

Play Pathfinder Briefing September 2008

The DCS has been invited to apply for wave 2 Play Pathfinder funding from the DCSF. There will be an additional 10 pathfinders nationally selected within wave 2. It is likely that there will only be one pathfinder chosen in the region. If we are unsuccessful as a pathfinder at the selection process we can be put forward to become a Playbuilder over 2 years.

The Pathfinder capital funding awarded is £2m and £500k revenue over 2 years and the Playbuilder funding is £1m capital over 1 year.

Being a Play Pathfinder Authority means by the end of March 2011 Leeds will have been expected to develop 28 public play areas, Playbuilders will be expected to develop at least 22 public play areas, with the capital funding awarded. The development of the play sites are to completely or substantially replace old equipment for new or the building of a completely new play area. Sites are to innovative and attractive to children, particularly 8-13 year-olds, and to be inclusive for disabled children and minority groups.

The 10 Pathfinders identified through this selection process will also each deliver at least one large staffed adventure playground or play park, costing around £800k. These sites should be open-access, with children generally free to come and go as they please and free of charge.

Pathfinders will receive revenue funding to cover a range of activity creating innovative ways of improving local play provision and any other required infrastructure to ensure the Pathfinder programme runs effectively.

Leeds is applying for Pathfinder status the deadline for the initial interest stage is the 15th September. If Leeds is successful in the first stage a full proposal of 3000 words will be required. Timescales of this process are to be confirmed. This is an exciting opportunity for the development of play opportunities in information will be shared at the next Children Leeds Partnership.

At this stage we cannot identify exactly which 28 playgrounds will benefit from the Pathfinder funds. Parks and Countryside has undertaken an audit of sites and this audit will form the basis of recommendation that will go to area committees.

If you require any further information please contact.

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