

Report to Scrutiny Board (Sustainable Economy and Culture)

Appendix One: Temple Newsam Case Study

Temple Newsam play area was developed in partnership with Leeds City Council and Leeds charity Physcap. The aspiration was to have a large inclusive citywide play area at Temple Newsam Estate. The play area was to be inclusive for disabled children and their families and offer challenge and excitement for all children and young people.

Children and young people's involvement was critical from the outset to ensure the design and layout captured the needs and opportunities for all children and young people to play, as well as being a relaxing, playful and restful place for parents and carers.

A consultation event over two days took place at Temple Newsam Estate courtyard, and on the playground site itself. This involved local residents, the Friends of Temple Newsam, children and young people including disabled children and their families. In addition, a consultation questionnaire was available at Temple Newsam in the shop and café for 12 weeks. Consultation was widely promoted in the area via professionals involved in children's social care, extended services in the ward, local schools, Leeds Mencap, Leeds Physcap and ward members.

There were 71 adults and 131 children and young people who took part, with 31% of these disabled children and young people. Colton Primary school council were also involved in creating initial ideas for the play area, looking at what they would like, how they would like to play whilst at the play area, and considering others abilities and play needs. This involved active participation, games and fun creating the ideas. The overall themes that developed from the consultation included the following:

- Opportunities for all children and young people with a range of abilities and ages to play together especially disabled children.
- Expand the existing playground, with bigger and better equipment.
- A zip wire
- A maze
- Climbing structures
- Big slides
- Equipment suitable for wheelchair users.

The consultation feedback informed a design brief for Parks and Countryside landscape team who then created the initial play area design. This design was taken back to Colton Primary school council and the proposal discussed in detail, focusing on how items worked and what they did, who it was suitable for, including age ranges, which items they liked, and if anything was missing. The outcome of this included changing and moving items for the final design.

The creation of the maze was an idea from pupils at the school and the school council worked in each class gathering designs for panels in the maze. These designs were then incorporated into the maze panels as illustrated below.



The final playground designs were put up in the local schools, at Temple Newsam Estate, and on the Physcap website.

Children from Colton Primary school were key to the official opening along with Howard Webb, Liz Dawn and Cllr Blake. The children took part in the fun and games with Breeze and played on the new playground at the official opening on 30th June 2011.



The play area has high usage and is very popular with local children and young people who attend on a regular basis, as well as families that travel to visit the playground and estate. The play area also adds value to the existing visitor attractions at Temple Newsam Estate.