

Impact Report

FISH holiday playscheme 2019



FISH (Fun in School Holidays)

Our children

The age range of children for the FISH holiday playscheme is 10-16 years. The aims and objectives of the scheme establish a clear focus on supporting those families that are most vulnerable and in need of support to access services for the benefit of their child's well-being. However, the mix of children attending the scheme from varying schools, communities, abilities, cultural and economic backgrounds both within and outside of the borough is highly valued. It is this mix of children that enriches the play scheme environment - the learning, play experiences, and opportunities available to those attending. It is what makes FISH quite unique as a local authority playscheme, particularly for one targeted at this age group.

The scheme recognises the importance of free play for young people and providing them with space and time to relax, socialise and play, away from the pressures of home and school life.

Removing barriers

FISH strives to overcome barriers that children face in accessing play opportunities such as parental anxiety of perceived and real dangers, lack of transport, traffic, lack of funds, outcome focused play provisions or reduction in their free time.

Inclusion

FISH is committed to being an inclusive scheme, offering concessionary rates for families on benefits, experienced staff to support young people with additional needs and a subsidised transport scheme. The scheme offers young people a mainstream setting where they are able to freely access play and leisure and make choices for themselves in a supportive environment. This is recognised in parent feedback as being a significant step forward for many young people who usually attend specialist provision.

Strategic planning

The FISH business review sets out the objectives of delivering the FISH playscheme and focuses provision of future resources to ensure it continues to meet the needs of the community. It assesses the outcomes achieved so far and commits to the continued measuring of the service provided. The business review ensures the scheme supports the Play Strategy 2016-2021, which is aligned to the Council's key strategic priorities.



FISH prides itself on providing a relaxed, fun, and open play space where young people can naturally flourish, learn and develop, whilst participating in play, sport and art for fun.

Who we help?

- 600 places a year for all 10 to 16 year olds across Guildford
- families facing financial or transport barriers
- children with additional needs who benefit from accessing a mainstream setting

How we do this?

- one to one places provided for young people with additional needs
- subsidised transport scheme for up to 7 locations across the borough
- concessionary rates from £32 per week for families in receipt of benefits
- wide variety of specialist onsite and offsite activities
- choice of standard or extended day
- stimulating, self-accessing environment where children can move freely and choose which activities, they wish to engage with

The difference this made in 2019

- 60% of children said they would be at home or playing online if they were not at FISH
- 75% of parents felt their child had improved their personal development whilst at FISH
- 45 children were referred and funded by external organisations including; the Army Training Centre (ATC) Pirbright, Home School Link Workers, Guildford Family Support Team and Children's Services

'All children and young people need to play. Play is a biological, psychological and social necessity, and is fundamental to the healthy development and wellbeing of individuals and communities.'

Playwork Principles



'Children's play is rich, varied, organic and constantly evolving. Play helps forge new friendships, while ensuring they remain healthy and active'

Guildford Play Strategy 2016-2021

Why do we need FISH?

Why?	How do we achieve this?
To increase children's self-esteem, self-awareness and self-respect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> welcoming and safe environment to explore self-directed activity activities and opportunities to enjoy, learn, be challenged, achieve and interact with others playworkers that provide reassurance, encouragement and trusting relationships with the children playworkers and volunteers as positive role models
To improve children's physical and mental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> providing challenging play and leisure opportunities in a safe environment active and physically demanding free play additional calming, quiet and reflective activities identification of vulnerable children and effective referrals to other services offering the young people workshops with experienced partners, specialising in youth work and mental health
To develop children's social skills, presenting opportunities for them to mix with children of all abilities from different communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> participation in activities that include multiple young people at once undirected play supports sharing and negotiating between children unique environment for children to socialise within age group maintaining tiered fees for accessibility and appeal to all families direct marketing and booking support targeted at less advantaged groups and individuals
To promote imagination and creativity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> free play opportunities in a child-led environment a wide range of resources for play and specialist arts and sports activities and equipment skilled playworkers playful and creative spaces and playworkers
To increase children's confidence and independence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> providing learning opportunities and activities to develop new skills and improve resilience partner organisations deliver workshops producing a broad range of practical activities some activities designed to offer small achievable tasks freedom of choice allows children to make, and be responsible for their own choices
To build resilience through risk taking, challenge, problem solving and dealing with new situations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> children able to explore and test boundaries whilst being safe from unnecessary harm through exposure to challenging activities playworkers encourage the children to understand and assess their own risks opportunities to develop meaningful relationships with supportive adults new friendships, peer attachments and social connections present opportunities for experiencing new emotions challenging activities create uncertainty, bringing about excitement and fulfilment in achieving
To offer valuable and affordable childcare in the holidays to parents who need it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> high quality, fun and exciting, age appropriate activities at an affordable price choice of standard and extended day to cover working hours for parents no additional charge for providing one to one keyworkers or buddy support
To provide a supportive environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> highly trained and qualified staff that respect the children and their choices child centred approach and values individual support based on needs of the child calming spaces available as well as the vibrant play zones peer to peer support is encouraged

What difference this makes

'Having a buddy on hand makes such a big difference to my son, and also for my peace of mind. I know my son is in safe hands, and he will be learning from his buddy how to deal with emotions and situations when they arise.'

551 spaces filled (92%)

Providing creative, imaginative and fun activities for children and affordable childcare for parents

60% from our target groups

Vulnerable and less advantaged children are benefiting from quality play provision

41 keyworker and 90 buddy places provided

Giving children with additional needs new skills and opportunities and providing respite for their families

45 children referred from external agencies

Giving children in difficult situations somewhere safe and supportive to have fun

38% of attendance was from our target wards

Giving new opportunities to children in less advantaged areas

55 members of staff and 7 volunteers

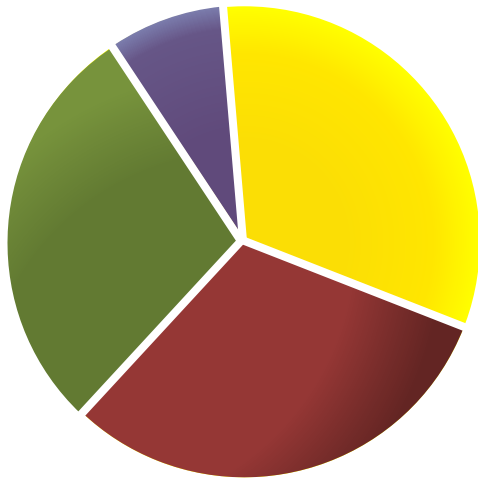
Experienced, trained staff creating an imaginative and supportive environment

'The keyworker enabled my son to access a mainstream activity for a week, something he has never been able to do before due to his autism and mental health issues.'

'The buddy and keyworkers have a knowledge on the children that is extremely valuable to the scheme'

The young people told us that...

What is the best thing about coming to FISH?



- 32% Being with friends and making new ones
- 31% The great choice of activities
- 28% The freedom at FISH
- 9% Other

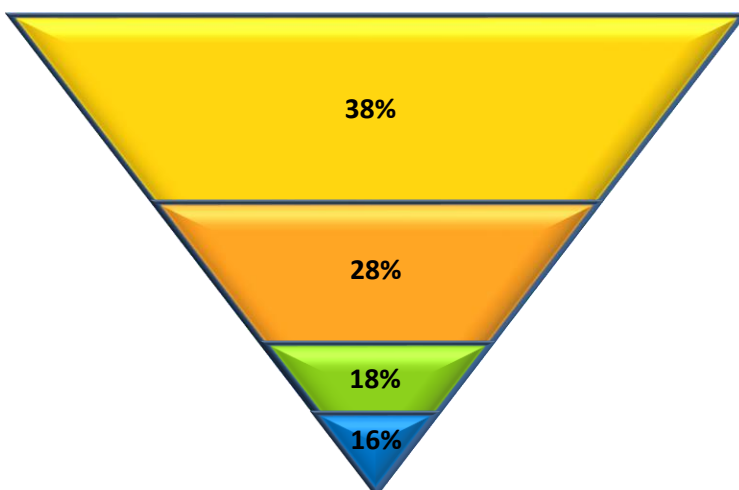
'Brilliant! FISH is so inclusive and varied - there is something for every child!'



Playing football on the brand new 3G pitches at King's Community Sports Hub was a favourite addition to this year's FISH

95% said the staff were friendly and helpful

What do you enjoy most about day trips?

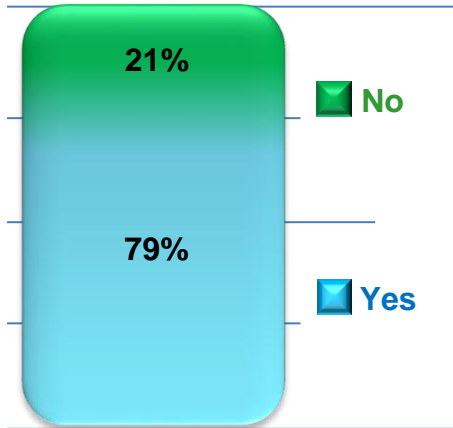


- Trying new activities and experiences
- Sharing the experience with friends
- Participating in team activities
- Other – included: Having fun, everything, learning new things

On a scale of 1 to 5, 93% of the young people scored FISH 4 and above for 'enjoyment'

Parents told us that...

Did the day trips meet your child's expectations?



'This is a wonderful scheme and the staff are fantastic with the children.'

The day trips were extremely popular and sold out promptly, this resulted in some young people not getting a space on their first choice of activity. This will be considered when planning for FISH 2020.

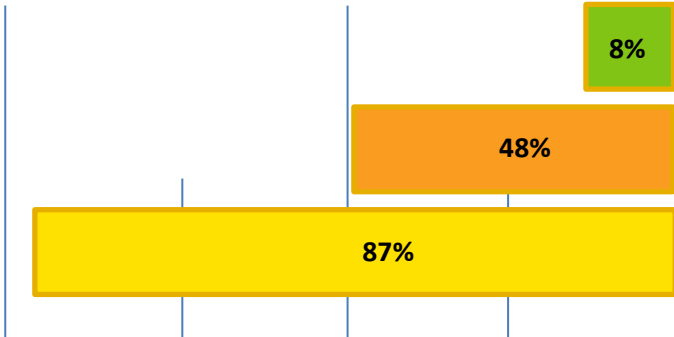
'Fantastic variety of day trips – offering my son a new activity that he's never done before'

'As usual, the team were inclusive, understanding and fully supportive of making my children's time enjoyable.'

Why did you book your child onto FISH?

- For my child to have fun, engage in new activities and make friends
- To give me the opportunity to go to work
- Other; included: supportive environment, offering respite for family members

'My child has definitely grown in confidence and was prepared to come to FISH alone, something she would have struggled to do before.'



98% of parents would book their child onto FISH again in the future

Partnerships and funding

The value of partnership working is recognised as being key to the successful delivery of FISH. This year, we are proud to have worked with; ATC Pirbright, Guildford's Family Support Team and Home School Link Workers, who referred vulnerable young people to the scheme. A local charity, Poyle, has been a long-standing partner. It offers young people the chance to attend the playscheme, when referred by Guildford's Family Support Team and local Home School Link Workers through the Guildford School's Confederation. This funding is highly valued by families and we are grateful for their continued support.

Synergy Dance, University of Surrey, CYP Haven and Surrey Police, all delivered high quality, fully-funded, workshops and activities that enabled us to increase the range of activities the young people can engage in.



We are thankful to the High Sheriff of Surrey for awarding us with a High Sheriff Youth Awards community grant. With this money, we were able to offer an additional five keyworker places for young people with additional needs, allowing us to achieve ten places each week with a one to one keyworker. We were delighted to show Mrs Bridget Biddel, the current High Sheriff of Surrey, around the scheme to see all the young people having fun.

Achievements

FISH was proud to have been nominated for 'Active Community Project of the Year 2019' at the Sport Guildford Awards 2019. This award recognises schemes and services that promote physical activity in children. FISH was referred to as an 'exceptional scheme'. Guildford Olympian, Liam Heath, presented the awards.

"Active play is the most common type of physical activity that children take part in outside school and outdoors. Unstructured play may be one of the best forms of physical activity for children. "

British Heart Foundation



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BOROUGH