

# FLINTSHIRE SUMMER PLAYScheme 2021

## PARENT AND CARER EVALUATION



2021 was the 26th year for the successful delivery of the Flintshire County Summer Playscheme programme. There were 55 summer playscheme site locations in towns and villages across the county. Playschemes were delivered and funded in partnership with local town and community councils; Flintshire Families Disability Service and Welsh Government. There were 2,779 children registered and a total recorded attendance of 14,019 during the 6 weeks period 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021 - 27<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

The following analysis has been taken from a recent survey with 167 families\* whose children attended playscheme during 2021

\*Parents/carers and children. All responses remain anonymous.

Play is essential to the mental, social, emotional and physical well being of children. This survey provides a 'snap-shot' regarding the positive impact of the delivery of summer playschemes and the improvements to the health and well-being of children and young people.

38 children with disabilities attended the Flintshire Buddy Scheme where 1-1 support was provided

120 children were registered to the Welsh language playschemes held at Ysgol Croes Atti, Shotton and Ysgol Maes Garmon, Mold

57% noticed a positive impact on emotional wellbeing

### QUESTION:

Following your child's attendance at Flintshire Summer Play Scheme we would like you to record any positive impact their attendance may have had in terms of their overall health and wellbeing (Physical, Social and Emotional).

65% of children had created new friendships at their local scheme

72% agreed that their child had increased their physical activity due to their attendance of playscheme.

60% Recorded a positive impact on social skills

51% of parents/carers noticed their child's self-confidence increase

77% identified that their children showed increased happiness as a result of attending playscheme

60% of children were able to socialise with old friends at playscheme



### 'Playing out' in unprecedented times...



**QUESTION:** Do you feel that the Flintshire Summer playscheme helped your child/family towards 'COVID Recovery'?

87%

Considered that access to summer playschemes provided a measurable contribution towards helping families to begin 'recovery' from the impact of COVID-19

COVID-19 national lockdowns and restrictions massively reduced access to opportunities for children to engage in social play.

The implications of the COVID-19 pandemic have dramatically affected children in terms of mental health and play deprivation.

The opportunity to socialise with other children through playing outdoors has been crucial to children, young people and families.

The majority of parents and carers responded that playscheme provided a space for 'getting back to normality'.

### Playing out independently...

'Play encompasses children's behaviour which is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. It is performed for no external goal or reward, and is a fundamental and integral part of healthy development - not only for individual children, but also for the society in which they live'.  
(Welsh Government Play Policy 2002)

**QUESTION:** Under normal circumstances do you allow your child to play out unsupervised?

66%

of parents/carers say they DID NOT allow their child/ren to play out unsupervised

54% would still NOT allow their child/ren to play out unsupervised

**QUESTION:** Following the summer playscheme, are you more likely to let your child play out unsupervised?

**QUESTION:** Would your child wish to attend Flintshire Summer Playschemes next year?

Lack of trust that children are safe playing out in their community due to strangers, older children and bullying.

Majority of parents feel that their children are too young to be out alone/alone with friends.

Accessibility to 'safe' play areas is reduced for some families due to the location of their home.

### WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS TO CHILDREN PLAYING OUT IN FLINTSHIRE?

94% would like to attend playscheme in 2022

The feedback from parents/carers and children has evidenced the need for supervised play provision that allows a safe space for children to exercise their right to play (UNRC Article 31.)

Many parents fear busy roads and heavy traffic

Play in the 21<sup>st</sup> century has been subject to major factors that have decreased the amount of time, and quality of play that children are able to engage in.

Flintshire has a continued responsibility to ensure that children are able to access play opportunities in their local communities.

Summer playscheme provides Flintshire's children with the time, space and permission in order to access play opportunities – Some children may not be able to access these play opportunities to their full potential without this supervised provision in place.

They enjoyed being out and playing!

Really enjoyed the chance to play with friends, particularly with the feeling of greater independence as parents were not present.

Emotional and physical wellbeing

A few hours to be outside and sociable.

Its so lovely to meet up with other children and mums.

**QUESTION:** Can you please provide a sentence that sums up your child's and your experience of play scheme?

My child has always had good positive experiences at the summer playscheme always enjoys it.

I am extremely grateful for this service my lad has some behaviour issues and can't be left alone but he did great and I felt really supported. It gave me as a parent reassurance he was being looked after and I had a break too.

They really enjoyed playing with other children and meeting new people.

Great place to meet friends and make friends in a safe environment.

Gave her the confidence she had lost.

Time for my son to be a child with no worries and to play without bubbles, or isolation.

Really enjoyed the chance to play with friends, particularly with the feeling of greater independence as parents were not present.

Playscheme allowed them to be children and play and have fun!

Helped to reduce/manage anxiety.