



## **Report on the Playday Seminar 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010**

### **Introduction**

Playday is traditionally held on the first Wednesday of August each year. It is the annual celebration of the child's right to play. On Playday and throughout the summer, thousands of children and young people in communities will get out and play at hundreds of locally organised Playday events across the UK.

Playday is coordinated by Play England, who lead the campaign in partnership with a national steering group of which Play Scotland is a member.

Each year, a comprehensive body of research is published to support the Playday campaign and lobby nationally and locally to raise awareness of the related issues. Play England support Playday event organisers with resources and advice on delivering a successful day including the Playday "Get Organised Guide", seminars, website and promotional materials to help with events.

### **Scottish Organising Seminar**

This year, Play Scotland and Midlothian Association of Play held the first Organising Playday Seminar on Tuesday 1 June 2010 at Play Scotland. Around 50 people were in attendance from a wide range of local authority, voluntary, public and private bodies.

This report covers the main evaluation from the event and the feedback from the Discussion Groups that took place over the course of the event.

Speakers- Margaret Westwood- Edinburgh City Council, Sandra Mousdale- North Lanarkshire Council and Tammy Devlin- East Ayrshire Council were interspersed with World Cafe style workshops where delegates had the opportunity to explore different play related themes such as Staffed play provision, Improving outcomes across children's services through play, Safer streets and spaces for children's play, Play Types, Elemental Play and Campaigning.

Everyone had the opportunity to think about this year`s Playday theme of “Our Place” and consider what makes a community child friendly.

At the end of the event, delegates were asked to keep Play Scotland informed of their plans for Playday this year and to register their event on the Playday website, [www.playday.org.uk](http://www.playday.org.uk)

## Evaluations

**34 Evaluations were received. Organisers, speakers and facilitators did not all complete evaluation forms.**

Voluntary sector 14  
Local Authority/Public sector 13  
Private sector 2  
Other 5

1. How would you rate today`s event: 5 being excellent, 4- very satisfactory, 3- satisfactory, 2- somewhat satisfactory and 1- very unsatisfactory- please write the number next to each area below:

### Overall

**100% Satisfaction level (5) – 12, (4) – 21, (3) – 1, (2) – 0, (1) - 0**

### Content

**99% Satisfaction level (5) – 13, (4) – 18, (3) – 2, (2) – 1, (1) – 0**

### Workshops

**99% satisfaction level (5) – 11, (4) – 16, (3) – 5, (2) – 1, (1) – 0 (1 no response)**

### Venue

**100% satisfaction level (5) – 14, (4) – 16, (3) – 4, (2) – 0, (1) - 0**

### Catering

**99% satisfaction level (5) - 20, (4) – 12, (3) – 1, (2) – 1, (1) - 0**

### Overall organisation

**100% satisfaction level (5) – 19, (4) – 14, (3) – 0, (2) – 0, (1) – 0 (1 no response)**

2. Which aspect of the morning did you find most useful and why?

Workshops - 8      Speakers – 11      Networking/sharing experiences - 15

Comments included:

Workshops: very useful to hear ideas from other organisations

- Good networking opportunities
- Good to share ideas ( 2 specifically mentioned the Play types workshop)
- First workshop was useful but eventually became slightly repetitive at workshop 3.

Speakers: - The presentation from East Ayrshire was a concise and informative run down of doing a Playday

- Sandra Mousdale – very easy to see the benefits in what she was discussing

Networking:

- Discussing barriers to Play and how to get round these
- Everything. great tips for Playdays
- All was useful; the diversity of input, workshops and delegates made for thought provoking morning. A good mix! Not all “chalk and talk”!
- Good networking opportunity at beginning and end of day.
- Learning new activities/ideas to include in our Playday

3. Which aspect was least useful and why?

N/A ( 22)      Repetitive workshops (6)      Too many large event speakers (2)

Others: Discussing Policy etc

Too much detail with practicalities of organising Playday

Could have benefited from directions/map to the venue (*Directions had been sent with email confirmation of bookings*)

4. What are your plans for Playday 2010?

- 7 OOSCs coming together on 4 Aug – school playing fields

- Small event within our clubs
- 3 local events on week leading up to Playday and 1 LA event on 4 Aug
- Ardrossan South Beach Park on 4 Aug, 12 noon – 4pm
- I'll certainly attend this year and perhaps do some organising/volunteering locally next year.
- Try and get community groups to access funds to do their own activities
- Possibly hold a joint event with other local organisations
- Hopefully for ELOSCN to run their first Playday
- To provide a variety of events
- Large scale event on 4 Aug
- Look at including and/or “branding” some of our summer events as Playday events.
- 4 Playday events in North Lanarkshire
- Hoping to organise a large Playday event that will involve all our groups coming together
- Inverclyde OOSC network running an event at Battery Park, Eldon Street, Greenock
- Small local family event

15 no responses/ not applicable or question marks.

#### **Any other comments**

Very enjoyable networking experience

A good event for getting ideas. Thanks !

Really useful day

Play Scotland Conferences always excellent.

Great event. Hopefully it will be a yearly event.

Great event. Very useful and informative.

Thanks for a really good seminar

Excellent venue and overview of Play in Scotland

Thanks! Great to have this chance to come together with others/network/discuss Playday and Play events in general.

## **Feedback on “What makes a community child friendly?”**

**This year the theme of Playday 2010 is “Our Place”. The intention is for everyone across the UK to help make their communities the best possible places for everyone to live and play. “Our Place” puts children at the heart of our communities and asks everyone to help create better places for all of us to live and play.**

**During the Group discussions, comments on “What makes a child friendly community”, were welcomed at every table. This resulted in many points about the barriers to Outdoor Play. The main issues are listed below. Full summative feedback on this topic and all other topics discussed is available as a separate Appendix.**

### **1. Safety**

Outdoor Play is perceived to be unsafe compared to indoor Play because parents can't protect their children when they're out of their sight. Dangers include: Traffic, stranger danger, children playing on “unsafe, dangerous” open spaces because of restrictions in designated play spaces eg “No Ball Game” signs.

### **2. Children don't have time for Free Play**

Parents can over organise children's lives, filling their time with organised sports activities or expensive commercial play such as bouncy castles and soft play. These organised activities are an easier option for parents who don't know how to just go outside and play.

### **3. The lure of technology**

**Society's** obsession with electronic games and television as well as the growing world of social networking, offer a more exciting pastime for children so they don't want to just go and Play. They experience peer pressure from friends to succeed at the newest electronic games.

### **4. Attitude of other adults**

Adults are intolerant of children playing outside, maybe because of noise, nuisance, worries about vandalism, violence and their own safety. Some adults assume that is neglectful of a parent to let their child play out in the street or unsupervised, even in a play space.

**Some of the suggestions made on the day as to how these barriers can be overcome:**

Community Engagement- handing out leaflets, good links with school and community education, learning and development.

Community Planning partnerships need to put play on the agenda

Using local media to help change public perceptions

Policy awareness- national campaigns

Use Facebook and texting methods to promote Outdoor Play

Children should be allowed to play in school grounds outwith school hours

Campaign needed to say to adults "it's OK to play with children"

Follow up to Play @ Home Campaign

Planners from local council departments should consult with playworkers and local action groups to create well designed play areas

Need to change attitudes by promoting play, raising awareness of play, involve the community, educate the community, play in the community, ensure enough green space.

Community councils should encourage more community services, so facilitating more play opportunities in communities

Making sure there is a health environment focus eg "Living Streets" policy

Need joined up approach to play opportunities across a council area- too many- different choices – no coherence

Streets should be redesigned by community planners to allow play. North Lanarkshire Council- consultations provide good examples

**What next?**

Identifying the barriers and suggesting solutions is the easy part. How will this change happen? Who will make it happen?

Play Scotland has been lobbying hard at Scottish Government level and will continue to do so, to have Play referred to and its importance recognised in key Policy documents which local Councils then must take account of. A key Policy document is the Early Years

Framework with one of the ten elements of transformational change specifically recognising the need to “Improve Outcomes and Children’s Quality of Life through Play”.

*“We need to ensure that parents, communities and professionals recognise the value and long-term benefits of play and to promote how critical play and the arts are for children’s development. This is true not just in terms of physical health but also in terms of developing resilience and mental wellbeing.*

*We need to recognise children’s own aspirations for play, not what adults think they should be doing and to recognise that play takes many forms, not just play parks.*

*But we also have to recognise that play and developing the right attitudes to play are not the sole responsibility of national or local government. Parents have a key role here, particularly with regard to the issue of concerns about their children’s safety and exposure to risk.”*

*(The Early Years Framework, Part 2, The Scottish Government, Edinburgh 2008)*

**Playday is an important mechanism to help bring about some of the changes mentioned. It’s one day when all over the Country, the child’s right to Play is celebrated, in a very visible way by many different community groups of children and adults.**

By bringing the community together in this way all of you who organise events are playing your part in raising the national profile of Play as well as raising your own local community’s awareness. Please use this opportunity to celebrate Play and campaign to break down the barriers that prevent communities being child friendly.

Publicise the event widely. Take lots of pictures. Get quotes and comments from those taking part and other influential members of the community about how fantastic the day was and how important Play is. Maximise press coverage of your event.

A sample press release has been prepared, where you can insert your own local information. This can be used to inform about the event happening and act as a Photo Call, with the article included which can be published just after the event. The text is aimed at smaller regional newspapers and shows Play Scotland’s support for Playday. The main Playday press release will be available on the Playday website a day or so prior to 4 August. This will contain recent research information also to help raise the public’s awareness of the positive impact of Play.

After your event, please send all the feedback you've gathered in to Play Scotland so we can collate a Scotland wide overview of all these important profile raising events: big and small, rural and urban. The strength of the Play sector and the enthusiasm and passion to bring about a transformational change to Play in Scotland will be clear to see.

Thank you for your support.

Play Scotland

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