

# Have Your Say on Play

## DRAFT Summary Report

### East Lothian Play Policy Development: Consultation and Engagement, 2016

**Have Your Say on Play** consultation activities were carried out between August and October 2016 to inform the development of the Play Policy for East Lothian. A short-life working group made up from East Lothian Council and partners from across the county with an interest in children's play opportunities and environments provided guidance and oversight for the consultations.

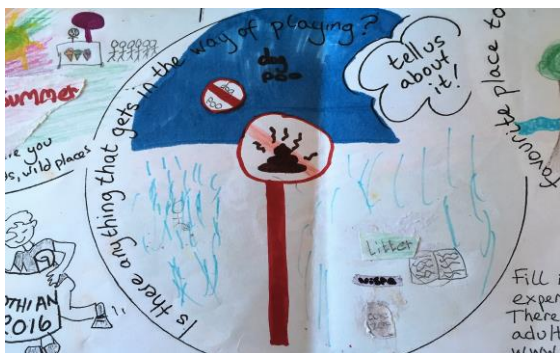
Three types of consultations activity were carried out:

**1. ONLINE SURVEY** through the East Lothian Council Consultation Hub. This survey focussed on three key questions:

- What is most important about playing?
- What gets in the way of playing in East Lothian?
- Which actions would be important to supporting play opportunities?

**2. CHILDREN'S 'SCRIBBLE SHEET'** activities were supported through East Lothian libraries, schools and out-of-school settings. The key questions were the same as the online survey but were translated into a very child-friendly format.

**3. A SNAP ONLINE SURVEY for 12- 18 year olds** to fill a gap in responses from this age group. This survey took the same three questions but translated the word 'play' into wording around free time and leisure opportunities.



#### Summary of respondents

1. Online survey - Have Your Say on Play	313 responses	Aug. and Sept. 2016
2. Children's consultation 'Scribble Sheets'	453 responses	Aug. and Sept. 2016
3. Snap survey for 12- 18 year olds	130 responses	October 2016

#### Summary of key points across all three activities

**Playing is part of a happy childhood.** It is an important way for children to learn and develop, and when they play, children have a chance to learn how to judge risks and challenges for themselves.

Free time is important to young people because they need **time to switch off, relax and to socialise**. They told us it's important to them because it's **their own time to do what they want with**, not to be told what to do by adults.

There are **fantastic and valued spaces to play in East Lothian** but **the range may not meet everyone's needs** and **it can be hard to get to them**.

We need **to increase and improve access to outdoor spaces** including **natural and wild spaces**.

Ensuring children and young people with additional support needs have access to **high quality, accessible and inclusive play and free time opportunities** is a **high priority** across all the consultation activities.



## Online Have Your Say on Play survey

### delivered through East Lothian Council Consultation Hub

Respondents	
A child aged: under 8 years / 9 – 12 years / 13 – 18 years	44 / 22 / 8
A parent/carer/grandparent	233
Someone who works directly with children & young people or whose work has an impact on play	79
Other/not answered	14
<b>Total number of respondents</b>	<b>313</b>

### SURVEY headlines

#### Q3. The top three importance of play messages

- Playing is an important way for children to learn and develop
- Playing is part of a happy childhood
- When they play, children have a chance to learn how to judge risks for themselves.

#### Q4. What do you think gets in the way of playing in East Lothian? *For further analysis, see below*

Top tier rated as a barrier or significant barrier at 56%, 43% and 34% respectively:

- There aren't enough good places to play
- It's difficult to get to the good places to play
- There isn't enough time for play because of time spent on computers, watching television etc.

#### Q5. How important are these actions in terms of supporting play opportunities?

Top tier rated as important or very important at 85%, 88% and 85% respectively.

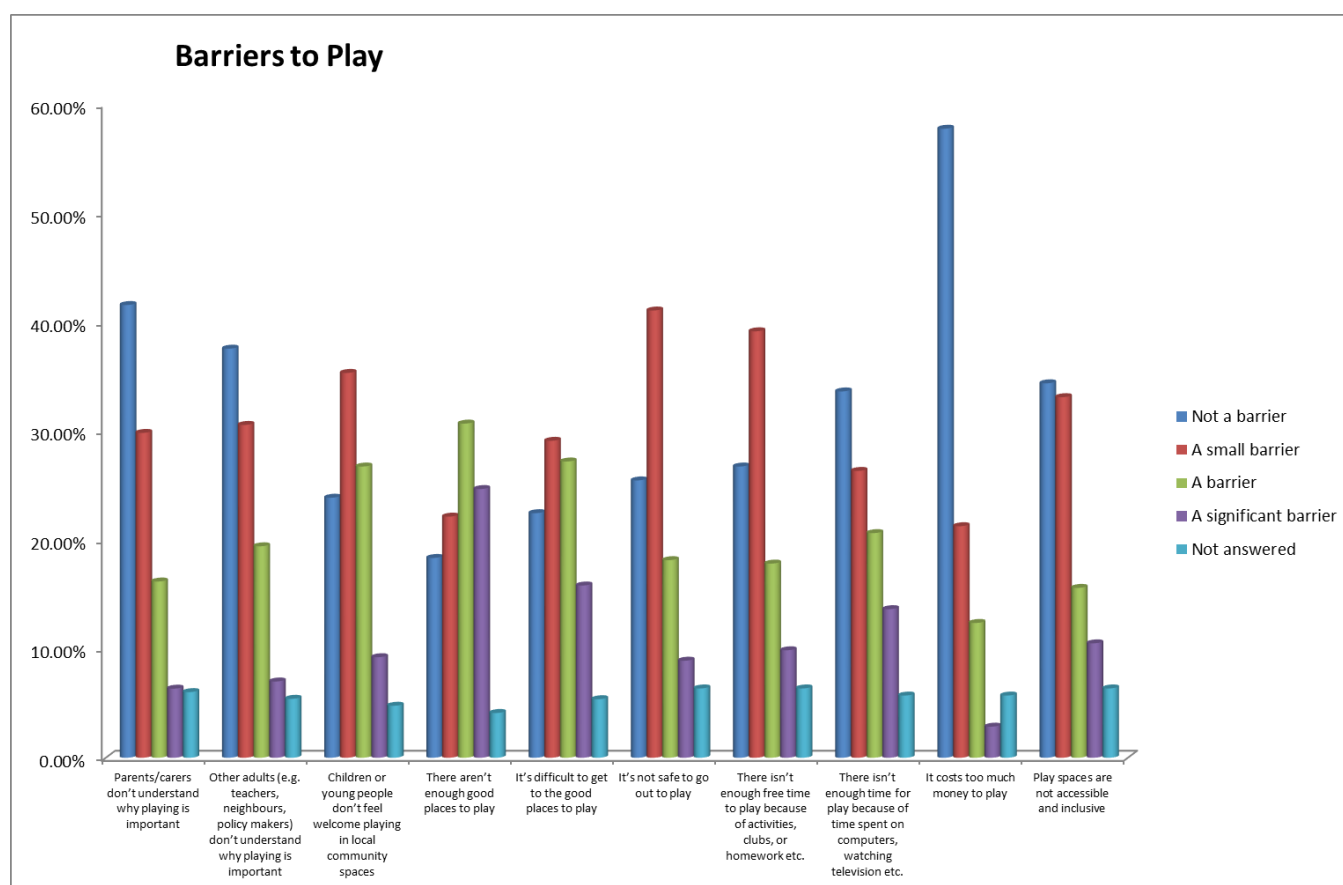
- Ensure children and young people with Additional Support Needs have access to quality play opportunities
- Improve access to outdoor spaces including natural and wild spaces
- Ensure that other Council Policies, Strategies and Community Planning support play opportunities.

The next tier in the range of 63% - 67%:

- Promote the importance of play
- Offer training to people working with children
- Provide guidance on adventurous play, and risk and challenge in play
- Always talk to children and young people about issues related to playing and play spaces

Create a local play network or play forum lagged behind at 36% but this may be a mechanism for delivering some of the above.

**We were interested in looking more closely at barriers to play highlighted in the survey see page 3**



**Table 1: What do you think gets in the way of playing in East Lothian?**

Table 2 shows the number of respondents rating at least one of the following three options as a 'barrier or significant barrier'. The place name refers to the location of the respondent, not the location of a play area.

- There aren't enough good places to play
- It's difficult to get to the good places to play
- Play spaces are not accessible and inclusive

Aberlady	1	Gullane	1	Port Seton	14 (5)
Athelstaneford	3 (2)	Haddington	21 (6)	Prestonpans	15
Ballencrieff	1	Humbie	2 (1)	Tranent	16 (8)
Belhaven	1 (1)	Longniddry	1 (1)	Wallyford	4 (2)
Cockenzie	5 (2)	Macmerry	2 (1)	West Fenton	1
Dirleton	4	Musselburgh	18 (4)	Whitecraig	2
Dunbar	7 (3)	North Berwick	29 (8)	Whittinghame	1 (1)
East Linton	7 (3)	Oldhamstocks	1 (1)	Edinburgh	1
Garvald	3	Ormiston	4	No response	19 (12)
Gifford	2 (1)	Pencaitland	9 (6)		

- 197 of the 313 respondents to the survey

- (In brackets) No. of those respondents including 'Play spaces are not accessible and inclusive' as a barrier or significant barrier

- NB: these are not percentages of the number of respondents from each location.

**Table 2. No. of respondents who rated at least one of the criteria below as a barrier or significant barrier**

40 of the 74 child and young person respondents to the survey who rated at least one of the above as a barrier or significant barrier

## CHILDREN'S 'SCRIBBLE SHEET' activities

453 responses from across East Lothian

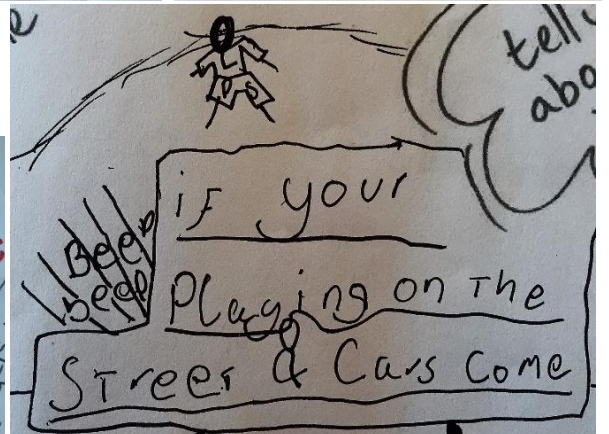
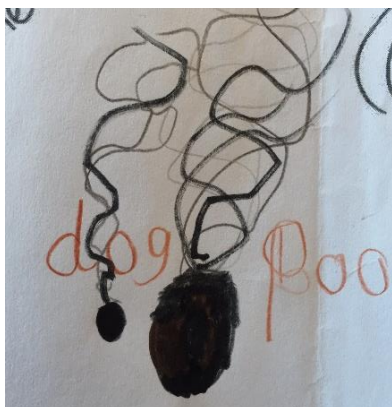
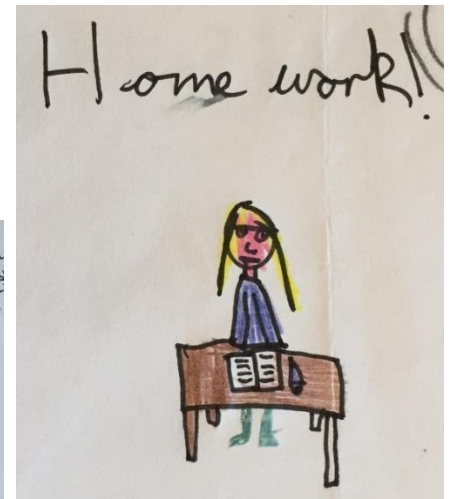
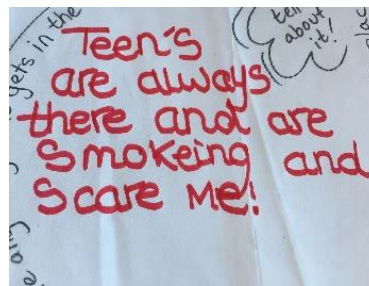
Children showed that East Lothian has some wonderful places to play; some of the most popular mentioned were our largest parks, swimming pools, skate parks, beaches, big hills and woods. Things that would make playing better or more fun included: equipment, safety, natural spaces and features, and getting to or places like our larger visitor destination and parks, beaches parks. Frequently mentioned wishes were for:

- More trees and forests
- Green spaces
- Shelter
- Skateparks
- Swimming pool
- Treehouses
- Warm water in pool
- Equipment



However, there were frequent mentions of things that get in the way of playing:

- dog poo (even schools may have lots of dog poo around them where children like to play)
- not enough litter bins, graffiti
- not getting much time to play, homework
- roads being too busy, and parked cars getting in the way of playing
- play spaces are not always suitable for children with additional support needs and can be too busy and noisy for some children; there is a need for more varied and inclusive options for all ages.





## SNAP SURVEY 12 – 18 YEAR OLDS

130 responses from across East Lothian

### SURVEY headlines

#### Q2. What do you think are the THREE most important about having free time to do what you want with?

Top tier rated as a barrier or significant barrier at 61%, 50% and 49% respectively:

- You need enough free time to switch off and relax
- Socialising and getting to know other people
- It's your own time to do what you want with, not to be told what to do by adults

#### Q3 What do you think gets in the way of having a good time in your free time in East Lothian?

Top tier rated as a barrier or significant barrier at 54%, 54%, 47% respectively:

- There aren't enough good places to spend your free time
- There isn't enough free time because of activities, clubs or homework etc.
- It's difficult to get to the good places

#### Q4 How important are these things for supporting free time opportunities for young people?

Top tier rated as important or very important at 70% and 60% (next three) respectively.

- Ensure young people with Additional Support Needs have access to quality free time opportunities
- Promote more positive attitudes about young people
- Improve access to outdoor spaces including natural and wild spaces
- When the Council make any plans make sure these support free time opportunities for young people

### Where is your favourite place to play?

*"By the Tyne, especially by the beech tree by the white bridge. I like it because it's pretty and the kids like pottering about in the river. It's also close to where we live". (parent, online survey)*

This report was compiled by the report compiled by short-life working group for the East Lothian Play Policy. The group would like to thank the following organisation for their assistance with the activities:



**East Lothian Libraries**

**theresa casey consultancy**



These consultation and engagement activities were organised were in line with East Lothian Council's PV\_CEF Tool 3: Consultation Planning Checklist & PV\_CEF Tool 6: Inclusion Checklist.

For more information about any of the consultation and engagement activities including more detailed content please contact: [play@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:play@eastlothian.gov.uk)