



**Minutes of the Scottish Play Policy Forum
At Capability Scotland, Ellersly Road, Edinburgh
22 June 2009**

Present: Sue Palmer

Shirley Cusak- Aberlour Trust,
Nathan MacGillivray – Broxburn Family Centre,
Maureen Fraser- Barnardos Scotland,
Eric Mitchell- Capability Scotland,
Margaret Westwood- City of Edinburgh Council,
Kate Higgins- Contact a Family Scotland,
Alastair Seaman- Grounds for Learning,
Lesley Fox- National Association of Toy and Leisure Libraries,
Neil Fox- National Playbus Association,
Marguerite Hunter Blair- Play Scotland,
Amanda Godsell- Play Scotland,
Jane Crawford- Scottish Childminding Association,
Laura Powrie- Scottish Government,
Gwen Garner- Scottish Pre-School Play Association,
Mark Griffith- Shelter,
Nina Roberts- SSSC

Minutes: Amanda Godsell, Play Scotland

1. Welcome

Welcome from the Chair- Sue Palmer and MHB. Thanks to Capability Scotland for hosting meeting today.

Funding announcement update later from Laura Powrie.

Apologies

Sue Gutteridge

Alex Cole-Hamilton

Stephanie Bruce

Aberlour Trust

Care and Learning Alliance

Ronnie Hill	Care Commission
Marion Macleod	Children in Scotland
Ellenor Anwyl	Contact a Family Scotland
Robert	CoSLA
Colin Rennie	FIT (Fields in Trust
Kevin Lafferty	Forestry Commission
Julie Procter	Greenspace Scotland
Amanda McAllister	Housing Support Dumfreisshire
Sue Sutton	ISPAL
Linda Lauchlan	Learning Teaching Scotland Irene Hogg Loanhead After School Club
Clare Simpson	Parenting Across Scotland
Ishbel Proctor	Royal Hospital for Sick Children,
Douglas Hamilton	Save the Children
Maire McCormack	SCCYP
Jim Stephen	Scottish Government
Irene Audain	Scottish Out of School Care Network
Debbie Willet	SkillsActive
Frances Barbour	Stevenson College

2. Minutes from previous meeting and matters arising

- Point 2- consultation on role of Children`s Commissioner- update from Maureen. Report published 2 weeks ago- no talk of merger with Human Rights Commission. Children`s Commissioner stands.

Gwen Garner asked if the recommendation for standalone still has to be voted through Parliament? Maureen stated that there are a few things that need to be voted on- these are academic- e.g. term of office, only on tech recommendations but not on the actual post.

- MHB said Tam Baillie, the new Commissioner for Children and Young People would be invited to a future meeting
- Further update from Laura Powrie on Scottish Government funding on play
- Leaflet update – Amanda Godsell

3. Update on CPPF from Marguerite Hunter Blair

Feedback from the last meeting in April 09

PlayBoard N.I.

Closing down projects and recruiting new ones. PlayBoard are looking for new premises.

Annual Conference in Armagh on 21-22 October 2009. The theme is `Time for Play`

Play Wales-

Monitoring of Play is going through Welsh Assembly.

Reference Group has been set up for IPA Conference to be held in Cardiff 2011 - MHB asked people to get in touch with Play Wales if they want to get involved in the Conference.

Play England-

Spending money on developing strategy.

Play Scotland

- Liaising on legacy for Commonwealth Games

SPP11 document edited out Play. Play Scotland have sent in response to the consultation. It will help community organisations campaigning for play.

- Sue Palmer- mentioned at the Reference Group and talked about Rotterdam Norms. Sue Palmer spoke about this at Planning Conference to them. Good dialogue on this.
- MHB said Play Scotland will get in touch with Greenspace Scotland to ensure they are putting in a response to the consultation.
- Update on Risk Debate- Outdoor advisory group update- good ink with ourselves. OLAG - Sharing minutes would be useful. School outdoor trip will be free for primary school age kids from next year.
- Play Fund- keen to hear what this will be. Laura will update us later in this meeting
- Working with Children in Scotland for a joint Conference 7 October in Stirling on Risk. Will also include a section on overcoming the myths around, especially with the Care Commission.

Further details on conference can be found at www.playscotland.org

Culture created- people exaggerate the guidelines. CC will be circulating a clarification statement at LTS conference in September. They will also promote this at the conference. All of this work is building the base of champions.

Next meeting CPPF in July. MHB will report back on this.

4. Presentation by Nathan MacGillivray- Men and Children`s Play - Broxburn Family Centre

Film shown- `Don't stop us now`- by Broxburn Family and Community Development Centre

5. Q&A Discussion on Presentation

The main points discussed are bulleted below:

- Issues around status, role models- especially
- Ratio of male to female
- Balance of men in childhood for children – disparity
- Ethos behind workforce development
- What can we do and promote more men into the early years and play workforce?
- It is PT work- to manage a setting – need a degree
- Child protection issues puts men off
- Men in childcare conference—not off putting- positive experiences from this
- Routes in- parent groups- way of getting men into parents groups
- Sports coaching, youth work- linking different professions together- so it could become a full time wage. Speaking to young boys- volunteering can lead into different opportunities
- Suggestion some type of childcare staff could be made compulsory in mainstream education which would change the emphasis.
- Placing of boys into different community programmes- learn a lot
- SP- emphasis has been on academic excellence- need to rebalance this
- There are routes to find positive ways into play\sports- Dads helping- building on this. Finding routes for other children that are not supported.
- Children not being physically literate. Sports assoc with Play Sector- playing out when younger helps children to be physically literate. Interdependence between the two.
- Male role models for girls.

- Previous Children’s Commissioner was keen to overcome the barriers for volunteering particularly for males- critical in terms of social and emotional development- and good fun- without becoming too formalised and respect for those involved.
- Checks need to be less bureaucratic.
- Intergenerational work is great
- CC promoting positive risk- the benefits- this has been encouraged out in the field.
- MHB said there are lots of issues we are trying to cover. Recommendations to the SG.
- Speak to those who roll out the programmes-

6. Logo and Competition

Amanda explained the choice of logo by Reference Group.

MHB asked the group- colour background – white agreed. Leaflet will be pulled together with a PDF over the summer.

7. Bookstall over lunch – Sue selling books over lunchtime.

Further discussion points:

- MHB mentioned the lack of play opportunities for girls at age 9-10 a lot of girls don’t talk about going out to play. With boys and young men play stays in their vocabulary- girls need opportunities to do things for themselves. Newsletter with key issues on a regular basis.
- Alasdair mentioned outdoor physical alliance may be a starting point for this.
- David Ball figures on this. Lapsett speaking recently about – how you get girls into playgrounds.
- MHB mentioned our research project
- Transition disabled children research `nobody wants to play with me`- children with disabilities didn’t have same opportunities as other children- little peer integration- Socialisation halted- didn’t have contact with peers outside school.
- MW- The Yard in Edinburgh takes young people - up to age 25 at the Yard- only place parents say their children and young people can come.
- Linpark in Glasgow- but not quite the same. The Yard works with children from age 3-25 years.
- Mainstreaming accessible provision- South Lanarkshire Council- parents involved but council let them down on what they have on the playground floor.

- MHB- It is about finding people in LA s who can unlock the resources.

8. Presentation by Sue Palmer- Do we need to talk about boys?

Sue gave a short presentation on her new book `21st Century Boys` and the ideas behind it.

Here are some brief points from her presentation

- Stats back up there are more problems for boys- behavioural (ADHD, dyspraxia,, reading difficulties, asperger syndrome)
- Emotional, behavioural mental health problems 2:1
- Common suicides 15-24 yr olds
- 70% girls go to college, 50% boys
- 90% boys crimes
- More girls coming through justice system- now
- SP involved in diff projects looking at boys achievement- and how we need to concentrate now on raising boys

Raising Boys by Steve Biddulph- good book

- Women- language better
- Men- competitive, status driven, greater risk takers, team players (anthropology)- friendship patterns of male and female different across cultures

Sexual Paradox- Susan Pinken- good book

- Current nursery provision not catering for children
- Tim Gill information - one of the chapters.
- Marketing-creating ever cool- a marketers guide to a kids heart. by Gene el Vecchio.
- 3-7 yr olds most critical age of influence
- Boys not fitting in to education culture
- Play based outdoor curriculum, music and stories very important.
- Music trains the eye to pattern and the ear to sound.
- Systemisers good at organising-
- Status systems and success- society very much geared to this.

9. Update Laura Powrie, Scottish Government

9.1 Team Structure at Scottish Government

Don McGillivray replaced by Val Cox Early Education, Childcare, Youth Work and Children's Rights- all under the heading of Positive Futures.

Jim Steven heading up this team at Scottish Government.

Policy – play pre-school nurseries, parenting,
Team employed to look at implementing the EY framework.
Jim Stephen will head up both teams.

Laura stated that Ministers are prioritising play- parenting and play are vital in taking forward the Early Years Framework. Visits recently- Auchlone near Crieff, by Minister Adam Ingram, MSP. Attitude to risk management and not risk aversion. Part of implementation of framework- promoting play.

Question that came up- how can children across Scotland have similar experiences

Mindstretchers have house near Auchlone- to look at how play can be taken back to their setting.

15 June- Interview- Killing with Kindness- Minister interviewed on this. Transcript of this will be sent around to everyone.

9.2 Implementation of EYF

Social Marketing—advert done- LP seen this to go alongside EYF
Reading, playing and talking to children
Advert from end of September will be shown at diff times of the day, of parents dancing with a baby.
Message is first three years of life are important- have fun from day 1. Promoting free stuff to do with your child

Website will be an Info Scotland - Url PLAY, TALK, AND RED.COM

Infoscotland.com/gogreener – good example of what the website will look like.

Next Tuesday- meeting those involved in what the website should look like- engaging children's orgs for their advice on this. Partnership and PR – collateral- through soft toys for parents.

9.3 Play Fund

5-14 years- for Play Fund announcement-
To build the infrastructure need to concentrate on 5-14

Hopefully this will be launched next month.

Question how disabled children will fit into this- parents of children with disabled children- often see themselves as carers and not parents from the start.

Events will be held across the country – want to engage with parents of disabled children.

Creative approaches to play.

MHB says disability issue is integral maybe more so than the gender one. Universality-acceptance.

Mainstream changes to equipment- did not help work still to be done.
Capability staff will be taking on specific specialisms - someone will be looking at the early years framework.

A Seaman asked about development of play strategy- LP said embedding play in the EYF first step.

MHB aspiration of Play Scotland to have this. Need to work hard with the policy framework we have and build on this.

Radio adverts will accompany.

10.

Marguerite Hunter Blair thanked everyone for attending and stated that we would be in touch with the next date.

The meeting closed at 3pm.