

FLINTSHIRE PLAY DEVELOPMENT AND YOUTH SERVICE NEWSLETTER

July-August, 2025

Summer Playscheme Summary

WOW, WHAT A SUMMER!

This years Summer Playscheme was a huge success, with **over 14,500 attendances across 45 sites.**

We had an incredible summer reconnecting with children and families, building new relationships, and sharing unforgettable experiences with children all across Flintshire.

From messy outdoor adventures, to creative play and sporty competitions, we've helped create hundreds of special memories for so many children.

None of this would have been possible without our dedicated summer staff, who's energy, enthusiasm and up to date knowledge ensured children had endless play opportunities. So thank you, all! A special thank you again, to all of the Town and Community councils who have funded our schemes. It wouldn't be possible without your support!



Training Week

We spent the week before Playscheme working closely with our new summer team (as well as many returners), to make sure they were fully prepared and equipped with the tools and knowledge needed, to provide the best summer possible, while keeping everyone safe.

Throughout the week, they participated in a range of sessions from group games, newspaper-dress-up and waterslides, to the important subjects such as safeguarding, health and safety and inclusive play.



Supporting ESOL Summer School.

During the first three weeks of the summer holiday, the Play Development Team supported the Flintshire Resettlement ESOL Summer School by facilitating play sessions for children while their parents participated in English language classes. A wide range of activities was offered, with arts and crafts, cricket, and a final week waterslide proving especially popular. The programme also created valuable opportunities for cultural exchange, as children and staff shared language learning in Pashto, Dari, English, and Welsh.



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Schools Pride Event - "Just Be" (June 2025)

Youth Service, Flint High School, and Healthy Schools partnered to host the "Just Be" Pride event during Pride Month 2025, with 240 students from high schools across Flintshire attending.

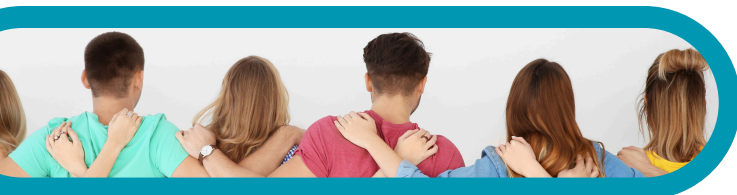
The event featured:

- A marketplace of local organisations and partner agencies, including Gwella and Theatre Clwyd.
- Workshops run by Victim Support, Theatre Clwyd, Brook, Delyn Gymnastics, the Red Cross, and Flint High students (crafts).
- Youth workers supporting young ambassadors and helping the event run smoothly.
- The presentation of a shield from Youth Service, passed on from Hawarden High School (previous hosts).

Young people's feedback:

- "Amazing... Loved it"
- "It builds self-confidence and brings the community together"
- "I felt like I belonged here"
- "So much variety and inclusion - it really makes a difference"

Next steps: Planning for the 2026 Schools Pride will begin in January 2026.



Snow Camp - First Tracks Success!

For the third consecutive year, young people from Flintshire Youth Service took part in Snow Camp - First Tracks!

This year, 25 enthusiastic participants joined the two-day course, where they developed new snowsport skills, took part in health and wellbeing sessions, and earned their Snow Life Awards!

Everyone had a fantastic time, and we're delighted that five young people have successfully applied for the next stage of the programme - Snow Camp Graduate. On the Graduate course, they'll continue to build on their skills, gain new qualifications, and take part in exciting experiences that support their personal growth and future opportunities.

Consent project

Over 1,700 Yr 9 students across high schools took part in the Flintshire Youth Service Consent Project, gaining valuable knowledge and understanding around the importance of consent in relationships. The project offered engaging sessions that empowered young people to make informed, respectful choices and promoted a culture of safety, equality, and mutual respect.



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