



Financial Year	2016/17
Proposal no.	CS103
Directorate	Children's Services
Service Name	Early Help and Schools
Area of Service	Sure Start

Savings Programme Consultation Report			
Subject:	<i>Proposal to review Play Provision in Rochdale Borough.</i>		
Report of:	<i>Gail Hopper</i>	Author:	<i>Bob Adams</i>
Cabinet Member:	<i>Cllr Donna Martin</i>	Author Telephone:	<i>01706 927849</i>
Type of Consultation	<i>Service Delivery with Workforce Implications</i>	Author Email:	<i>Laura.beesley@rochdale.gov.uk</i>

1 Recommendations

It is recommended that members consider the proposal to reduce play provision in the Borough **to realise a total saving of £80.1K** as follows;

1.1. Cease to fund Falinge Park Playcentre **realising a saving of £40.1k**

1.2 Cease to grant aid the Playscheme Volunteer Recruitment Programme all exiting grant aided play services and re-tender for locality based, targeted play provision, **realising a saving of £25k**

1.3 Cease current grant commitments for childrens play, but develop and tender out a proposal to deliver open access play provision in priority neighbourhoods across the Borough as a commissioned service at a cost of £40k, **realising a saving of £15k**

Reason for recommendation

1.4 This proposal was presented as part of 2015/16 savings to Cabinet. There were concerns shared about available information that would demonstrate usage, local need and cost. This report provides members with the information that was not available last year in relation to cost and usage.

1.5 Play provision is not a statutory service and so there is no requirement for the Local Authority to fund and / or deliver play services. However open access play provision available to all children is part of our current early help offer to communities and local children, particularly in our most deprived neighbourhoods.

1.6 The recommendations regarding ceasing or reducing funding Falinge Park Playcentre and RADPAC's volunteer recruitment has been proposed due to specific challenges posed by each service: , the number of children attending the Falinge Park Playcentre on an annual basis and the low % of volunteers recruited by RADPAC who completed the level 2 in playwork.

2 Background

2.1 This section sets out more detailed information about the two areas of provision that would be subject to funding cessation or reduction.

2.2 **Falinge Park Playcentre** is open 5 days a week between 3pm - 6pm, 51 weeks a year and is based in a purpose built room at Falinge Park. Between September 2014 and April 2015, 260 individual children attended and a total of 2,670 contacts were made (children attending more than once). The budget for this service is £52k, so cost per contact is £19 per child. This is not value for money as attendance levels indicate that this is either meeting a small number of children's needs at a high cost, or is a service that is taken up occasionally by a larger number of children. The data provided by the service does not clarify which it is.

2.4 Rochdale & District Play Action Council (RADPAC) currently receive a grant of £80K from the Local Authority as part of a Service Level Agreement to deliver 2 distinct pieces of work:

- a) £55,000 to co-ordinate volunteer run playschemes across the Borough. Between January – December 2014 there were:
 - 5 after school schemes in total delivered across Rochdale, Pennine and Heywood townships, offering 230 sessions over the year.
 - 2 half term schemes across Rochdale and Middleton townships, offering 20 sessions over the year
 - 6 Easter holiday schemes across Rochdale, Pennine and Middleton townships, offering 53 sessions over the year
 - 12 summer schemes across all townships, offering 137 sessions over the year
 - In total 440 sessions were offered with a range of 24-70 places available at each session. 1,079 individual children attended these playschemes but many will have attended on several occasions.
- b) £25,000 to support a volunteer recruitment and training programme to support playscheme development. In 2014, 51 volunteers attended training organised by RADPAC. Of these, 17 completed a Level 2 in playwork and 15 of the successful volunteers took part in playschemes. The cost of the recruitment and training programme equates to £490 per attendee but the cost of training each volunteer who went on to complete Level 2 playwork increases to £1,666 per volunteer. This does not represent value for money.

3 Financial Implications

The saving proposal is 47% of the total budget for the area of service affected.

3.1. The proposals within this report will have staffing implications and as a consequence employees will be placed at risk of redundancy and formal workforce consultation will be undertaken. The proposal will reduce the staff team within play development [REDACTED]

3.1 Table 1 provides details of the reduction to Children's Play provision in Rochdale Borough and the potential saving

	Savings 2016/17 £k		Savings 2017/18 £k		Total savings £k	
	On-going	One off	On-going	One off	On-going	One off
Employees	£39K				£39K	
Other Costs	£41K				£41K	
Income lost						
Net savings	£80K				80K	
Additional income generated						
Total savings	£80K				£80K	
Implementation costs						
Total savings less implementation costs	£80K				£80K	

Financial and Potential staffing implications on another service

3.2 The service currently pays environmental management for parking, servicing and repairs to the vehicles. There will be a loss of revenue (£12k p.a.) to Environmental Management if the Doorstep vehicle is sold.

4 Asset implications

There are asset implications arising from this report.

4.1 The Falinge Park Playcentre will incur a holding cost for the Service if the property is vacated. The service will remain responsible for all costs associated with the property until it is sold or re-used. It is unlikely that there will be an operational requirement for the property. This property may prove difficult to dispose of as it is listed and lies within the park.

5 Voluntary Sector impact

The following Voluntary Sector impacts arise from the issues raised in this report as set out below:

5.1 Should Members decide to cease funding RADPAC for the volunteer recruitment programme then this may impact on the organisation's ability to recruit volunteers to maintain summer playschemes.

5.2 Should Members decide to reconfigure current grant funding for open access play provision as detailed within this report, the council will be required to give 3 months' notice as part of the Rochdale Compact. However, RADPAC would be one of the organisations specifically invited to tender for the play provision in priority neighbourhoods commissioned service.

This also requires consultation with stakeholders which is addressed in 6 below.

6 Consultation

6.1 This is not statutory provision and there is no formal requirement to consult but the Local Authority would undertake consultation with both service users and the voluntary sector as part of the Rochdale Borough Compact. If the proposal is agreed by Members there will be personnel implications and full consultation with staff and the Unions will be undertaken in this situation.

6.2 The proposal will go out to public consultation for the minimum of 45 days. The public will be able to view and provide feedback online through the Council website and in person where hard copies are available in Council buildings. As part of a targeted consultation plan those affected by the changes will be invited to provide feedback, these groups include;

- Key stake holders
- Elected members
- Community members
- Community Groups
- Protected groups
- Service Users
- Anyone affected by the proposal

7 Alternatives considered

7.1 There have been various alternatives considered as part of this process. It is felt that this proposal offers the best option for the Council to achieve savings whilst preserving a valuable service to children in the borough.

8 Risk Assessment Implications

8.1 Falinge Park Play Centre was partly funded through the Big Lottery. If the building is no longer used for purposes which meet the criteria clawback could be initiated but this risk of this is considered to be low as the lottery bid was linked to the development of the outdoor play area which will remain in community use and is maintained by environmental management.

9 Legal Implications

9.1 The Council should ensure that it acts fairly and meets legitimate expectations of the local residents by consulting with them in relation to the redesign of its service provision.

9.2 The Council has a mandatory duty to consult with council tax payers and stakeholders under section 3 Local Government Act 1999 to ensure continuous improvement in the design of its services.

9.3 There will also be redundancy implications as per section 3 of this report.

9.3 The Council should also ensure that it complies with the principles of the Social Value Act 2012 when tendering for new services.

9.4 The Council should meet its obligations with the Voluntary Sector under the Borough of Rochdale Compact Agreement and consult with service users, stakeholders and volunteers and enter into negotiations with third sector providers to mitigate the risk to the organisation in the reduction in funding. The Council has an

obligation to provide at least 90 days' notice of any reduction in funding to a third sector organisation.

9.5 The Council must ensure that it meets its duties under the Equalities Act 2010.

10 Personnel Implications

10.1 The proposals within this report may have staffing implications and as a consequence employees may be placed at risk of redundancy and formal workforce consultation may be undertaken.

11 Equalities Impacts

Workforce Equality Impacts Assessment

11.1 The workforce equality issues arising from this report will depend on the option chosen by members and the outcome of subsequent consultations.

Equality/Community Impact Assessments

11.2 Children comprise a significant part of the Borough's population and this proposal will impact on the delivery of free, accessible play provision within some of the targeted neighbourhoods in the Borough which have less locally available services. There is nothing to indicate that any of the suggested options would have a greater impact on any particular group. This information is covered in the Equality Impact Assessment. A full Equalities Impact Assessment will be carried out once members have agreed an option for consultation.

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Area of Service	Play Development

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR SAVINGS PROPOSALS

1. Please state the name of the officers leading the EIA
Bob Adams
2. Who has been involved in undertaking this assessment?
Officers within Early Help & Schools
3. What is the scope of this assessment?
<p>To measure the impact, where applicable, on protected groups that may arise as part of this proposal.</p> <p>The proposal is to cease funding and delivering the council’s play provision at Falinge Park Playcentre and to re configure grant funding for open access play provision in the borough.</p>
<p>4 a). What does the function currently do?</p> <p>b). Describe the needs which this service meets?</p>
<p>Falinge Park Playcentre offers after school and school holiday open access play provision from children from 5-14 years of age, from within a “playbarn” in Falinge Park, Rochdale.</p> <p>Current grant funding is distributed to enable;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Funding of voluntary playschemes across the borough and back office costs of a local voluntary sector group to administer this. 2) Funding for the recruitment and training of volunteers through the same voluntary sector organisation

All of the above provision is aimed at children aged between 5 and 14 years of age and is open access play provision (i.e. children are free to come and go as they wish) and is not formal childcare to meet the needs of working parents.

Play provision is not a statutory service and so there is no requirement for the Local Authority to fund and / or deliver play services. However open access play provision available to all children is part of our current early help offer to communities and local children, particularly in our most deprived neighbourhoods.

5. What proposed changes do you wish to make?

The proposal will cease the service at Falinge Park Playcentre and reconfigure existing grant funding for open access play provision, which it is intended will be tendered for as a commissioned service

6. Who are the key stakeholders who may be affected by the proposed changes?

- Community members
- Community Groups
- Protected groups
- Service Users - Children and Young People and their Parents/Legal Guardians

7. What impact will this proposal have on all the protected groups?

Race Equality

n/a

Disabled People

Summer provision accessible to children with disabilities will be part of the reconfigured tender. The proposal does not directly affect or reduce services for children with disabilities or additional needs although some members of this community may attend affected settings on an informal basis.

Carers

n/a

Gender

n/a

Age

The services affected are specifically aimed at children aged 5 to 14 years. Children are an under represented group

Armed Forces and Ex-Armed Forces Personnel
n/a
Religion or Belief
n/a
Sexual Orientation
n/a
Gender Reassignment
n/a
Pregnant Women or Those on Maternity Leave or Those who have given Birth in the Previous 26 weeks
n/a
Marriage or Civil Partnership
n/a

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

What are the main conclusions and recommendations from this analysis?

The proposal has sought to protect, as much as is possible, non-statutory services against a backdrop of severe financial challenges. The proposal will retain open access play services in areas of the borough with little or no alternative provision at a reduced cost to the local authority.

9. In the box below please provide details of who you will consult with on the proposals, when you consult, and the methods which you will use to consult. In the box below

The Consultation and Inclusion Methodology Used

Consultation letters will be prepared and sent to all affected groups and individuals, these will include;

- Voluntary groups, their management committees and their staff who may be affected by this proposal
- Local Authority staff who may be affected by this proposal

The letter will outline the proposal and arrange dates, times and venues for face to face consultation meetings. The letter will ask that groups direct/signpost their service users and other interested parties to the location of information (e.g. council web pages) relating to the proposal so that they may comment also.

We will arrange opportunities for children to make their thoughts and opinions known

through comments books etc to be available in settings alongside age appropriate written information for children.

10. Produce an action plan detailing the mitigation measures that you propose to put in place to address any adverse impacts.

Mitigation Measure	Action	Responsible Officer	Implementation Date	Review Date	Evaluation Measure
Ensure children are able to understand and comment on the proposal	Ensure information provided to children is age appropriate or explained to them in means they can understand	Childcare Development Manager/Play Development Staff	September to October	October	Responses made
Ensure service users including for example local schools, community support officers, parents are made aware of the proposal and know where and how they might comment.	Ensure posters are displayed in settings detailed where information can be accessed	Childcare Development Manager/Play Development Staff	September to October	October	Responses made