



Flintshire County Council Buddy Scheme 2018

Inclusive Play Opportunities

In partnership with local town and community councils, Welsh Government, Action for Children and Urdd Gobaith Cymru

Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) states

1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.
2. States Parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.

In Flintshire, we aim to provide a rights based service - 'Every Child's Right!'

The Flintshire 'Buddy Scheme' was created, in partnership, to support children with disabilities and their families to enable access to local play provision, primarily during the delivery of the county summer playscheme programme, For 2018, this service is funded by the local authority in partnership with Welsh Government, local town and community councils and Urdd Gobaith Cymru

Our summer playscheme programme will be delivered for a minimum of three weeks during the summer (23rd July, 2018 – 24th August, 2018, Monday to Friday). We offer two hour sessions at 58 locations across the County. The Buddy scheme has been developed to provide a service for children and young people aged 5 -15 years and provide volunteering opportunities for young people aged 16 -25 years

The role of the playscheme 'Buddy' is to work as a member of the team at each locality, supporting as necessary children with additional needs. The Buddy will encourage participation in playscheme activities and will work closely with the family of each child.

Impact

We have closely monitored the Buddy Scheme since its 'pilot' in 2005. Some of the comments we have received from parents and carers include:-

“Definitely, we are always happy to see T gain social experience it's the one thing parents with a special needs child worry about, how your child is accepted by their peers”

“It helped me survive the summer holidays the only time M is able to experience play without me being there which is great for M's independence”

“Yes it meant that we had some time to ourselves whilst D was in safe hands”

“A huge difference the holidays were much less stressful that they have been in previous years”

“It made a difference to F as she was totally bored. She has friends but as she needs to be watched all the time she cannot always have as much interaction with other children”

P.A.L.S. Project (Play and Leisure Support in Flintshire)

For 2018, we have received additional funding from the families First Fund (Welsh Government) in partnership with 'Action for Children' to support children and young people aged 12 – 25 years to access their right to play, social, cultural and recreational activities. Contact our team for more details.

Kicks for Kids Project – Providing opportunities for all children to play football

Kicks for Kids has been developed since 2016 to deliver, football coaching sessions to all children regardless of their means to pay, gender, ethnicity or disability. All sessions are delivered in a 'fun' environment. Each and every child is encouraged to develop skills, incrementally and at their own pace. Kicks for Kids encourages children to gain in self-confidence and increase self-esteem, as sessions progress.

There will be 15 Buddies employed for summer 2018, in addition to our community play team who can provide support all year round.

For further details of all of our projects, please contact Janet Roberts – Flintshire Play Development Officer
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