

June 2008

Dear Friends

Play Builder Project

Background:

Staffordshire County Council has successfully secured approximately £1m from the Government for the development of up to 25 play areas for 8-13 year olds across the county over a three year period.

The County Council is one of 43 local authorities chosen by the Government to become a 'Play Builder' authority and be granted additional funding.

The new funding will provide greater access to high quality play sites for children in Staffordshire as part of the national and local aim to ensure parents have the confidence to encourage children to play independently and take risks in a safe and stimulating environment.

The sites can be a combination of new and refurbished play areas and will be selected through an open proposals process that will aim to ensure long term sustainable change for children's play. **Applications for play areas must have the endorsement of district/borough play partnerships.**

Please note these play areas cannot be on school sites, however this does not mean that schools cannot be partners in Community Projects.

Application Form:

I am pleased to enclose an application form for the Play Builder Initiative in Staffordshire. By completing the form your organisation may well be in with a chance of accessing a proportion of the £1m that been allocated to Staffordshire towards the development of play areas for children and young people. It is likely that the capital investment in each project will be no more than 50K.

This initial application form is for the first phase of the project which will take us to April 2009.

There is no doubt that timescales are tight and for this reason it is important that we receive applications from all those organisations who would like to access funding for 08/09 by midnight on **18th July 2008**

In order to deliver phase 1 of the project by April 09 and to secure phases 2 & 3, those projects that need planning permission must ensure that this is in place.

Please see **Appendix A** for further guidance notes.

Once assessed against the priorities and objectives of Play Builder, those applications that fulfil the requirements of the funding will be short listed.

Eligible Project Costs:

There is no revenue available for these projects.

Capital –

- building and engineering works (new build, extension and refurbishment, modernisation or conversion), required for the delivery of the individual project plans
- plan and equipment necessary for running the individual projects
- Purchase of land, buildings, equipment or fixtures and fittings that are linked to the land or building.
- Transport that is necessary for delivering the individual projects
- Professional and legal fees associated with capital spending on the project

I would therefore ask that you please read all the enclosures carefully before completing the application form. All application forms must be accompanied by a supporting letter from your district/borough Play Partnerships Officer.

Support can be provided by the Play Partnerships and Early Years Support Officers – Development.

Expressions of interest for 09/10 will be available September 2008.

To find out who your Play Partnership Officer is then please contact Karen Sullivan on 07966 328753.

Please keep your eye on Staffordshire County Council's website as Play Builder information will be available on here soon www.staffordshire.gov.uk/eyc

I look forward to receiving your completed application

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