

Developing Play in Scotland

An evidence report to Play Scotland prepared by the Scottish
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University

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Introduction

Developing Play in Scotland

- 1.01 The Scottish Poverty Information Unit (SPIU) was commissioned by Play Scotland to canvass opinion among the play sector in Scotland to determine priorities for the development of play in Scotland.

About the research

Approach

- 1.02 The objective of the research was to collect information from the play sector in Scotland which (i) ascertained the extent to which emergent themes from Play Scotland focus group research (McIntyre, 2008) were prevalent among the wider sector; and (ii) provided an evidence base to inform a Play Scotland bid to the Big Lottery in Scotland. It was agreed that the views of those working in a play area in the voluntary sector were of particular importance.

Survey Research Design

- 1.03 John McKendrick of SPIU designed the survey. The survey was revised following discussions with Susan McIntyre and Marguerite Hunter Blair of Play Scotland.
- 1.04 The sampling frame was the Play Scotland mailing list. It was assumed that the mailing list was representative of the play sector in Scotland.
- 1.05 Although the Play Scotland mailing list was extensive and comprehensive, some limitations should be acknowledged:
- 1.05.1 Some addresses were obsolete and mailings were returned to SPIU (12 addresses).
 - 1.05.2 A minority of addresses were to contacts based outside Scotland. The decision was taken by SPIU and Play Scotland to survey all contacts, regardless of residence.

- 1.05.3 Some addresses were to large institutions and it may not have been clear within these public sector bodies and private companies to whom the survey pertained.

Distribution and Response Rate

- 1.06 Three distribution modes were used:
 - 1.06.1 Distribution of hard copy to all addresses on the Play Scotland mailing list. A cover letter introduced the survey and a stamped addressed envelope was provided to cover the cost of return postage. 720 surveys were distributed by post.
 - 1.06.2 Respondents were offered the opportunity of contacting SPIU to request an electronic version of the survey. Three requests were made to SPIU for an electronic version of the survey.
 - 1.06.3 The surveymonkey.com survey portal was used to facilitate online completion of the survey.
- 1.07 Play Scotland added news of the survey to its website and sent out two reminders to members of its' electronic mail list.
- 1.08 Contacts were invited to respond by the most convenient mode. It is difficult to ascertain the response rate as it cannot be assumed that all electronic responses arose from contacts on the Play Scotland website.
- 1.09 However, the best estimate is that the response rate was 22%.
- 1.10 This response rate was higher than envisaged for an unsolicited survey distributed to a broadly based mailing list, provided with little time to respond.

Data Analysis

- 1.11 The analysis was carried out using the statistical software, SPSS. Questions were broken down into each response given, and the count and percentage were given. Percentages were rounded up to the nearest whole number. In some cases percentages add up to more than 100% as respondents could choose more than one response. When this was the case it is highlighted in the table.

Respondent Profile

- 1.12 SPIU is confident that the survey represents the breadth of opinion within the play sector in Scotland.
- 1.13 Full profile details of respondents are provided in the Appendix. The following points should be noted:
 - 1.13.1 Almost two thirds of respondents were not members of Play Scotland (Table A.1).
 - 1.13.2 Almost two thirds of respondents were women (Table A.3)
 - 1.13.3 Two fifths of respondents were aged between 20 and 39, one third were in their forties and one quarter were of working age but older than forty (Table A.4).
 - 1.13.4 One fifth of respondents did not work or volunteer in a play-related field (Table A.5).
 - 1.13.5 Two thirds of those working or volunteering in playwork were employed on a full-time basis (Table A.6).

- 1.13.6 Responses were received from 28 of the 32 local authority areas in Scotland (Table A.7).
 - 1.13.7 Half of those working had a direct responsibility for play in their work (Table A.8).
 - 1.13.8 Half of those responding worked for local authorities with one quarter working for a voluntary organisation (Table A.9).
 - 1.13.9 Sizeable proportions of respondents were from the fields of play (28%), childcare (29%) and education (17%) (Table A.10).
 - 1.13.10 Representation was received from across the full age spectrum, although most respondents dealt with primary schooled aged children or pre-school aged children.
- 1.14.1 Looking specifically at the respondent profile of those who worked in a play capacity in the voluntary sector:
- 1.14.1 Just over a half of respondents were not members of Play Scotland (Table A.1)
 - 1.14.2 Three quarters were women. (Table A.3)
 - 1.14.3 One third worked in childcare, one third in play and one in five in education (Table A.10)

About this report

- 1.15 This reported is structured into three substantive sections:
 - 1.15.1 Play issues in Scotland
 - 1.15.2 Training and support needs
 - 1.15.3 Role of Play ScotlandTwo rounds of analysis were undertaken; first for those who work in play in the voluntary and community sector and second for the whole sample. Respondent profile is reported in Appendix 1.
- 1.16 This is an evidence report, i.e. the objectives are to present findings and provide direct interpretation of findings for Play Scotland.

2

Children's play in Scotland

Introduction

- 2.01 Two themes are explored in this chapter:
 - 2.01.1 Outdoor play
 - 2.01.2 Unstructured and unsupervised play (known as 'free play' in shorthand).
- 2.02 For each theme, three questions are posed:
 - 2.02.1 Attitudes toward the issue
 - 2.02.2 Identification of all barriers to play
 - 2.02.3 Identification of the main barrier to play.
- 2.03 The results are given first for those who work in the play sector in the voluntary sector, in either a paid or volunteer capacity and second for the sample as a whole.
- 2.04 Each question is considered on a separate page. The key finding and additional points to note are identified for each issue.
- 2.05 When the responses of those working in the play sector for the voluntary sector is different from the sample as a whole, this is highlighted.

Table 2.1a: Attitudes toward outdoor play (voluntary play sector workers only)

| Attitude | Column percentages | Cases |
|--|--------------------|-------|
| Children <i>do not spend enough</i> time playing outside | 98 | 40 |
| Children spend <i>about the right amount</i> of time playing outside | 2 | 1 |
| Children <i>spend too much</i> time playing outside | 0 | 0 |
| Don't know | 0 | 0 |
| Rather not say | 0 | 0 |

Cases: 41

Table 2.1b: Attitudes toward outdoor play

| Attitude | Column percentages | Cases |
|--|--------------------|-------|
| Children <i>do not spend enough</i> time playing outside | 95 | 155 |
| Children spend <i>about the right amount</i> of time playing outside | 5 | 8 |
| Children <i>spend too much</i> time playing outside | 0 | 0 |
| Don't know | 0 | 0 |
| Rather not say | 0 | 0 |

Cases: 163

Key Finding

- The play sector almost unanimously considers that “children do not spend enough time playing outside” (98% of those working in play in the voluntary sector and 95% of survey respondents as a whole agreed with this statement).

Additional Points to Note

- The level of agreement is such that it would not be useful to undertake further analysis to explore variations in opinion.

Table 2.2a: Barriers towards outdoor play (voluntary play sector workers only)

| Barrier | Row percentages | Cases |
|---|-----------------|-------|
| Parents' attitudes toward risk | 83 | 34 |
| The poor quality of spaces available for outdoor play | 76 | 31 |
| Attitudes of other adults in the community toward children's play | 68 | 28 |
| Lack of space for outdoor play | 66 | 27 |
| Parents' general attitudes toward play | 54 | 22 |
| Lack of support for those who try to encourage outdoor play in local communities | 61 | 25 |
| Community safety | 56 | 23 |
| The lack of skilled adult playworkers who are available to facilitate children's play | 42 | 17 |
| Other (please describe) | 0 | 0 |

Cases: 40

Notes: Multiple responses are possible, hence percentages will add up to more than 100%

Table 2.2b: Barriers towards outdoor play

| Barrier | Row percentages | Cases |
|---|-----------------|-------|
| Parents' attitudes toward risk | 87 | 141 |
| The poor quality of spaces available for outdoor play | 68 | 111 |
| Attitudes of other adults in the community toward children's play | 67 | 109 |
| Lack of space for outdoor play | 52 | 84 |
| Parents' general attitudes toward play | 48 | 78 |
| Lack of support for those who try to encourage outdoor play in local communities | 47 | 76 |
| Community safety | 42 | 69 |
| The lack of skilled adult playworkers who are available to facilitate children's play | 28 | 45 |
| Other (please describe) | 1 | 1 |

Cases: 163

Notes: Multiple responses are possible, hence percentages will add up to more than 100%

Key Finding

- The play sector perceives that parents' attitude to risk is a barrier to children playing outside (almost nine in every ten identify this as a barrier).

Additional Points to Note

- The play sector acknowledges that there are several barriers preventing children playing outside more often. Most respondents identified more than one barrier.
- Although parents' attitudes was the main barrier, the majority of the play sector perceived that the poor quality of spaces available for outdoor play (68%) and the attitudes of other adults in the community toward outdoor play (67%) were also barriers to children playing outdoors.
- Attitudes towards play and problems with the quality of play spaces were perceived by the play sector to be more of a barrier to children playing outdoors than community safety (perceived to be a barrier by 'only' 42% of respondents).
- Respondents from the voluntary play field sector had similar responses to the sample as a whole however they were more likely to believe that lack of space for outdoor play (66% v 52%) and lack of support for those who try to encourage outdoor play (61% v 47%) were barriers to outdoor play.

Table 2.3a: The main barrier to facilitating outdoor play (voluntary play sector workers only)

| Main Barrier | Column percentages | Cases |
|---|--------------------|-------|
| Parents' attitudes toward risk | 40 | 16 |
| The poor quality of spaces available for outdoor play | 18 | 7 |
| Parents' general attitudes toward play | 13 | 5 |
| Attitudes of other adults in the community toward children's play | 10 | 4 |
| Community safety | 7 | 3 |
| Lack of space for outdoor play | 7 | 3 |
| Lack of support for those who try to encourage outdoor play in local communities | 5 | 2 |
| The lack of skilled adult playworkers who are available to facilitate children's play | 0 | 0 |
| Other | 0 | 0 |

Cases: 41

Table 2.3b: The main barrier to facilitating outdoor play

| Main Barrier | Column percentages | Cases |
|---|--------------------|-------|
| Parents' attitudes toward risk | 38 | 60 |
| The poor quality of spaces available for outdoor play | 20 | 32 |
| Parents' general attitudes toward play | 11 | 17 |
| Attitudes of other adults in the community toward children's play | 10 | 15 |
| Community safety | 9 | 14 |
| Lack of space for outdoor play | 5 | 7 |
| Lack of support for those who try to encourage outdoor play in local communities | 4 | 6 |
| The lack of skilled adult playworkers who are available to facilitate children's play | 2 | 3 |
| Other | 2 | 3 |

Cases: 157

Key Finding

- When asked to identify the single most important barrier to children playing outdoors almost two fifths consider that parents' attitude to risk is the main barrier to children playing outside.

Additional Points to Note

- The 'poor quality of spaces available' emerges as a more significant barrier to play than 'attitudes of other adults in the community' when the focus is on the main barrier to children playing outdoors.
- There were little difference in responses between those in the voluntary play field and the overall sample.

Table 2.4a: Thoughts on unstructured and unsupervised play (voluntary play sector workers only)

| Thoughts | Column percentages | Cases |
|---|--------------------|-------|
| Children <i>do not spend enough</i> time engaged in “free play” | 85 | 35 |
| Children spend <i>about the right amount</i> of time engaged in “free play” | 7 | 3 |
| Children <i>spend too much</i> time engaged in “free play” | 2 | 1 |
| Don't know | 5 | 2 |
| Rather not say | 0 | 0 |

Cases: 41

Table 2.4b: Thoughts on unstructured and unsupervised play

| Thoughts | Column percentages | Cases |
|---|--------------------|-------|
| Children <i>do not spend enough</i> time engaged in “free play” | 85 | 139 |
| Children spend <i>about the right amount</i> of time engaged in “free play” | 8 | 13 |
| Children <i>spend too much</i> time engaged in “free play” | 2 | 3 |
| Don't know | 4 | 6 |
| Rather not say | 1 | 2 |

Cases: 163

Key Finding

- The vast majority of the play sector perceives that children ‘do not spend enough time engaged in unstructured and unsupervised play’ (85% of respondents).

Additional Points to Note

- Only one in ten from both groups consider that children spend ‘about the right amount of time’ engaged in unstructured and unsupervised play’ (7% and 8% of respondents).
- There were little difference in response from those in the voluntary play field and the sample as whole.

Table 2.5a: Barriers to unstructured and unsupervised play (voluntary play sector workers only)

| Attitude | Row percentages | Cases |
|---|------------------------|--------------|
| Parents' attitudes toward risk | 62 | 25 |
| The poor quality of spaces available for "free play" | 73 | 29 |
| Parents' general attitudes toward "free play" | 60 | 24 |
| Attitudes of other adults to children's "free play" | 60 | 24 |
| Lack of support for those who seek to encourage "free play" | 60 | 24 |
| Community safety | 50 | 20 |
| Lack of space | 33 | 13 |
| The lack of skilled adult play workers who can facilitate "free play" | 38 | 15 |
| Other (please describe) | 2 | 1 |

Cases: 40

Notes: Multiple responses are possible, hence percentages will add up to more than 100%

Table 2.5b: Barriers to unstructured and unsupervised play

| Attitude | Row percentages | Cases |
|---|------------------------|--------------|
| Parents' attitudes toward risk | 70 | 112 |
| The poor quality of spaces available for "free play" | 62 | 98 |
| Parents' general attitudes toward "free play" | 59 | 93 |
| Attitudes of other adults to children's "free play" | 57 | 90 |
| Lack of support for those who seek to encourage "free play" | 48 | 76 |
| Community safety | 37 | 59 |
| Lack of space | 30 | 47 |
| The lack of skilled adult play workers who can facilitate "free play" | 26 | 41 |
| Other (please describe) | 5 | 8 |

Cases: 159

Notes: Multiple responses are possible, hence percentages will add up to more than 100%

Key Finding

- The play sector acknowledges that there are several barriers preventing children engaging more often in unstructured and unsupervised play. Most respondents identified more than one barrier, the most common of which is parents' attitude to risk (identified as a barrier by 70% of total respondents and 62% of those working in the voluntary play sector).

Additional Points to Note

- The same barriers are identified as being important for hampering opportunities for outdoor play and for unsupervised and unstructured play.
- The majority of the play sector identify four barriers to unsupervised and unstructured play, i.e. parents' attitude to risk (70% of respondents), the poor quality of spaces available for 'free play' play (62%), parents' general attitudes towards free play (59%) and the attitudes of other adults in the community toward free play (57%).
- In contrast to outdoor play, parents' general attitudes was more widely considered to be a barrier to unstructured and unsupervised play (59%, compared to 48%). This was the only issue that was perceived to be more of a barrier to free play than a barrier to outdoor play.
- In contrast to outdoor play, lack of space was much less likely to be considered a barrier to unstructured and unsupervised play (30%, compared to 48%).
- The responses of those working in the voluntary play sector were similar to the sample overall however they were more likely to report that the poor quality of space (73% v 62%) and the lack of support for those who try to encourage children's play were barriers (60% v 48%) and less to report that parent's attitude towards risk (62% v 70%) were barriers to unstructured and unsupervised play.

Table 2.6a: The main barrier to unstructured and unsupervised play (voluntary play sector workers only)

| Attitude | Row percentages | Cases |
|---|-----------------|-------|
| Parents' attitudes toward risk | 15 | 6 |
| The poor quality of spaces available for "free play" | 30 | 12 |
| Parents' general attitudes toward "free play" | 23 | 9 |
| Attitudes of other adults to children's "free play" | 18 | 7 |
| Community safety | 8 | 3 |
| The lack of skilled adult play workers who can facilitate "free play" | 5 | 2 |
| Lack of space | 0 | 0 |
| Lack of support for those who seek to encourage "free play" | 3 | 1 |
| Other | 0 | 0 |

Cases: 40

Table 2.6b: The main barrier to unstructured and unsupervised play

| Attitude | Row percentages | Cases |
|---|-----------------|-------|
| Parents' attitudes toward risk | 25 | 39 |
| The poor quality of spaces available for "free play" | 25 | 39 |
| Parents' general attitudes toward "free play" | 18 | 28 |
| Attitudes of other adults to children's "free play" | 12 | 19 |
| Community safety | 6 | 9 |
| The lack of skilled adult play workers who can facilitate "free play" | 5 | 8 |
| Lack of space | 4 | 6 |
| Lack of support for those who seek to encourage "free play" | 3 | 4 |
| Other | 2 | 3 |

Cases: 155

Key Finding

- When asked to identify the single most important barrier to children engaging in unstructured and unsupervised play those who work in the voluntary play sector report that this is the poor quality of space for play (30%).
- The sample as a whole report that parents' attitude to risk and the poor quality of outdoor spaces are the main barrier to free play (25%).
- Among those who work in the voluntary play sector only 15% report that parents' attitude to risk is the most important factor.

Additional Points to Note

- General attitudes towards free play – both of parents and other adults – are also considered to be a significant barrier to children engaging in free play (41% of those working in the voluntary play sector and 30% of respondents overall perceive attitudes toward free play be the main barrier).

3

Training and support needs

Introduction

- 2.01 Four training and support issues are explored in this chapter:
 - 2.01.1 Inclusive play
 - 2.01.2 Designing and managing play environments.
 - 2.01.3 Managing risk in play
 - 2.01.4 Accessing funds to support the development of play
- 2.02 For each issue, a single question is posed to canvass opinion toward training using a four-item response scale.
- 2.03 Each training issue is considered on a separate page. The key finding and additional points to note are identified for each issue.

Table 3.1a: Need for training on inclusive play (voluntary play sector workers only)

| Attitude | Column percentages | Cases |
|--|--------------------|-------|
| I do not think there is a need for training on inclusive play | 2 | 1 |
| I personally do not need training on inclusive play, but think this would be of value to others in my local area | 49 | 20 |
| I would like training to develop my capacity to deliver inclusive play | 17 | 7 |
| I would like training to develop my capacity to deliver inclusive play and think that this would also be of value to others in my local area | 37 | 15 |
| Don't know | 2 | 1 |

Cases: 44

Table 3.1b: Need for training on inclusive play

| Attitude | Column percentages | Cases |
|--|--------------------|-------|
| I do not think there is a need for training on inclusive play | 4 | 11 |
| I personally do not need training on inclusive play, but think this would be of value to others in my local area | 44 | 70 |
| I would like training to develop my capacity to deliver inclusive play | 13 | 21 |
| I would like training to develop my capacity to deliver inclusive play and think that this would also be of value to others in my local area | 33 | 52 |
| Don't know | 4 | 11 |

Cases: 158

Key Finding

- Very few respondents considered that there is no need for training to develop capacity to deliver inclusive play

Additional Points to Note

- Almost one half of the respondents considered that they personally would like to undergo training to develop their capacity to deliver inclusive play (46% and 54% of those working in the voluntary play field).
- Three quarters of respondents identified a local need for training to develop the capacity to deliver inclusive play (77% of the whole group and 81% of those working in the voluntary play sector).
- There was little difference in responses by those working in the voluntary play field and respondents overall in responses.

Table 3.2a: Need for training on designing and making the best use of play environments (voluntary play sector workers only)

| Attitude | Column percentages | Cases |
|--|--------------------|-------|
| I do not think there is a need for training on play environments | 0 | 0 |
| I personally do not need training on play environments, but think this would be of value to others in my local area | 39 | 16 |
| I would like training to develop my capacity to design and utilise play environments | 7 | 3 |
| I would like training to develop my capacity to design and utilise play environments and think that this would also be of value to others in my local area | 51 | 21 |
| Don't know | 2 | 1 |

Cases: 41

Table 3.2b: Need for training on designing and making the best use of play environments

| Attitude | Column percentages | Cases |
|--|--------------------|-------|
| I do not think there is a need for training on play environments | 5 | 8 |
| I personally do not need training on play environments, but think this would be of value to others in my local area | 43 | 68 |
| I would like training to develop my capacity to design and utilise play environments | 9 | 14 |
| I would like training to develop my capacity to design and utilise play environments and think that this would also be of value to others in my local area | 40 | 64 |
| Don't know | 3 | 3 |

Cases: 159

Key Finding

- Very few respondents considered that there was no need for training to develop their capacity to design and make best use of play environments (0% in the voluntary play field and 5% overall).

Additional Points to Note

- Almost one half of the respondents considered that they personally would like to undergo training to develop their capacity to design and make best use of play environments, this was higher among those working in the voluntary play sector (58 v 49%).
- Three quarters of respondents identified a local need for training to develop the capacity to design and make best use of play environments (77%).

Table 3.3a: Managing risks in play (voluntary play sector workers only)

| Attitude | Column percentages | Cases |
|---|--------------------|-------|
| I do not think there is a need for training on managing risk in play | 2 | 1 |
| I personally do not need training on managing risk in play, but think this would be of value to others in my local area | 60 | 24 |
| I would like training to develop my capacity to manage risk in play | 7 | 3 |
| I would like training to develop my capacity to manage risk in play and think that this would also be of value to others in my local area | 28 | 11 |
| Don't know | 2 | 1 |

Cases: 40

Table 3.3b: Managing risks in play

| Attitude | Column percentages | Cases |
|---|--------------------|-------|
| I do not think there is a need for training on managing risk in play | 7 | 12 |
| I personally do not need training on managing risk in play, but think this would be of value to others in my local area | 47 | 74 |
| I would like training to develop my capacity to manage risk in play | 11 | 18 |
| I would like training to develop my capacity to manage risk in play and think that this would also be of value to others in my local area | 30 | 48 |
| Don't know | 4 | 7 |

Cases: 159

Key Finding

- The play sector almost unanimously considers that there is a need for training of some groups to better manage risk in play (88% of respondents explicitly identified a need for such training).

Additional Points to Note

- Around a third of the respondents considered that they personally would like to undergo training to develop their capacity to better manage risk in play environments and also think it would benefit others (28% of those working in the voluntary play field and 30% of respondents overall).
- One third of those who worked in the voluntary play sector indicated that they would like to undergo training to develop their capacity to better manage risk in play environments (35%).

Table 3.4a: Accessing funds to support the development of play (voluntary play sector workers only)

| Attitude | Column percentages | Cases |
|---|--------------------|-------|
| I do not think there is a need for training on accessing funding to support the development of play | 2 | 1 |
| I personally do not need training on accessing funding to support the development of play, but think this would be of value to others in my local area | 37 | 15 |
| I would like training to develop my capacity to access funding to support the development of play | 12 | 5 |
| I would like training to develop my capacity to access funding to support the development of play and think that this would also be of value to others in my local area | 46 | 19 |
| Don't know | 2 | 1 |

Cases: 41.

Table 3.4b: Accessing funds to support the development of play

| Attitude | Column percentages | Cases |
|---|--------------------|-------|
| I do not think there is a need for training on accessing funding to support the development of play | 3 | 4 |
| I personally do not need training on accessing funding to support the development of play, but think this would be of value to others in my local area | 33 | 51 |
| I would like training to develop my capacity to access funding to support the development of play | 13 | 20 |
| I would like training to develop my capacity to access funding to support the development of play and think that this would also be of value to others in my local area | 48 | 75 |
| Don't know | 5 | 7 |

Cases: 157.

Key Finding

- The play sector almost unanimously considers that there is a need for training to access funds to support the development of play.

Additional Points to Note

- Three fifths of respondents considered that they personally would like to undergo training to access funds to support the development of play, 58% of those in the voluntary play sector and 61% of respondents overall.
- There is little difference in responses between the respondents overall and those working in the voluntary play sector.

4

Role of Play Scotland

Introduction

- 4.01 The responsibilities of Play Scotland are explored in this section using three questions.
 - 4.01.1 Identification of all responsibilities of Play Scotland
 - 4.01.2 identification of the primary responsibility of Play Scotland
 - 4.01.3 Speculation on what the outcomes would be if Play Scotland delivered on its primary responsibility.
- 4.02 Each issue is considered on a separate page. The key finding and additional points to note are identified for each issue.

Table 4.1: Responsibilities of Play Scotland (voluntary play workers and whole sample)

| Responsibility | <i>Voluntary Play Sector workers only</i> | | <i>Whole sample</i> | |
|---|---|-------|---------------------|-------|
| | Row percentages | Cases | Row percentages | Cases |
| Raising awareness of play issues among key decision makers | 88 | 36 | 88 | 142 |
| Raising awareness of play issues among wider society | 90 | 37 | 82 | 131 |
| Encouraging research on children's play | 76 | 31 | 66 | 106 |
| Developing information resources to advise on various aspects of play | 64 | 26 | 65 | 104 |
| Lobbying for the implementation of play strategies | 73 | 30 | 65 | 104 |
| Co-ordinating support networks among those interested in children's play | 73 | 30 | 62 | 106 |
| Providing direct and practical on-the-ground support to those providing play spaces or services | 59 | 24 | 60 | 96 |
| Developing new pilot projects and making others aware of this work | 58 | 24 | 55 | 88 |
| Championing the cause and raising awareness of existing projects | 54 | 22 | 52 | 83 |
| Organising national events to bring together playworkers | 73 | 30 | 52 | 83 |
| Organising regional training on play | 66 | 27 | 52 | 84 |
| Organising local 'Playdays' | 46 | 19 | 52 | 83 |
| Facilitating the establishment of local play associations and local play forums | 56 | 23 | 50 | 81 |
| Supporting organisations and groups to seek funding | 58 | 24 | 44 | 71 |
| Other (please describe) | 1 | 0 | 6 | 9 |
| Cases | | 41 | | 161 |

Notes: Multiple responses are possible, hence percentages will add up to more than 100%

Key Finding

- In general, the play sector believes that Play Scotland should have a wide remit and they should be responsible for most issues relating to play.

Additional Points to Note

- There was general agreement that Play Scotland should be responsible for raising awareness of play issues among the wider society. This was the statement with which most respondents in the voluntary play sector agreed with, however this was slightly stronger among those working in the voluntary play sector than the sample overall (90 v 82%).
- The play sector as a whole also considered that Play Scotland should have responsibility for raising awareness among key decision makers (88% among both groups).
- Respondents from the voluntary play sector also were more likely to believe that Play Scotland should be responsible for encouraging research (76% v 66%), lobbying for the implementation of play strategies (73% v 65%) and organising national events to bring together play workers (73% v 52%) although there was high agreement among both groups that these should be roles of Play Scotland.

Table 4.2a: Most important responsibility of Play Scotland (voluntary play sector workers only)

| Attitude | Column percentages | Cases |
|---|---------------------------|--------------|
| Raising awareness of play issues among key decision makers | 33 | 13 |
| Raising awareness of play issues among wider society | 26 | 10 |
| Lobbying for the implementation of play strategies | 15 | 6 |
| Providing direct and practical on-the-ground support to those providing play spaces or services | 7 | 3 |
| Championing the cause and raising awareness of existing projects | 3 | 1 |
| Supporting organisations and groups to seek funding | 3 | 1 |
| Co-ordinating support networks among those interested in children's play | 3 | 1 |
| Organising regional training on play | 3 | 1 |
| Facilitating the establishment of local play associations and local play forums | 0 | 0 |
| Organising local 'Playdays' | 3 | 1 |
| Encouraging research on children's play | 3 | 1 |
| Developing new pilot projects and making others aware of this work | 0 | 0 |
| Developing information resources to advise on various aspects of play | 3 | 1 |
| Organising national events to bring together play workers | 0 | 0 |
| Other (please describe) | 0 | 0 |

Cases: 39

Table 4.2b: Most important responsibility of Play Scotland

| Attitude | Column percentages | Cases |
|---|--------------------|-------|
| Raising awareness of play issues among key decision makers | 43 | 67 |
| Raising awareness of play issues among wider society | 17 | 26 |
| Lobbying for the implementation of play strategies | 11 | 17 |
| Providing direct and practical on-the-ground support to those providing play spaces or services | 9 | 14 |
| Championing the cause and raising awareness of existing projects | 5 | 7 |
| Supporting organisations and groups to seek funding | 4 | 6 |
| Co-ordinating support networks among those interested in children's play | 3 | 4 |
| Organising regional training on play | 3 | 4 |
| Facilitating the establishment of local play associations and local play forums | 2 | 3 |
| Organising local 'Playdays' | 2 | 3 |
| Other (please describe) | 2 | 3 |
| Encouraging research on children's play | 1 | 1 |
| Developing new pilot projects and making others aware of this work | 1 | 1 |
| Developing information resources to advise on various aspects of play | 1 | 1 |
| Organising national events to bring together play workers | 0 | 0 |

Cases: 157

Key Finding

- When asked to consider the most important responsibility of Play Scotland, a clearer picture emerges, a third of those working in the voluntary play sector (33% and almost half of the respondents overall agree that the primary responsibility of Play Scotland is to raise awareness of play issues among key decision makers (43%).

Additional Points to Note

- A significant minority of the play sector consider that the main responsibility of Play Scotland should be to raise awareness of play issues among wider society (26% of those in the voluntary play sector and 17% of the sample overall).

Table 4.3a: The outcome for delivering on its most important responsibility of Play Scotland (voluntary play sector workers only)

| Outcome | Column percentages | Cases |
|--|--------------------|-------|
| Scotland would recognise the value of children's play | 73 | 30 |
| The quality of children's play would improve | 68 | 26 |
| Children would play more often | 63 | 24 |
| Community groups would be better supported to develop play opportunities | 61 | 25 |
| People working in play would feel more valued | 58 | 24 |
| The capacity of the play sector to develop play would be increased | 56 | 23 |
| Play providers would be better placed to campaign, and set the agenda, for play | 54 | 22 |
| People working in play would be better able to fulfil their role | 51 | 21 |
| Voluntary organisations would be better supported to develop play opportunities | 51 | 21 |
| Organisations and groups would be better able to access funding for their play project | 42 | 17 |
| People working in play would be more confident | 49 | 20 |
| Support available to play providers would be more accessible | 39 | 16 |
| Play providers would have more practical ideas to improve their services | 39 | 16 |
| Other (please describe) | 2 | 1 |

Cases: 41

Notes: Multiple responses are possible, hence percentages will add up to more than 100%

Table 4.3b: The outcome for delivering on its most important responsibility of Play Scotland (whole sample and key decision makers)

| Outcome | <i>All response</i> | <i>All response</i> | <i>Key Decision Makers</i> | <i>Key Decision Makers</i> |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | % | Cases | % | Cases |
| Scotland would recognise the value of children's play | 73 | 117 | 75 | 47 |
| The quality of children's play would improve | 65 | 104 | 83 | 52 |
| Children would play more often | 56 | 90 | | |
| Community groups would be better supported to develop play opportunities | 54 | 86 | 79 | 50 |
| People working in play would feel more valued | 49 | 79 | 81 | 51 |
| The capacity of the play sector to develop play would be increased | 48 | 76 | 71 | 45 |
| Play providers would be better placed to campaign, and set the agenda, for play | 48 | 77 | 65 | 41 |
| People working in play would be better able to fulfil their role | 45 | 72 | 81 | 51 |
| Voluntary organisations would be better supported to develop play opportunities | 43 | 69 | 64 | 40 |
| Organisations and groups would be better able to access funding for their play project | 41 | 69 | 60 | 38 |
| People working in play would be more confident | 39 | 63 | 100 | 63 |
| Support available to play providers would be more accessible | 32 | 51 | 51 | 32 |
| Play providers would have more practical ideas to improve their services | 29 | 46 | 56 | 35 |
| Other (please describe) | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 |

Cases: 160

Notes: Multiple responses are possible, hence percentages will add up to more than 100%

Key Finding

- Were Play Scotland to deliver on its most important responsibility, then the play sector identifies that a number of positive benefits would accrue as a result.

Additional Points to Note

- The main outcome if Play Scotland were to deliver on its most important responsibility would be that Scotland would recognise the value of children's play (73% of both groups agree)
- Two thirds of the play sector perceive that the quality of children's play would improve in Play Scotland delivered on its' most important responsibility (68% of the voluntary play workers and 65% of the group as a whole).
- This analysis was run again for the specific response raising awareness of play issues among key decision makers to explore which outcomes the respondents felt this would cause. 100% of those who answered this considered that people in play would feel more confident and 81% that they would feel more valued and better able to fulfil their roles.

A1

Appendix: Sample Profile

Table A.1: Membership of Play Scotland

| Membership Status | Voluntary Play Sector (%) | Voluntary Play Sector (n) | Whole Sample (%) | Whole Sample (n) |
|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Yes | 34 | 14 | 31 | 49 |
| No | 54 | 22 | 63 | 99 |
| Rather not say | 12 | 5 | 6 | 9 |
| Cases | 100 | 41 | 100 | 157 |

Table A.2: Local association or local play forum in your area

| Membership Status | Voluntary Play Sector (%) | Voluntary Play Sector (n) | Whole Sample (%) | Whole Sample (n) |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Yes, there is a play association | 15 | 6 | 11 | 17 |
| Yes, there is a play forum | 8 | 3 | 10 | 16 |
| Yes, there is both a play association and a play forum | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| No | 28 | 11 | 28 | 45 |
| Don't know | 48 | 19 | 50 | 80 |
| Cases | 100 | 40 | 100 | 165 |

Table A.3: Gender

| | Voluntary Play Sector (%) | Voluntary Play Sector (n) | Whole Sample (%) | Whole Sample (n) |
|----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Male | 19 | 8 | 31 | 50 |
| Female | 76 | 31 | 67 | 109 |
| Rather not say | 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Cases | 100 | 41 | 100 | 163 |

Table A.4: Age

| | Voluntary Play Sector (%) | Voluntary Play Sector (n) | Whole Sample (%) | Whole Sample (n) |
|----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Rather not say | 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Under 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20-29 | 7 | 3 | 11 | 18 |
| 30-39 | 27 | 11 | 28 | 45 |
| 40-49 | 37 | 15 | 32 | 52 |
| 50-59 | 22 | 9 | 22 | 36 |
| 60-65 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 8 |
| Over 65 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cases | 100 | 41 | 100 | 163 |

Table A.5: Current play/work status

| | Voluntary Play Sector (%) | Voluntary Play Sector (n) | Whole Sample (%) | Whole Sample (n) |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Rather not say | 0 | 0 | 3 | 5 |
| Work in a play-related field | 90 | 37 | 71 | 116 |
| Work <i>and</i> volunteer in a play-related field | 2 | 1 | 6 | 9 |
| Volunteer in a play-related field | 7 | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| Do not work <i>or</i> volunteer in a play-related field | 0 | 0 | 17 | 28 |
| Cases | 100 | 41 | 100 | 163 |

Table A.6: Play work or play volunteering

| | Voluntary Play Sector (%) | Voluntary Play Sector (n) | Whole Sample (%) | Whole Sample (n) |
|---------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Full-time | 54 | 21 | 61 | 81 |
| Part-time | 41 | 16 | 29 | 38 |
| Seasonal | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Sessional | 0 | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| Casual | 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Self-employed | 0 | 0 | 4 | 5 |
| Cases | 100 | 39 | 100 | 133 |

Table A.7: The local authorities play work or play volunteering is undertaken

| | Row Percentage | Cases |
|--|----------------|-------|
| Europe | 1 | 1 |
| National, UK | 2 | 2 |
| National, Scotland | 4 | 4 |
| Aberdeen City Council | 6 | 7 |
| Argyll and Bute | 2 | 2 |
| Dumfries and Galloway (based, but working over Europe) | 1 | 1 |
| Clackmannanshire | 1 | 1 |
| Dundee City Council | 2 | 2 |
| East Ayrshire Council | 4 | 4 |
| East Dunbartonshire | 1 | 1 |
| East Renfrewshire | 2 | 2 |
| Edinburgh | 8 | 9 |
| East Ayrshire | 1 | 1 |
| Falkirk | 10 | 11 |
| Fife, Dundee and Angus | 2 | 2 |
| Glasgow | 6 | 7 |
| Highland | 6 | 6 |
| Inverclyde | 2 | 2 |
| Midlothian | 6 | 7 |
| Moray | 2 | 2 |
| North Ayrshire Council | 3 | 3 |
| North Lanarkshire Council | 7 | 8 |
| Perth and Kinross | 2 | 2 |
| Renfrewshire | 1 | 1 |
| Scottish Borders | 2 | 2 |
| Shetland | 2 | 2 |
| South Ayrshire | 2 | 2 |
| South Lanarkshire | 1 | 1 |
| Stirling | 2 | 2 |
| West Dunbartonshire | 1 | 1 |
| West Lothian | 4 | 4 |

Table A.8: The nature of the play work or play volunteering

| | Row percentages | Cases |
|--|-----------------|-------|
| Playworker | 5 | 6 |
| Play designer | 5 | 6 |
| Play development officer | 11 | 14 |
| Play service manager | 17 | 22 |
| Other role which partly involves a responsibility for play | 39 | 51 |
| Other (please describe) | 24 | 32 |

Cases: 131

Table A.9: The type of organisation

| | Voluntary Play Sector (%) | Voluntary Play Sector (n) | Whole Sample (%) | Whole Sample (n) |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| I am self-employed | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Community group | 0 | 0 | 4 | 5 |
| Voluntary organisation | 73 | 30 | 25 | 30 |
| National charity | 27 | 11 | 9 | 11 |
| Local authority | 0 | 0 | 46 | 56 |
| Private company | 0 | 0 | 7 | 9 |
| Other (please describe) | 0 | 0 | 7 | 8 |
| Cases | 100 | 41 | 100 | 121 |

Table A.10: The field worked

| | Voluntary Play Sector (%) | Voluntary Play Sector (n) | Whole Sample (%) | Whole Sample (n) |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Childcare | 29 | 35 | 26 | 10 |
| Play | 28 | 34 | 36 | 14 |
| Education | 17 | 21 | 56 | 22 |
| Other (please describe) | 9 | 11 | 92 | 36 |
| Leisure | 6 | 7 | 84 | 33 |
| Sport | 3 | 4 | 56 | 22 |
| Community work | 3 | 3 | 26 | 10 |
| Health | 2 | 2 | 18 | 7 |
| Youth work | 2 | 2 | 26 | 10 |
| Social services | 1 | 1 | 36 | 14 |
| Equalities work | 1 | 1 | 56 | 22 |
| Crime prevention | 0 | 0 | 92 | 36 |
| | 100 | 120. | 100 | 39 |

Notes: Multiple responses are possible, hence percentages will add up to more than 100%

Table A.11: Disability status of the children

| | Row percentages | Cases |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| Disabled | 3 | 4 |
| Non-disabled | 11 | 13 |
| Both disabled and non-disabled | 83 | 99 |
| Don't know | 3 | 3 |

Cases: 120

Table A.12: Is there a play association and / or forum in each council?

| Cases | Play Association | Play forum | Yes both | No | Don't know |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------|----------|----|------------|
| Aberdeen City Council | | 4 | | | 3 |
| Argyll and Bute | | | | 2 | |
| Clackmannanshire | | | | 1 | |
| Dundee City Council | | | | 1 | 1 |
| East Ayrshire Council | | 2 | | 1 | 1 |
| East Dunbartonshire | | | | | 1 |
| East Renfrewshire | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Edinburgh | 2 | | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| East Ayrshire | | | | 1 | |
| Falkirk | 1 | | | 2 | |
| Fife, Dundee and Angus | | 2 | | 2 | 3 |
| Glasgow | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| Highland | | | | 2 | 3 |
| Inverclyde | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Inverness | | | | | 2 |
| Midlothian | 5 | | | | |
| Moray | | | | | 2 |
| North Ayrshire Council | 1 | 1 | | | 1 |
| North Lanarkshire Council | | 1 | | 2 | 6 |
| Perth and Kinross | 1 | | | | 2 |
| Renfrewshire | | | | 1 | |
| Scottish Borders | 1 | | | | |
| Shetland | 1 | | | 1 | |
| South Ayrshire | | 1 | | 1 | 3 |
| South Lanarkshire | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Stirling | | | | 2 | |
| West Dunbartonshire | | | | 1 | |
| West Lothian | | | | 2 | 2 |

NB. It is important to highlight here that responses varied by council and therefore this table can only give the opinion of the respondent on whether or not there is play associations and forums.

Comment on sample

- A third of the whole sample and of those working in the voluntary play sector are members of Play Scotland almost 90% of the voluntary play sector and 75% of the whole sample work in a play related field with the majority doing so on a full-time basis.
- Almost half of the respondents who worked or volunteered in play did so for a local authority with a quarter doing so for a voluntary organisation.
- Three quarters of the respondents working in the voluntary play sector and two third overall were female which reflects workers in this field.
- The large majority of respondents work with both disabled and non-disabled children.
- Respondents work with all ages of children with the most common field worked being play (28%), childcare (29%) and education (17%).