



Active Environments &
Whole System Thinking in
Play Strategies



Amber Valley – Play Strategy

Update / refresh the
existing play strategy

Opportunity to
widen scope / apply
Active Environment
principles

Connect with wider
services and sectors

Traditional Approach.



Image courtesy of Build Magazine

Children and play



Four Key Themes

**Creating High Quality Play Facilities
and Spaces**

Supporting the Play Workforce

**Integrating Play into the Natural
Environment**

**Facilitating Organised and Free Play
Opportunities**



Whole System Thinking



Landscape Services
parks, open space



Planning / Policy
policy, urban design,
sect 106



**Community Safety
Teams** —networks
/insight reduce antisocial
design



County Council -
Education / Children's
Services / Youth Work



Public Health- Insight to
most in need / Prog &
campaign collaboration



Parish / Town Councils
Parks and Play

... . Lots of Others



Housing Services
Priority places



Active Derbyshire. -
Connectivity

Four Key Themes

Creating High Quality Play Facilities and Spaces

Supporting the Play Workforce

Integrating Play into the Natural Environment

Facilitating Organised and Free Play Opportunities

Public Realm

Images Courtesy of Active Design Sport England



Natural environment





Images Courtesy of Playing Out

Playing in the Street – Neighbourhoods for Play

TEN STRATEGIC INDICATORS FOR A CHILD-FRIENDLY NEIGHBOURHOOD

- 1 I walk to school/local shops without an adult (from age X*).
- 2 I cycle to school/local shops without an adult (from age X*).
- 3 I go outside and play within sight of my home (up to age X*).
- 4 I feel welcome and safe outside, during the day and after dark.
- 5 I have access to natural green space in my neighbourhood.
- 6 I have access to an outdoor place in my neighbourhood that is peaceful and quiet.
- 7 My neighbourhood has lots of trees.
- 8 I have access to a choice of outdoor places in my neighbourhood where I can meet and spend time with friends and there are fun things for us to do, including places where I can test myself and take some risks.
- 9 I have access to an outdoor place in my neighbourhood where my extended family and friends can have a picnic.
- 10 I travel from my own neighbourhood to downtown areas on foot, by bike or by public transport (from age X*).

*age may differ in different cultural/national contexts

Whole System Approach



Landscape Services —
parks, open space



Planning Policy —policy,
urban design, sect 106



Community Safety Team
—reduce antisocial
design



County Council -
Highways / Ed &
Children's Services /
Youth Work etc



Public Health Insight to
most in need / Prog &
campaign collaboration



Parish Councils – Parks
and Play

. . . . Lots of Others



Housing Services Priority
places



Active Derbyshire. -
Connectivity

Opportunities

New Housing Developments / Modifying Existing Housing Estates / Town Centres
Existing Parks / Other Public Open and Natural Spaces

“Everyone expects us to play in the park”

“While sometimes important to children and their carers, it is clear that designated spaces alone are not sufficient to meet all children’s play needs. The emphasis that adults often place on fixed-equipment play areas, when providing for play, is out of balance with children’s actual experiences of playing”

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**CHILD-FRIENDLY
CITY**



Play Sufficiency and Neighbourhood Design

... would establish statutory guidance that Local Authorities must follow, in order to comply with a duty to assess for and secure sufficient play and recreation opportunities (Play England 2025)

‘We play different things in different places’



‘If there could be patches of randomness ...’




‘Boring spaces, you can’t roll down flat fields’



Teenagers' Experiences of their Urban Neighbourhoods

Jackie Bourke discusses the results of her research with young people in Dublin





Thankyou
and any
advice
welcome !

