer Holiday period 23rd July to 24th August 2007 inclusive.

CHILDREN'S ATTENDANCES SUMMER 2007

VENUE	NO. OF SESSIONS	Under 8's	Over 8's	TOTAL	AVE NO PER SESSION
Rawcliffe - Recreation Centre	6	85	51	136	23
Rufforth - Playing Fields	6	36	36	72	12
Naburn - Village Hall	6	38	40	78	13
Wheldrake	6	72	47	119	20
Bishopthorpe - Acaster Lane P.F.	4	32	26	58	15
Stockton-on-Forest - Stone Rigg	6	36	35	71	12
Wigginton - Mill Lane P Fields	4	19	21	40	10
Millennium Field – Fishergate	2	26	10	36	18
Osbalwick - The Leyes	4	47	36	83	21
Heslington – The Outgang	2	3	3	6	3
Fulford – School Lane	2	8	9	17	8
Poppleton Park – Esk Drive	2	17	11	28	14
Askham Bryan Playing Fields	4	38	68	106	27
Hull Road Park	1	6	10	16	16
George V Playing Field (nr Dodsworth Ave)	2	15	8	23	11
Strensall - Near Hirst Hall	6	88	93	181	30
Haxby - Ethel Ward Playing Fields	6	108	30	138	23
Copmanthorpe Sports Club	4	56	51	107	27
West Bank Park	2	12	6	18	9
Skelton – The Pastures	6	28	35	63	10
Elvington	6	75	62	137	23
Poppleton – Comm Centre	4	64	16	80	20
Dunnington – Intake Lane	6	48	20	54	9
Badger Hill	1	6	4	10	10
TOTALS	98	927	736	1663	17

A SESSION = 1 x 2 HOURS



Attendance by under 8 year olds: 927

Attendance by over 8 year olds: 736

Attendance Total: 1663

(With a Large number of children aged between 2-4 = 73)

Total attendance on Wick-kid mobiles last year 2006 = 1,561

An increase in attendance by 102 children

Each Mobile team has a tent which they use for shelter from the sun, wind and/or rain.

TRAINING OF OUR STAFF

All the Playworkers attended a half day Playspace Induction and a three day Playwork training course which covered: Play and Playwork, Health & Safety, Supporting Children, Child Protection, Building Relationships, Programme Planning, Team Work and Basic First Aid.

They all found this course very beneficial it gave them time to meet their team and gave them some new activities and games to do with the children.

All of the staff had or were in the process of having Enhanced CRB checks, other qualifications already held included First Aid, L3 Teaching Asst, NVQ 3 in Early Years, Level 2 in Early Years, Child Protection, QTS, NNEB, Teachers and Diploma in Early Years. The staff worked well as a team and enjoyed the whole experience.

As an organisation we value the training and knowledge that the Playworkers have gained and the children and young people benefit from their knowledge and experience. All Playworkers go through a vigorous recruitment process including the taking up of references.

The playworkers had lots energy and enthusiasm and thoroughly enjoyed the Mobile playschemes. They have all said that they would love to do it again next year and we would be more than happy for them to return next year.

FEEDBACK

We are continually striving to improve all the services we offer to Children, Young People, Parents and Carers. As part of this commitment, we carry out a regular evaluation process. This often is done by asking Children, Young People, Parents and Carers to complete questionnaires about the particular service we have provided.

Throughout the summer we asked for feedback from Parents/Carers and Children/Young people. The overall impression from them was that the Mobiles are a must and they still want more.

Below are some of the comments and responses from the parent/carers and children/young people that attended the mobiles this year.

Parent/Carers Evaluations and Comments

All Parents and Carers who completed evaluations said that they would send their child/children again to the Playschemes. A large proportion of Parents/carers commented that the advance publicity was poor this year. In future years advance publicity must be a priority for us and we must take more control of this. Most Parents and Carers had 2 or more children.

Parent/Carers Comments

- Fantastic! All my 4 children loved this event. I am a local childminder and appreciate any activities such as this.
- The mobile playscheme have been excellent! My children have enjoyed the range of activities, the games and the company of other children, and the playworkers.
- Three children have thoroughly enjoyed all the activities; the Playworkers were very pleasant and helpful.
- Can you do it more often
- Nice friendly staff, get all the kids involved, some great Activities and ideas
- Kids really enjoyed it
- Brilliant idea, the children really enjoyed it
- Playworkers were very friendly and enthusiastic
- A big thank you we enjoyed all the sessions, good fun
- Very good activities and really enthusiastic workers, my child has really enjoyed going to all of the Playspaces
- I think it was a great scheme, kids loved it , well done
- Playworkers made mums/adults very welcome, pleased to let us stay
- Activities were excellent, kept kids engaged and produced some lovely work. The playworkers are very pleasant and approachable
- This has been a fantastic activity for my little boy, the playworkers have been brilliant, he has loved every minute, Thank you
- My child really enjoyed his time and would love it to be on next summer. The playworkers were excellent and the activities were well planned
- Excellent playscheme, fun, well supervised, appreciated by parents and children
- Excellent playworkers and activities, the children have got to know all the workers and had a great time, please come back next holidays.

Children's Comments

Favourite things to do at the wick-kid mobile were:

Arts & Crafts
Face painting

Multicultural peg people
Parachute games

Puppet Making
Having fun

Sport/football/crazy games/skipping
Making soft toys and felt people

Rounders/Kwik Cricket
Making friends

Clay

All the Children said they would like to come again to the Mobile Playscheme. The number of girls that attended the Playschemes was 60% to 40% boys.

Children's Comments

- More clay please, more footballs & sporty things
- The Playworkers are great
- I had good fun and the people were really nice, I loved making the masks
- I like making clay, It's great
- It's wick-ed
- Best club ever
- Its Mint
- Cool and fun, I think it is great and it should be on a lot more
- It's cool - the crafts are great, the play equipment is fun. Ps I don't like the fact Sarah likes Liverpool FC! Boo!!!!
- I am cuming bac nex year
- Love having water fights
- its great that there are lots of things to do
- Its fun and great and its something to do
- Its really good because almost all my friends are there

VOLUNTEERS

Our thanks go to all of the volunteers who attended the Mobile Playschemes.

We always welcome volunteers both Adults and Juniors to all the activities that we are involved in.

STATIC PLAYSCHEMES

This year was the first year that we did not offer the traditional static based Playschemes in York in the Easter and Summer holidays. This was due to funding limitations. The only Playschemes that we did offer inside were those based in Sanderson, Chapelfields and Deighton. These were done as part of our on-going Community Development work in those areas.

RYEDALE PLAYSCHEMES

The Ryedale Playschemes are funded by Ryedale District Council. At Easter this year we were, for the first time, approached by Ryedale District Council to facilitate these playschemes. We were commissioned to provide summer holiday Playschemes in venues around the Ryedale District area.

The Ryedale Playschemes operated with 2 teams of 4 Playworkers offering Play opportunities to Children & young people aged 5 – 11 years. These ran over 4 weeks with us visiting 8 different venues staying 1 week at each venue. The Playschemes ran from 10am – 3pm each day where the children would bring a pack lunch with them and we provided them with a drinks and biscuits during each day.

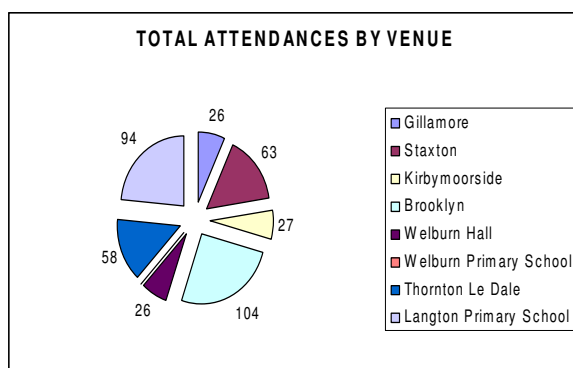
The venues visited were:

- ❖ **GILLAMORE Primary School**
- ❖ **STAXTON Primary School**
- ❖ **KIRBYMOORSIDE Primary School**
- ❖ **BROOKLYN YOUTH CENTRE**
- ❖ **WELBURN HALL School**
- ❖ **THORNTON-LE-DALE Primary School**
- ❖ **LANGTON Primary School**
- ❖ **WELBURN Primary School**

Numbers were limited to a maximum of 30 Children due to restrictions of National standard ratios of Children to adults and the size of the venue. We used venues such as Schools and Community Centres.

A charge of £6.75 for the first child and £5.75 for each subsequent sibling per session was made.

During each session we provided the Children & Young People with supervised activities including African Masks, Glass painting, T-Shirt design, Chinese Lanterns, Stuffed toys, Pond Dipping, Sports, quiet games and much more. Then on 3 afternoon sessions per week at each of the venues we had professional workshops come in and provide stimulating activities; these were a cricket workshop, Metalwork workshop and a Tennis workshop.



CHILL OUT ZONES

WHAT IS A CHILL OUT ZONE

Chill Out Zones provide open access “play” sessions for Children and Young People aged between 8 – 13 years in their local areas. They are a “model” which can be adapted to meet the needs of local Communities.

During 2007– 08 York Playspace facilitated 3 Zones; two of which had been funded by The Children’s Fund and are situated in Tang Hall and Moor Lane, Dringhouses and the other Zone is in 68 Centre area of Heworth and is joint funded by Nestle “Make Space for Play” and the Heworth Ward Committee. The Tang Hall and Moor Lane Zones have been open for over 4 years.

The Chill Out Zone Projects’ objectives are linked to a number of Every Child Matters outcomes.

The primary objectives that the Zones are working with the Children and Young People towards are:-

- To choose not to offend, re-offend and engage in anti-social behaviour
- Develop self-confidence and enterprising behaviour
- Be safe from crime and anti-social behaviour.

The Zones have a number of secondary objectives as a consequence of the activities that they are engaged in which include amongst others:-

- Achieve personal development and enjoy recreation
- Keep mentally and emotionally healthy
- Lead a healthy lifestyle

We hope that we can help to make a difference to the Children and Young People’s lives, choices and experiences.

The Zones are open 2 nights per week in each of the areas; Mondays and Wednesdays in Moor Lane and 68 Centre and Tuesdays and Thursdays in Tang Hall. They are open between 4pm and 7pm and are open access which means that the Children and Young People are able to come and go as they please within those times. The Zones in Tang Hall and Moor Lane are open 50 weeks of the year and only close during the Christmas holiday period. The 68 Centre

is open term-time only. During the school holidays the Tang Hall and Moor Lane Zones are open as usual in the evening but to reflect the Children and Young People's wishes and needs are open during the day time instead which is usually to accommodate trips to places such as the seaside and the Theatre.

A big investment has been made in the Training of our Staff not only in the statutory areas of First Aid, Child Protection and Level 2 and 3 in Playwork, but also in areas such as Developing Children's Self Esteem, How Children Learn to Read and Behaviour Management, drug awareness and much more. This investment has not only developed the Playworkers personally and made them more positive but has benefited the Children and Young People in the way in which they deliver the service. All Playworkers have had the appropriate checks carried out.

The Zones are facilitated by a team of up to 4 Playworkers. The Playworkers in the Zones use a variety of activities to encourage positive behaviour, raise self esteem and encourage self-confidence. The Children and Young People are actively encouraged to participate in the preparation and eating together of a healthy snack each session.

Each session can accommodate up to 40 Children and Young People at anyone time, but there can be more than 50 Children and Young People attending during an evening as Children and Young People come and go. Since the Project started in June 2003 over 650 Children and Young People have registered and attended the Zones. Young People over the age of 13 years are welcome to attend the Zones as Junior Volunteers and must sign to say that they will act in this role only.

Children and Young People in the Zones are involved in decision making about the activities and the ways in which the Zones are run, for example the Children and Young People have put together the Zone rules and the subsequent punishments for breaking those rules.

This is the 4th successive year of Chill Out Zones in York facilitated by York Playspace. The Children and Young People at the Chill Out Zones have been very busy during the year. They have put together newsletters which describe the activities that they have been engaged in.

During the year more than 400 Children and Young People have attended the Zones at least once, with more than 75% being regular attendees. Each night sees up to 35 Children and

Young People in attendance. At the Tang Hall Zone we have a large number of Travellers who regularly attend the sessions.

During the year the Children and Young People from the Zones raised over £3500 from local grant making trusts to pay for trips during the holidays. The trips included a day trip to Dalby Forest and Flamingoland, a trip to Bradford Film Museum, Scarborough, ice skating, Megabowl and trips to the Theatre.

The Zones also benefited from the visits of the following workshops:-

- Football
- Street Dancing
- Break Dancing
- Sport Camps
- Fashion Design
- Drama, Film

In March 2007 the Moor Lane Chill Out Zone was awarded £4500 from City of York Yorkash to pay for drama and film making workshops. The Children and Young People have worked hard during this year to put together a play; written and filmed by themselves which has been recorded on DVD and will be shown at a Premier at the 2008 Annual General Meeting to Parents/Carers and Community groups and local Councillors.

We would like to thank John Phillips for his patience and commitment on this project, which at times was extremely challenging.

Tang Hall Chill Out Zone also received £3700 from City of York Yorkash to pay for workshops and equipment in dance, sports and fashion design.

2 of the Young People completing the Yorkash Application forms.

CHILL OUT ZONES – THE FUTURE

In 31st March 2008 the funding for the Zone will cease coming from The Children's Fund and will need to go through a further commissioning process. If successful the funding will then come from the Early Intervention Fund. In April 2007, in readiness for this commissioning process we started a very rigorous evaluation process of the Zones.

As at 31st March 2008 the commissioning process had not started and funding was "rolled-over" until September 2008.

Summary of findings from the Evaluation.

Our stakeholders include:-

- Children and Young People both present and past users of the service
- Parents and carers
- Schools which the Children and Young People attend
- The local Community
- Local Councillors
- The local Police

We identified the Children and Young People who have visited the Zones most frequently over the last six months and decided to use those Children and Young People in our evaluation.

We also identified several past user of the service, those Children and Young People who attended the Zones but are no longer of the target age i.e. over 13 years old. We had a face to face meeting with them which gave them an opportunity to discuss the impact they thought the Zones had had on their lives if any.

We used a variety of methods of evaluation including questionnaires sent to parents and carers, and local Councillors and individual interviews with the Children and Young People, Police and local Communities and Schools.

Results of the evaluation

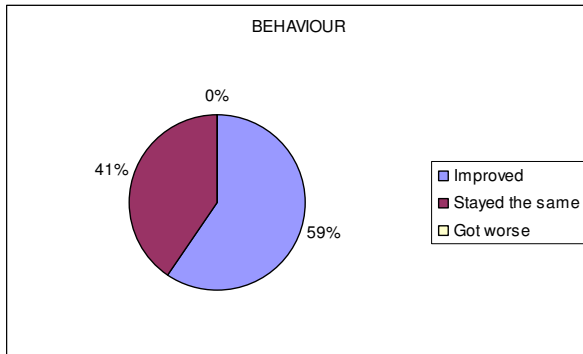
We focused on the following elements of the projects work:-

- Behaviour
- Self – esteem
- Achievements at school
- Involvement/achievements at school
- Attendance at school

We also asked the Parents and carers and Children and Young People “What would the child/young person be likely to be doing on an evening if there were no Chill Out Zones for them to come to?”

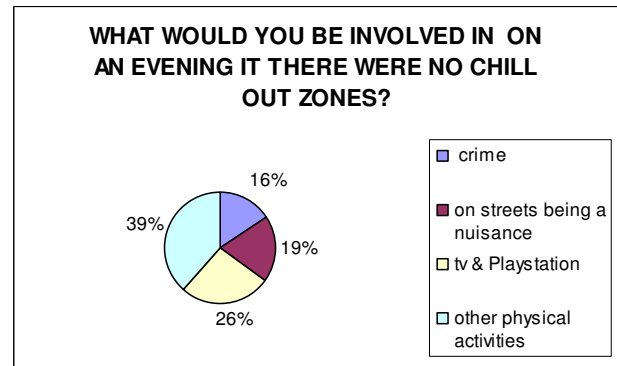
Results from Children and Young People

We interviewed Children and Young People who had regularly attended the Zones and these totalled 37 Children and Young People.

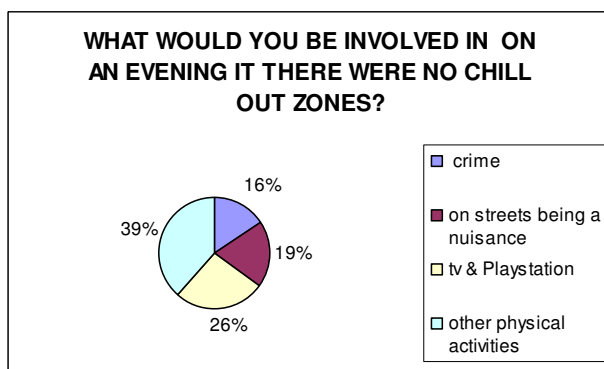


The chart shows that 59% of the Children and Young People consider their own behaviour to have improved. In 2004 when the same question was asked 50% of the Children and Young People thought their behaviour had improved. It is interesting to see that none of the Children and Young People thought their behaviour had got worse. One of the things that we have implemented is a zero tolerance on swearing. The Children and Young People are now correcting each other when swearing is heard and the Zones have become a much more relaxed place to be as a result.

63% of the Children and Young People interviewed said that if they had not come to Chill Out Zones they would be involved in aggressive behaviour and might be a victim of bullying. 30% of the Children and Young People said that they would have had difficulty in mixing with other Children and Young People.



48% of Children and Young People thought that their attendance at School had improved since they had been attending the Zones.



When asked 16% of Children and Young People said they might be involved in crime and 19% said they might be on the streets being a nuisance.

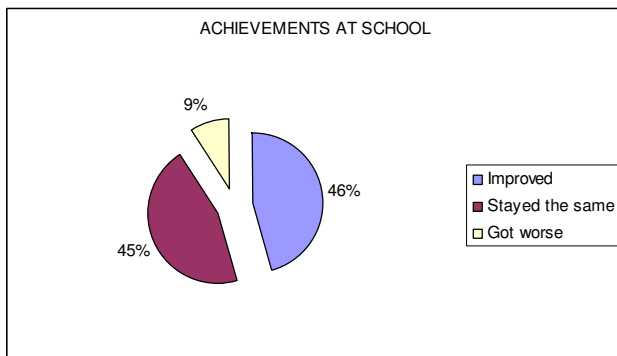
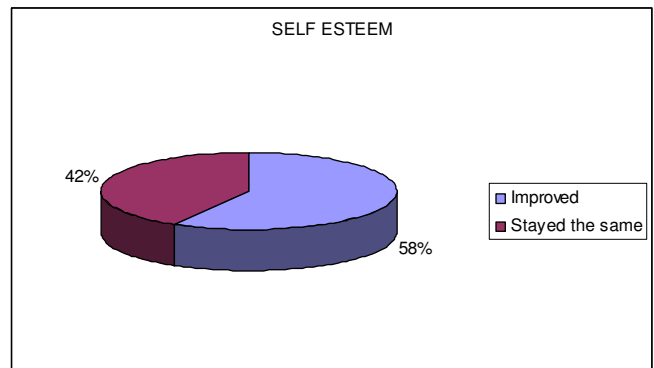
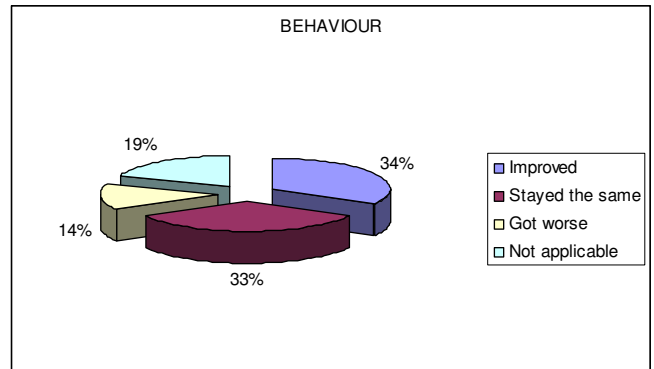
Results from the Schools

22 questionnaires were returned from the schools that the Children and Young People attend. They included Tang Hall Primary, Woodthorpe Primary, Burnholme Secondary School, and Oaklands Secondary School. Our thanks go to them all.

The schools considered that 34% of the Children and Young People's behaviour had improved whilst 33% had stayed the same.

Results from Parents

58% of those who returned questionnaires said that they thought that their Child's/Young Person's self esteem had improved.



When asked about their Child's/Young Person's achievements at school 46% said that they had improved whilst 45% said that they had stayed the same. Once again we have no way of knowing about the level of achievement of those 45%.

The local Communities and local Police

Face to face interviews were done with the local communities' e.g. local shops and residential homes. A few identified that there had been a decrease in vandalism and in general they all said that they had noticed a decrease in the number of Children and Young People "hanging around" the shops and being a nuisance.

All the local communities interviewed said that they thought what the Chill Out Zones were doing was a good thing for the Children and Young People, one said "Kids don't always realise implications of what they do". The communities were very supportive of the work and encouraged future involvement.

The Local Police thought that the Chill Out Zones *“definitely benefited the community. It alleviates pressure at home and provides a time of respite for families. It is the key to reducing anti-social disorder”*. They also identified that there had been a decrease in Children and Young People “hanging around” during those hours in which the Zones are open. The Police acknowledge that there is a *“need for early intervention to prevent crime with Children and Young People and the Chill Out Zones are helping to meet that need.”*

SHOWCASE

In September we produced a DVD made from interviews of the Children and Young People at the Zones describing their experiences and what a difference the Zones have made to them.

The DVD was shown at a Showcase event held in September 2007. 4 Children and Young People representatives from each Zone enjoyed a swim and tea and then welcomed guests to the event. The Guests were shown examples of the work done at the Zones. Everyone sat down to watch the DVD with interest.

[Children and Young People waiting for tea at the Showcase.](#)

FINANCIAL REPORT 1ST APRIL 2007– 31ST MARCH 2008.

We are grateful for the support that the City of York Council, Children’s Fund and numerous other smaller funders and grant making bodies that have been committed over the year to helping us promote and develop Play in the City of York and surrounding areas.

Again this year we have received funding from The Children’s Fund for the restricted use of the Chill Out Zones. The project entered its 4th year. With rising costs such as rent, salaries and wages to pay, the contribution from the Children’s Fund diminished. We were given £36,000 to fund the direct contact with the Children and Young People and a further £10,000 to be used for development of the project and the organisation. The £36,000 funding represented 70% of the funding required to facilitate the Zones at Moor Lane and Tang Hall. A significant amount of funding was necessary to be raised from other sources. This included money from Yorkash, received in 2007, the Heworth, Hull Road, and Dringhouses and Woodthorpe Ward Committees, and other smaller funders and grant making trusts that the Children and Young People applied to. Funding for this project is guaranteed until the end of March 2008.

We also received a Grant from Arts Action York to purchase equipment and materials for all three Zones; this money will be used in 2008-09.

The Heworth Ward Committee continued to support the 68 Centre Chill Out Zone project and we are very grateful for their sustained support. The £1423 shortfall in funding for this project came from the surplus of central services management charges received from other projects.

All the self funding projects including Chill Out Zones, Mobile Playschemes and the Ryedale Project make a contribution towards the organisational overheads. The Ryedale Project was underwritten by Ryedale District Council to protect Playspace from making a loss. At the start of the project it was difficult to estimate income from users.

In December 2007 we closed the Resource Centre therefore the profit for this year is considerably reduced at £468.

We have been able to absorb the extra cost of rent in our new accommodation and use of storage through our management charges.

Money on deposit in the Building Society and money in the current account during the year earned £2375 in interest and is also used towards overhead costs. This was an increase of 44%. In February 2008 we reviewed where our money was held in view of the Northern Rock crisis. We opened an additional account at the Scarborough Building Society and transferred money across. We will continue to hold no more than £30,000 in any one institution.

The organisation remains solvent and sustainable for the future year. The designated reserves still stand at £45,000. This represents at least 6 month's running costs. Our Reserves Policy allows us to keep at least 6 months running costs in a Free Reserves account. This money would be used to pay salaries and other expenses such as rent should the organisation have to be wound down.

We continue to assess our financial position in relation to the economic environment. We are very grateful to all our funders over the year and will continue to build on the relationships. The past twelve months have seen a period of growth and development and we hope to continue this in the years to come.

Registered charity 505921

**York Playspace
Supplementary accounts
for the year ended
31st March 2008**

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