

Children's Play initiative

- The Children's Play initiative is a new strategic programme for children's play, funded by the **Big Lottery Fund (BLF)**
- £155 million has been committed to the programme to develop free play opportunities in the areas of greatest need, as well as a regional support and development infrastructure and support for innovation
- The Children's Play initiative is based on the recommendations of the national Play Review chaired by Frank Dobson MP, published in 2004 as [Getting Serious About Play](#)



BLF: Children's Play Initiative

- Create, improve and develop children and young people's free local play spaces and opportunities throughout England, according to need · support innovation and new ways of providing for children's play
- Create a support and development infrastructure to ensure local agencies have the resources and skills to achieve the first two aims
- Promote the long-term strategic and sustainable provision for play as a free public service to children
- Ensure that local authorities work with other local stakeholders to develop children's play strategies and plans
- Ensure that good, inclusive and accessible children's play services and facilities are provided locally.



BLF: Children's Play Initiative

1. Children's Play Programme (£124 million)
2. Playful Ideas Programme (£16 million)
3. Regional Support and development programme (£15 million)



1. Children's Play programme

£124 million is allocated to local authorities across England on the basis of size and need, to provide free, local and inclusive play opportunities. Local authorities are invited to work with partners to develop a play strategy and portfolio of projects as the basis for an application for their allocated sum.



2. Playful Ideas programme

£16 million is available on an open bidding basis for innovative projects in planning, design or delivery of free play opportunities. The voluntary and community sector is particularly encouraged to apply



3. Regional support and development programme

£15 million has been awarded to the Children's Play Council for the Play England project. This will provide information to support, offer specific guidance, advice and enabling services to local authority play partnerships working to produce play strategies for the main Children's Play Programme.



Play England

Play England is a five-year project to promote strategies for free play and to create a lasting support structure for play providers in England. It is a key element of the Children's Play Initiative of the Big Lottery Fund.



Children's Play Programme

- Isle of Wight Allocation: £294,875
- Work to be undertaken
 - Develop a Play Strategy for the Island
 - Create a Portfolio of services
 - Complete a Big Lottery Fund funding application
- Submission date: 31st September 2007

