Wrexham Play Sufficiency Innovation Grant 2019

Guidelines for Applications

**Purpose of the grants programme**

This short term grants program has been set up in response to the Welsh Government recently making some funding available to support children’s play and specifically the Welsh Play Sufficiency Duty. The purpose of this grants programme is therefore to improve children’s (including teenager’s) opportunities for play with the aim of helping to secure sufficient opportunities for play across the county borough.

**Background to the grants programme**

In 2012 Wales became the first country in the world to legislate for children’s play when the Welsh Government introduced the Play Sufficiency Duty. This duty means that every three years local authorities must complete an assessment of children’s opportunities for play and then work towards securing sufficient opportunities for play in their areas so far as is reasonably practicable.

This duty was originally introduced on a ‘cost neutral’ basis meaning there were no additional financial resources made available to local authorities to support its implementation. However in December 2018 the Welsh Government identified some short term funding to support this work which must be spent by the end of the 2018/19 financial year (31st March 2019).

**What do we mean by ‘play’?**

Play is defined by the Welsh Government as ‘freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated behaviour’, or to put it another way the stuff that children do for their own reasons when they have access to time and space free from adult obligations. Priority for funding will therefore be given to projects that provide children with free access to opportunities for play.

**Who can apply?**

The grants programme is open to any organisations or groups working with or in support of children and their play in Wrexham.

**How much can you apply for?**

Applications can be made for up to £1,000, however depending on the demand for funding and the suitability of applications received the WCBC Play Development Team may decide to award projects less or more than initially requested, where appropriate.

**When can you apply?**

Due to the short time-scales and pressure to get this funding spent. The final deadline for applications will be Friday 22nd February 2019 any applications received after this date will not be eligible for funding.

**When does the money need to be spent?**

Successful applicants must meet the objective/s of the grant funding and this will be monitored by the WCBC Play Development Team.  Applicants will be required to provide evidence of the expenditure incurred in meeting those objectives.  Failure to provide expenditure evidence or meet the objectives by the requested deadline may mean that the grant will have to be repaid.

**What can you apply for?**

Applications must explain how the proposed project will contribute towards one or more of the following 12 priorities identified through the Wrexham Play Sufficiency Assessment 2016 (a more detailed explanation of these priorities can be found on pages 17 to 21 of the full report, available here: <http://www.wrexham.gov.uk/assets/pdfs/play/play_sufficiency_2016.pdf>):

* Priority 1: Increase object play-time during term-time
* Priority 2: Enhance opportunities for playing in Winter
* Priority 3: Secure safer streets for play
* Priority 4: Secure a wider range of spaces for play
* Priority 5: Secure spaces for play in close proximity to children’s homes
* Priority 6: Secure and maintain quality play provision
* Priority 7: Secure a greater range of provision for teenagers
* Priority 8: Improve children’s subjective experience of time & space in supervised provision
* Priority 9: Enable parents to identify ways in which they can support children’s play
* Priority 10: Improve support for disabled and marginalised children
* Priority 11: Improve generalised negative attitudes towards teenagers and their play
* Priority 12: Ensure children have easy access to friends

Priority for funding will be given to projects that demonstrate an innovative approach to improving conditions for playing, particularly those aimed at encouraging greater tolerance and permission for children to play out and about in their local communities. Successful projects might include playful experiments, simple landscaping, improvements to signage, traffic calming, community events or training. If you are unsure of what to apply for please contact a member of the Play Development Team to discuss ideas.

**Further considerations for applications**

The application form has been designed to be as simple as possible whilst making sure the Play Development Team has all the information it needs to make a decision on each project. In addition to the above information, application forms must explain:

* **What the project will actually do –** what the money will be used for.
* **Who will benefit –** including the target age range (if there is one).
* **When the project will take place** – the time-scales involved and when will it be completed.
* **Where the project will take place** -the target community (if there is one)
* **How awareness of the project will be raised within the local community –** all successful projects should be celebrated locally and applications should identify how the project will be publicised.

**Submitting your application**

Please send an electronic version of your completed application to play@wrexham.gov.uk, followed by a signed paper copy to: WCBC Play Development Team, Ruabon Centre of Excellence, Stanley Grove, Ruabon, Wrexham. LL14 6AH.

**Terms and conditions of funding**

If your application is successful you will then be required to agree to the Wrexham Play Sufficiency Grant Terms and Conditions.

**Further information**

If you require any additional information or support with your application please contact the Play Development Team on 01978 298361 or email play@wrexham.gov.uk