


# PLAY POLICY

Kilkenny County PLAY POLICY 2007-2012 and Implementation Plan





A red crayon drawing on a textured background. Two figures are depicted, each wearing a tall, pointed hat and carrying a ladder on their back. The drawing is done in a simple, sketchy style with visible crayon strokes.

Kilkenny County

# **PLAY POLICY**

2007-2012

and

## **Implementation Plan**



*Developed by  
Kilkenny Local Authorities*

*in conjunction with*

*Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) 5  
for Community and Enterprise  
including Arts, Culture, Heritage,  
Tourism and Education*

*and*

*Kilkenny County Development Board  
Inter-agency Play Forum*

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We would like to thank all the children for their wonderful drawings

# Foreword

by the Chairperson of Strategic Policy Committee 5 for Community and Enterprise including Arts, Culture, Heritage, Tourism & Education

I am delighted to be associated with this, the very first play policy document for Kilkenny. This document was drawn together under the direction of the Strategic Policy Committee for Community and Enterprise including Arts, Culture, Heritage, Tourism & Education in conjunction with Kilkenny County Development Board and the Inter-agency Play Forum. It is a truly consultative and participative document that we hope will inform the direction and development of play for children in Kilkenny for years to come.

One of the most exciting aspects of this policy is not only the inter-agency partnership approach that has been used throughout the whole development process, but also the time we took to listen to children themselves and take on board some of their suggestions, their wishes and their dreams.

As part of the consultation process, we ourselves went through a valuable exercise recounting our own experiences of play. We identified things such as being free to roam in a safe environment in the outdoors; Playing in groups- games such as football, hurling and other activity based games. Play could be a simple thing like exploring the fields, rivers, trees and areas around us, building forts, making mud pies and just about any adventure we could find. Our main memory was the freedom to play safely and to be lost in play.

Play, while a simple thing, is extremely important in any child's development. Most adults agree that there are considerable differences and challenges between the way they played when they were young and the way children play today. The many changes that have taken place in our society have

impacted on our children's play opportunities. It is our hope that this Policy and Implementation Plan will help to create a more child friendly environment where children can be free to play and enjoy their play.

The Kilkenny County Play Policy is a six-year strategy to guide children's play activity in Kilkenny and includes a very important, commitment that children will have access to play, recreation and cultural activities to enrich their experience of childhood. Within the policy we have outlined a two year rolling implementation plan that will put into action a variety of programmes, projects, facilities and resources to contribute to this development. It is not a comprehensive plan at this point and there are gaps – however we feel privileged to begin the process and create an effect whereby all agencies come on board to identify their role in the provision of play in the county.

Kilkenny Local Authorities are committed to the importance of play for all children. We believe this policy will place the required emphasis on the child and the child's right to play in a friendly and safe environment.

I would like to thank my fellow members of SPC 5 and members of both Kilkenny County and Borough Councils for their valuable input.

**Cllr. Anne Phelan**  
Chairperson Strategic Policy Committee 5 for Community and Enterprise including Arts, Culture, Heritage, Tourism & Education.



# Foreword

*by the Chairperson of Kilkenny County Development Board*

The main focus of this policy and plan is to promote a more co-ordinated and informed approach to play provision in the county. The approach used in Kilkenny was one of partnership. It was agreed at County Development Board level that one of the ways we could improve the co-ordination of play in the county was to set up an Inter-agency Play Forum. This forum is made up of the appropriate bodies to identify and oversee play actions in the county. This forum recognises the need for stronger relationships across the many sectors that are responsible for the provision of play in the county. As Chairperson of the County Development Board I fully support this partnership approach to policy and planning development. The results of this approach can be seen in the shared vision for children's play in Kilkenny.

I would like to extend my thanks to Mr. Tony Walsh, Director of Services for his overall support and to

the dedication of Lindsey Butler and Brid Hynes in the Community and Enterprise section for their role as facilitators of this process. I also want to thank the individuals and agencies who gave their time and energy to the plan and to the children of Kilkenny.

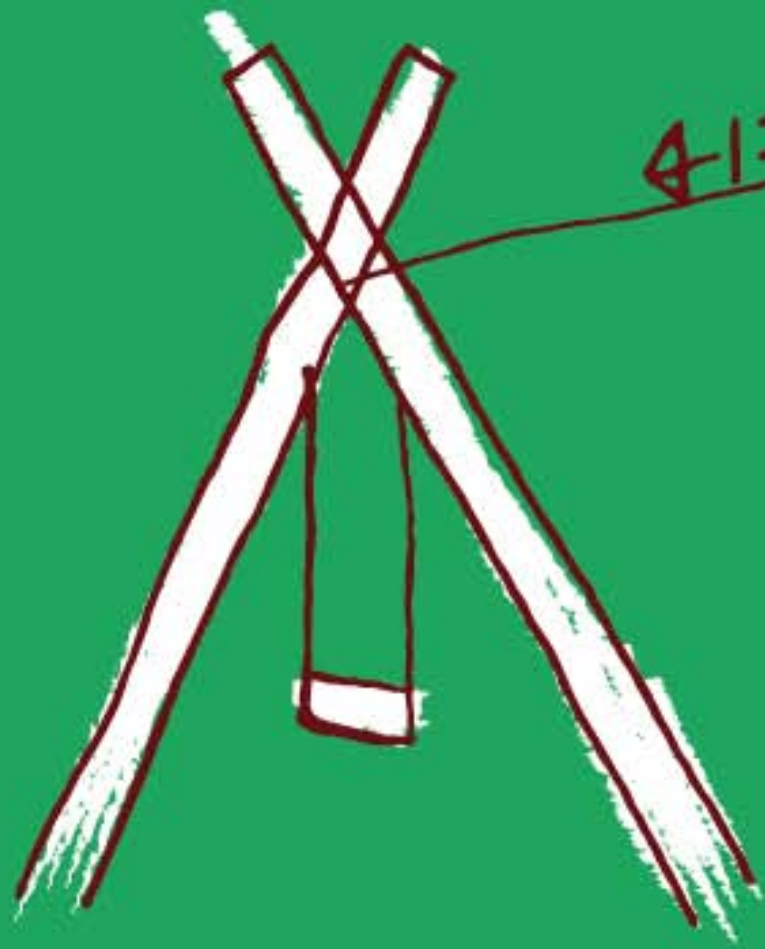
I hope this document acts as a guideline for the development of our children's play for many years to come.

**Paul Cuddihy**  
*Chairperson Kilkenny County Development Board*



"100 years from now it will not make much difference what my bank account was, the size of the house I lived in or the type of car I drove as I was important in the life of a child"

Cllr. Tommy Brennan



→ 12m →



→ 5m or less →

# Introduction

The context for the development of this Kilkenny County Play Policy and Inter-agency Play Plan has been determined by a number of significant policy documents at international and national level and some key studies / research at local level.

## International

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989 - ratified by Ireland in 1992) specifically addresses the issue of play in Article 31 which states that:

'States Parties recognise the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts'.

## National

The National Children's Strategy, *Our Children – Their Lives* (2000) sets out an ambitious series of objectives to guide children's policy over a ten year timeframe. It offers the means to listen to, to think about and to act more effectively for children through its three main goals.

1. Children will have a voice in matters, which affect them, and their views will be given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity.
2. Children's lives will be better understood; their lives will benefit from evaluation, research and information on their needs, rights and effectiveness of service.
3. Children will receive quality supports and services to promote all aspects of their development.

4. The strategy recognises the important role play provides in terms of:

- enriching the lives of children and providing them with experiences and competencies that will serve them well in later life.
- supporting children's development along a social and peer relationships dimension.
- their future health and wellbeing.

It recognises that more needs to be done at local level to provide a greater range of experiences and opportunities for children and specifically identifies play as part of one of its objectives.

'Children will have access to play, sport, recreation and cultural activities to enrich their experience of childhood'.

The Programme for Government (2002) contained a commitment that:

'We will develop a National Play and Recreation Policy which will aim to ensure that all children have access to at least a minimum standard of play and recreation facilities'.

The National Play Policy was launched in 2004. This policy is about creating better play opportunities for children and provides a framework for future development. The objective of the policy is to plan for an increase in public play facilities and improve the quality of life for children living in Ireland, by providing them with more play opportunities. The policy also addresses issues of funding, standard and quality of play facilities. This policy recognises, from a Government perspective, the importance of play and a commitment to make sure that play is facilitated for all children.



## Local

The 'Kilkenny Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study' (2003) undertaken by Kilkenny Local Authorities is a comprehensive study for the city and county. The aim of the open space assessment was to review the existing open space resource in terms of function and quality, with the objective of establishing what is the existing capacity and potential to meet the city's and county's needs in terms of amenity and recreation and / or alternative uses of dysfunctional spaces as appropriate. This study highlighted the fact that 'There is no quality play provision within most open spaces surveyed.'

### It recommended that

*'in consultation with communities, plans for the improvement, maintenance and management of local facilities should be developed with an emphasis on the early provision of quality children's play areas.'*

### Consulting with Children in Kilkenny

In 2004 Kilkenny Local Authorities made a commitment to develop 5 play areas in the county, one play area per electoral area.

As part of the development of the five play areas Kilkenny Local Authorities made a commitment to consult with children and young people to gather their views in relation to how the play areas are developed. This was seen to be in accordance with the National Children's Strategy and the National Play Policy.

A detailed consultation process began with children in the 5 areas in November 2004. Kilkenny Local Authorities had already established an Inter-agency approach to consulting with children through the Comhairle na nÓg and Comhairle na bPáistí processes and have produced a document in relation to Best Practice when Consulting with Children.

A number of agencies who work with young people and children assisted the Local Authorities in shaping the consultation process i.e. The County Childcare Committee, Ossory Youth, Kilkenny Community Early Years Project, Newpark Close Family Resource Centre and the Health Service Executive. A children's facilitator was engaged and over a three month period 12 primary schools and four pre-schools took part in the process with a total of 458 children being consulted.

A report was compiled on the feedback and the information obtained at these consultation sessions were used by the Local Authorities in drawing up the design briefs for the playgrounds. This resulted in each of the playground design briefs being tailor made to suit the local need. The report and comments from the 458 children consulted was also used to inform the mission statement, aims and underlying principles of the Kilkenny County Play Policy.



# Developing the ~~Policy~~ and Implementation Plan



## – The Process

The following outlines the steps undertaken in the development of Kilkenny County Play Policy and Implementation Plan:

**Step 1:** Kilkenny Local Authorities initiated a process whereby 5 playgrounds were developed across the five electoral areas in the county. It was agreed that the learning from the process undertaken in the development of these playgrounds would be used to inform the development of a County Play Policy for Kilkenny, in line with the requirements of the National Play Policy (July 2004).

**Step 2:** Children's Consultation across the five electoral areas (November 2004 – January 2005).

**Step 3:** The Strategic Policy Committee 5 for Community and Enterprise including Arts, Culture, Heritage, Tourism & Education agreed a process of developing the Play Policy (June 2006).

**Step 4:** The Strategic Policy Committee 5 attended a one day facilitated workshop to set the broad parameters for the policy. At this workshop they recommended an Inter-agency Play Forum be established to develop the implementation plan. (July 2006).

**Step 5:** A presentation was made to the Kilkenny County Development Board at which the Board agreed to the establishment of this Inter-agency Play Forum (September 2006).

**Step 6:** The Inter-agency Play Forum was convened and three facilitated meetings took place where the group gave a commitment to work on developing a play implementation plan, agreed terms of reference, agreed a definition of play and developed an action plan (November / December 2006 and February 2007).

**Step 7:** Strategic Policy Committee 5 put forward as a recommendation for adoption as Policy the draft Kilkenny County Play Policy and Implementation Plan (March 2007).

**Step 8:** Kilkenny County Development Board endorsed the draft Kilkenny County Play Policy and Implementation Plan (March 2007).

**Step 9:** Kilkenny Play Policy and Play Implementation Plan were formally adopted by Kilkenny Local Authorities – Kilkenny County Council and Borough Council (May 2007).



# Policy Development Framework

*The rules of the game*

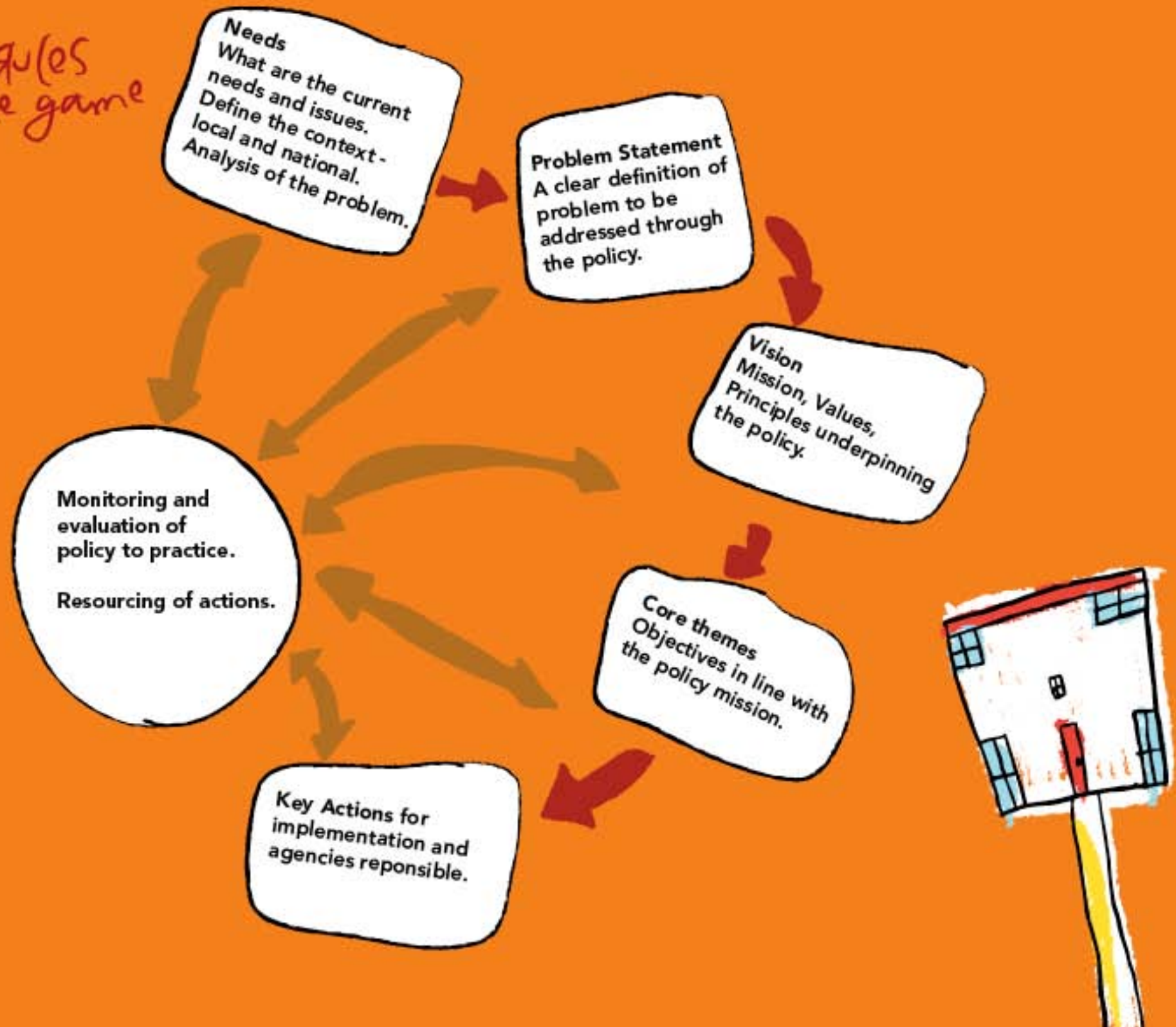
## Definition of Play

The Inter-agency Play Forum involved with the development of the Kilkenny Play Implementation Plan is in agreement with the National Play Policy definition of play and will use this definition to help guide the actions within this plan:

"Play is pleasurable, enjoyable. Even when not actually accompanied by signs of mirth, it is still positively valued by the player. Play has no extrinsic goals. Its motivations are intrinsic and serve no other objectives. In fact, it is more an enjoyment of means than an effort devoted to some particular end. In utilitarian terms, it is inherently unproductive. Play is spontaneous and voluntary. It is not obligatory but is freely chosen by the player. Play involves some active engagement on the part of the player." (Garvey, 1977, p10).

The Inter-agency Play Forum also identified the following to be included in any definition of play for local purposes:

Play is essential for children's social, physical, intellectual and creative development. Play actively engages the child. Its value lies in the child's creative will to determine play for him/herself whether actively with others or inactively as a lone activity. Play is an exploration into the world where the child sets the agenda and determines both the process and outcomes.



# Profile of County Kilkenny *the playground*

- The area of County Kilkenny covers 796 square miles. The county consists of a highly fertile central plain with uplands in the northeast, northwest and in the south. The River Nore bisects the County on a north / south axis. The Rivers Barrow and Suir are natural boundaries to the east and south of the county respectively.
- The population of the county is 80,339. Kilkenny City accounts for 20,735 and the county accounts for 59,604 of the population.
- The county is predominantly a rural county with 26% of the population living in urban Kilkenny and 74% of the population living outside the city.
- The main population centres outside the city are Ferrybank in the Waterford City Environs, Thomastown, Callan, Castlecomer, Graigueamanagh and Thomastown. Apart from the Ferrybank area these population centres amounts to less than 2000 per town.
- The population of the 0-14 age group is 18,079 which accounts for 23% of the overall population.

| Age   | Total | Males | Females | % of pop |
|-------|-------|-------|---------|----------|
| 0-4   | 6340  | 3209  | 3131    | 7.25     |
| 5-9   | 6268  | 3248  | 3020    | 7.17     |
| 10-14 | 6245  | 3184  | 3061    | 7.14     |
| Total | 18853 | 9641  | 9212    | 21.56    |

CSO 2006

- The county has five electoral areas – Ballyragget, Callan, Kilkenny, Piltown and Thomastown.

- There are 82 primary schools (including special schools) across the city and county.
- A total of 16 communities across Kilkenny City have been designated RAPID areas under strand two of the RAPID programme.
- 31 DEDs of rural Kilkenny have been identified as CLAR areas under the extended CLAR programme.
- Twenty DEDs within the county rank in the top three highest levels on the deprivation index. This accounts for 23% of the population.
- There are 5 regional public playgrounds in the county – Callan, Castlecomer, Eastern Environs of Kilkenny City, Mooncoin and Thomastown. There are smaller community playgrounds at Fr. McGrath Centre – Kilkenny City and Mullinavat Co. Kilkenny. There is also a public playground in the grounds of Kilkenny Castle.
- Currently, the average provision of public playgrounds across the city and county stands at 1 playground per 10,042 population.



# The game

## Mission Statement



'Every child has a right to enjoy play.'

Kilkenny Local Authorities aim to create a

- Child friendly and safe environment where the importance of play is recognised for a child's development.
- Society where all children have equal access to all forms of play.
- **ACTION-ORIENTED:** the planning and construction of public play environments and facilities must be child friendly and clearly focused on achieving specified results to agreed high standards in a targeted and cost-effective manner with on-going reviews.

### Principles underpinning Kilkenny Play Policy

- **CHILD-CENTRED:** in planning a child-friendly environment and public play facilities, the best interests of the child will be a primary consideration and children's wishes and feelings will be given due regard.
- **FAMILY / COMMUNITY - ORIENTED:** prioritise, publicly fund and maintain safe play environments in a manner which supports and empowers families within the community.
- **EQUITABLE:** all children should have equality of opportunity, access, and participation in publicly funded play. A key priority in promoting a more equitable society for children is to target investment in public play at those most in need – rural and urban.
- **INCLUSIVE:** the diversity of children's experiences, cultures, lifestyles and levels of ability must be recognised in the design and implementation of play policies and facilities.

- **INTEGRATED:** play policies and play facilities should be delivered in a co-ordinated manner through integrated local needs-analysis and policy planning.

who wins

# Aims of Kilkenny County Play Policy



1. To raise awareness of the importance of play for both adults and children.
2. To give children a voice by consulting and involving them in the development of play policies and the design of play environments and facilities.
3. To ensure that children's play needs are met through the development of a child-friendly environment.
4. To maximise the range of public play opportunities available to all children, particularly children from diverse cultural backgrounds, those with a disability and those who experience disadvantage.
5. To improve the quality and safety of playgrounds and play areas.
6. To ensure that the relevant training and skills development opportunities are available to persons, including volunteers, offering play and related services to children.
7. To develop a partnership approach that will improve coordination, information and funding prospects in the provision of play opportunities in the county. This will also encompass evaluation and monitoring of the relevant bodies involved.





## Action 1.

To build our stock collection in the area of information and support for playgroups, crèches, pre-school training, primary and secondary level. To provide access to and promote the use of these resources held in the libraries.

**Lead Agency.**  
Kilkenny Library Service.

## Action 2.

Remind Programme teachers to allocate a minimum of 8 minutes per 35 minute class for play with a purpose or just play.

**Lead Agency.**  
Kilkenny Local Authorities – Swimming Pool.

## Action 3.

Promote play with a purpose on public hours so as to increase parent and toddler participation and child attendances.

**Lead Agency.**  
Kilkenny Local Authorities – Swimming Pool.

## Action 4.

To explore how best to engage with the Department of Education & Science with a view to raising the profile of play, both formal and informal, in the school setting.

**Lead Agency.**  
Inter-agency Play Forum.

# Kilkenny Implementation Play Plan

*Aim 2: To give children a voice by consulting and involving them in the development of play policies and the design of play environments and facilities.*



## Action 5.

Utilise local facilitation to consult through the schools or other relevant structures at the earliest stage feasible for development in a specific area.

### Specific Initiatives:

- Kilkenny Local Authorities will explore the development of a consultation policy for the organisation, of which consulting with children will form a part.

### Lead Agency:

Kilkenny Local Authorities.

- Loughboy Area Resource Centre will be available to consult with children participating in LARC programmes, where appropriate.

### Lead Agency

Loughboy Area Resource Centre.

- Newpark Close Family Resource Centre will be available to consult with children participating in their programmes from pre-school age groups to youth groups, where appropriate.

### Lead Agency

Newpark Close Family Resource Centre.

## Action 6.

Invite suggestions from school children as to what times should be available for children to play at the pool and as to what games should be facilitated.

### Lead Agency

Kilkenny Local Authorities – Swimming Pool in conjunction with primary schools and teachers.

## Action 7.

Invite Parents to use suggestion box as to what times and equipment should be available to parents and toddlers.

### Lead Agency.

Kilkenny Local Authorities – Swimming Pool.

## Action 8.

Develop playground marking stencils to be used for painting games onto play areas to encourage involvement of the community including children and young people in the design and development of their play areas.

### Lead Agency.

Health Services Executive – Health Promotion Department.

## Action 9.

Kilkenny Local Authorities will use its powers under the Planning & Development Acts to ensure that adequate recreational open space and facilities are provided for all groups of the population at a convenient distance from their homes and places of work.

### Specific Initiatives:

- The Kilkenny County Play Policy will be included as part of the new County & City Development Plans.

### Lead Agency

Kilkenny Local Authorities.

## Action 10.

In the planning for a new Central library and in the refurbishment and development of existing service points, attention will be given to the following:

- The needs of under 5's, primary school children and children with special needs in terms of space, furniture, shelving, ICT, audiovisual and other equipment, library stock and services.
- How games, play equipment and toys can be used to enhance skills such as reading and spelling for under 5's, for children with special needs and from different cultural backgrounds.
- The children's area of the library will be relaxed, safe informal and accessible to all, with bright colours, posters, and where possible activity areas.

### Lead Agency.

Kilkenny Library Service.

## Action 11.

Encourage use of our specialised computer programmes for those researching play/play resources that has visual or reading impediments.

### Lead Agency.

Kilkenny Library Service.

## Action 12.

Look for increase in a Budget for equipment

### Lead Agency

Kilkenny Local Authorities – Swimming Pool.

## Action 13.

Provide a Parent and Toddler demarcation area in the pool on specific sessions.

### Lead Agency

Kilkenny Local Authorities – Swimming Pool.

## Action 14.

Enforce more strictly rules of supervision.

### Lead Agency

Kilkenny Local Authorities – Swimming Pool.

## Action 15.

Provide support to schools and communities interested in putting down playground markings in their area, including the provision of playground markings booklet, stencils and delivery of workshop on traditional games for adults and children.

### Lead Agency.

Health Services Executive – Health Promotion Department.



*Aim 4: To maximise the range of public play opportunities available to all children, particularly children from diverse cultural backgrounds, those with a disability and those who experience disadvantage.*



## Action 16.

Undertake a review of all disadvantaged areas and draw up an action plan to address the gaps in play and recreation facilities in each area.

### Specific Initiatives:

- Kilkenny Local Authorities will carry out research on existing LA Housing Estates throughout the city and county, which will address the following:
  - Establish what is currently there in terms of facilities and space.
  - Consult in terms of the current needs.
  - Map the findings.

### Lead Agency

Kilkenny Local Authorities – Housing & GIS Departments.

## Action 17.

Promote safe play activities and the integration of Traveller Children into local areas.

### Specific Initiatives:

- Develop play facilities on site and in local communities.

### Lead Agency

Kilkenny Local Authorities – Housing Department.

- Develop a Barrel-Top Wagon Play Project – this involves the design of and building of a barrel-top play wagon by Traveller adults with input from children.

### Lead Agency

Kilkenny Traveller Community Movement in conjunction with KCAN.

## Action 18.

Continue to run play schemes for 6-12 year olds at Easter and Summer in Scanlon Park.

### Lead Agency

Kilkenny Local Authorities – Scanlon Park.

## Action 19.

Continue to provide parent and toddler story time, book clubs and craft sessions regularly in selected library branches.

### Lead Agency

Kilkenny Library Service.

## Action 20.

Target specific schools and neighbourhoods in promoting school holiday usage of pool.

### Lead Agency

Kilkenny Local Authorities – Swimming Pool in conjunction with KCAN.



## Action 21.

Agencies will consult with design specialists adhering to the local Play Policy definition of play.

### Specific Initiatives:

- Kilkenny Local Authorities will continue to consult with design specialists when developing playgrounds and play areas.

#### Lead Agency

Kilkenny Local Authorities.

- Kilkenny Library Service will consult with relevant design specialists when planning new library buildings and upgrading children's areas.

#### Lead Agency

Kilkenny Library Service.

## Action 22.

Ensure funding for the maintenance and upgrading of existing play facilities and areas.

### Specific Initiatives:

- Kilkenny Local Authorities will take responsibility for ensuring the maintenance of public playgrounds under their care on a weekly, quarterly and annual basis.

#### Lead Agency

Kilkenny Local Authorities – Parks Department

- Kilkenny County Library Service will set aside an allocation of funding each year for maintenance and upgrading of children's areas and facilities in libraries.

#### Lead Agency

Kilkenny Library Service.

*Aim 6: To ensure that the relevant training and skills development opportunities are available to persons, including volunteers, offering play and related services to children.*



\*The Buntús Programme is developed and implemented by the Participation Unit of the Irish Sports Council (ISC). The Local Sports Partnerships deliver the Buntús play and Buntús multi-sport programmes to support teachers and other adults in introducing young people to sport, and in helping them to develop their interests. The Buntús Programme is delivered in support of the physical education programme.

## Action 23:

Initiate a pilot of the Buntús Start Programme\* in Kilkenny (Ages 2-5).

### Specific Initiatives:

- Secure funding for the delivery of Buntús Start Programme in Kilkenny.
- Organisation, promotion and delivery of Buntús Start training and equipment for play providers in County Kilkenny.
- Monitoring & Evaluation of the programme.

### Lead Agency:

Kilkenny Recreation and Sports Partnership in conjunction with Kilkenny County Childcare Committee & Health Service Executive.

## Action 24:

Highlight the need for recreation and fun activities, rather than competition, for children, through the delivery of the Buntús Programme in Primary Schools (Ages 4-12).

### Specific Initiatives:

- Ensure the full delivery of Buntús Generic & Sports Specific to the primary schools in Kilkenny who wish to partake in the programme.

# Kilkenny Implementation Play Plan

- Organise and deliver refresher training for schools and new teachers.

#### Lead Agency:

Kilkenny Recreation and Sports Partnership.

#### Action 25:

Co-ordinate training courses where possible, to suit the needs identified.

#### Specific Initiatives:

- Co-ordination, promotion and delivery of Code of Ethics courses for adults involved in the organisation or delivery of sports/physical activity for children.

#### Lead Agency:

Kilkenny Recreation and Sports Partnership.

#### Action 26:

Kilkenny County Childcare Committee will continue to provide training to childcare providers as part of their strategy action 'Listening to Children'.

In addition to the training, the availability of a significant increase in literature on listening to and consulting with children and general children's rights material in the Kilkenny County Childcare resource library, supports this action.

#### Lead Agency:

Kilkenny County Childcare Committee.

#### Action 27:

The Library Service will act as an informal educational, recreational and cultural resource for childcare practitioners, childcare students, tutors and their charges through the library stock and services including requests, block loans, inter-library loans group visits etc.

#### Lead Agency:

Kilkenny Library Service.

#### Action 28:

To run regular programme of assistant swim teachers, swim teachers and life guard courses.

#### Specific Initiatives:

- At least one course in each offered per year.

#### Lead Agency:

Kilkenny Local Authority – Swimming Pool in conjunction with Swim Ireland, MWS, RLSS and Kilkenny Recreation and Sports Partnership.

#### Action 29:

To make mandatory that all teachers, coaches etc using the pool have completed code of ethics course.

#### Lead Agency:

Kilkenny Local Authority – Swimming Pool in conjunction with Kilkenny Recreation and Sports Partnership.

#### Action 30:

To ensure that under 5's in community based childcare settings have access to arts activity.

#### Specific Initiatives:

- To extend arts activity workshops beyond the 10 already targeted community based childcare facilities in the city and county.
- To develop the skills and confidence of crèche workers in utilising arts activities with children in childcare settings.

#### Lead Agency:

Kilkenny Local Authorities - Arts Office.

#### Action 31:

To provide resources to people involved in offering play related services to children, including teachers, parents and childcare workers. e.g. 'Let's get Physical – Pocket Play Pack', 'Bizzy Break – Physical Activity Break for Children', 'Get Kids on the Go' booklet.

#### Lead Agency:

Health Services Executive – Health Promotion Department.

#### Action 32:

Continue to provide in-service training to primary school teachers in co-operative games, playground markings and the importance of formal and informal play as part of our physical activity summer course.

#### Lead Agency:

Health Services Executive – Health Promotion Department.

#### Action 33:

The Inter-agency group will provide information in relation to training, relating to play in Kilkenny.

#### Specific initiatives:

- Each individual agency will bring information to the Inter-agency Play Forum from their own agencies in relation to any 'training' they are involved in relating to play.
- Once this information is brought to the table the Inter-agency Play Forum will then discuss with a view to deciding how best to collate and disseminate this information.

#### Lead Agency:

Inter-agency Play Forum.

*Aim 7: To develop a partnership approach that will improve coordination, information and funding prospects in the provision of play opportunities in the county; this will also encompass evaluation and monitoring of the relevant bodies involved.*



## Action 34:

Establish a sub-structure of the County Development Board to link the relevant agencies with responsibility for providing play opportunities. This will be known as the Inter-agency Play Forum. The role of this sub-structure will be to:

- Develop a process to facilitate co-operation and partnership so as to lead to improved co-ordination and information in relation to play provision in the county.
- Highlight the importance of play.
- Identify their role in raising awareness.

### Specific Initiatives:

The C&E Department of the Local Authority will support and facilitate the Inter-Agency Play Forum to meet on an agreed regular basis.

#### Lead Agency:

Kilkenny Local Authorities- Community and Enterprise Department.

## Action 35:

To explore ways of optimising / sharing the use of existing resources by addressing barriers that prevents partnership.

### Specific Initiatives:

- To continue to explore ways of optimising/ sharing the use of existing resources.

#### Lead Agency:

Kilkenny Recreational Sports Partnership.

- Encourage and participate in co-operation between Arts, Heritage & Libraries to facilitate sharing events, resources and knowledge.

#### Lead Agency:

Kilkenny Library Service in conjunction with Arts and Heritage Departments of Kilkenny Local Authorities.

## Action 36:

To encourage the continued professional development of staff in the Swimming Pool facility.

#### Lead Agency:

Kilkenny Local Authority – Swimming Pool.

## Action 37:

The Inter-agency Play Forum will explore the development of an information page on Play for the [www.kilkenny.ie](http://www.kilkenny.ie) website.

#### Lead Agency:

Inter-agency Play Forum.

## Action 38:

To undertake a mapping exercise that identifies existing play services, facilities and amenities as well as highlights gaps in these areas across the county.

### Specific initiatives:

- Each individual agency will gather information in relation to the work of their own organisation relating to existing play services, facilities and amenities.
- This information will be brought by the different agencies to the Inter-agency Play Forum, who will then collate this information and explore how best to utilise this information.
- Following analysis of the information and identification of gaps across the county, the Inter-Agency Play Forum will develop a plan of action as to how to address these gaps.

#### Lead Agency:

Inter-agency Play Forum.

## The RAPID Programme

The RAPID Programme is a Government initiative, which targets 45 of the most disadvantaged areas in the country. The programme aims to ensure that priority attention is given to these designated areas by focusing State resources available under the National Development Plan. The Programme also requires the Government Departments and State Agencies to bring about better co-ordination and closer integration in the delivery of services. Here in Kilkenny the RAPID programme covers 15 communities within Kilkenny City.

1. The RAPID AIT (Area Implementation Team) will ensure that all RAPID recreational funded projects will consult with children in the development of projects.
2. The RAPID programme will continue to identify recreational needs in the identified communities through ongoing consultation.
3. The RAPID programme targets the most disadvantaged areas in Kilkenny city.
4. The RAPID projects will adhere to the national guidelines.
5. The RAPID Area Implementation Team will continue to take a partnership approach.
6. The RAPID Area Implementation Team will work to improve coordination and information, including evaluation and monitoring of all relevant bodies in relation to play provision in the designated areas of the city.



# Implementation, Monitoring and Review

The current County Play Implementation Plan will be completed over a two year period. The plan is envisioned to have a rolling or cyclical planning process whereby actions can be updated and identified on a continuous basis. This will allow for new actions to be identified when relevant and also leave room for agencies who have not engaged in the initial process to come on board over time.

The Inter-agency Play Forum will be responsible for the implementation of the plan. The terms of reference for this group are as follows:

Purpose:

1. To oversee the co-ordinated delivery, monitoring and review of actions\*.
2. To work with respective agencies in building on their existing actions for play and the children they are involved with.
3. To work with respective agencies in developing appropriate actions for their agency and the children they are involved with in line with actions undertaken in the plan.
4. Each individual agency will set outcomes and targets for their actions.
5. To provide feedback to SPC 5 and Kilkenny County Development Board in relation to progress on actions on a bi-annual basis.
6. To undertake an overall evaluation process in relation to the progress of the action plan and the play forum structure at the end of the two year plan period.

**\*Monitoring-** each lead agency will take responsibility for collecting information in relation to their actions. A template for information will be developed to ensure uniformity of information gathered.

**Review-** Information in relation to the actions will be feedback to the forum. The information will then be collated and reported to SPC 5 and the CDB on a bi-annual basis.

**Evaluation-** will be undertaken after a 2 year period and will involve the Inter-agency Play Forum, SPC 5 and the CDB. Internal and external options will be explored.



## Appendix 1:

### *Members of Strategic Policy Committee 5 for Community and Enterprise including Arts, Culture, Heritage, Tourism & Education*

Cllr. Ann Phelan, Chairperson  
Cllr. Tommy Brennan  
Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh  
Cllr. John Coonan  
Jackie Kennedy  
Breda MacDonald  
Colin O'Drisceoll  
Michael O'Brien  
Joe Reidy

\* Facilitation of workshops and process: Brid Hynes, Lindsey Butler, Community and Enterprise Development Officers.



## Appendix 2:

### *Members of Kilkenny County Development Board*

Cllr. Paul Cuddihy, Chairperson  
Cllr. Bobby Aylward  
Cllr. John Brennan  
Martin Carroll  
David Culliton  
Michael Cummins  
Rodger Curran  
Eileen Curtis  
Michael Dee  
Jarlath Fallon  
Joan Fitzpatrick  
Fr. Nicholas Flavin  
Phil Funchion  
Cllr. William Ireland  
Cllr. Michael Lanigan  
Anna Marie Lanigan  
Michael Malone - County Manager\*  
Supt. Pat Mangan  
Breda McDonald  
Celine McHugh  
Sean McKeown  
Yvonne Moriarty  
Declan Murphy  
Loreto O'Driscoll  
Cllr. Seán O'hArgáin  
Cllr. Ann Phelan  
Seamus Phelan  
Martin Rafter  
Declan Rice  
Des Shanley

\*from Sept 2007 - Joe Crockett



## Appendix 3:

### Members of Kilkenny Inter-agency Play Forum to date

Ber Brophy, Newpark Close Family Resource Centre

Kate Carroll, Loughboy Area Resource Centre

Ann Daly, St. Johns School Home School Community Liaison Officer

Sharon Delaney, Callan Community Network

Liz Dermody, Community Representative - Castlecomer

Sheila Donnelly, Newpark Close Family Resource Centre

Alicia Dunphy, Kilkenny Library Service

Barbara Gunn, Kilkenny County Childcare Committee

Nicola Keeshan, Kilkenny Recreation & Sports Partnership

Aisling Kelly, Kilkenny Library Service

Justin Maher, Scouting Ireland

Martina Blake/Meabh McGuinness, Health Service Executive – Health Promotion Unit

Tom Morris, Kilkenny Local Authorities

Gretta Murphy, Kilkenny County Childcare Committee

Stephan Murphy, Fr. McGrath Family Resource Centre

Johannes Nyawata, Droichead Family Resource Centre, Callan

Billy O'Keefe, Community Representative - Mooncoin

Cllr. Ann Phelan, Chairperson SPC5

Deirdre Power, Kilkenny County Childcare Committee

Nicolas Murphy, Special Olympics

Fergus Horgan, Kilkenny Cohesion Group

\* Facilitation of workshops and process: Brid Hynes, Lindsey Butler Community and Enterprise Development Officers

## Appendix 4:

### Members of Kilkenny Local Authorities Inter-departmental Team

Stuart Gethings, Parks Department

Evelyn Graham, Housing, Technical

Dearbhala Ledwidge, Heritage Officer

Denis Malone, Forward Planning

Tom Morris, Parks Department

Claire Murphy, Parks Department

Ronan Ryan, RAPID Coordinator

Tony Walsh, Community & Enterprise

Simon Walton, Environment

Mary Butler, Arts Officer

\* Facilitation of meetings: Brid Hynes, Lindsey Butler Community and Enterprise Development Officers



## Appendix 5:

### List of Schools that took part in the consultation

Ballyragget Area: Community Contact: Martin Carroll, Liz Dermody

| School Name                      | Principal/contact | Address     | Phone number |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Castlecomer Boys National School | John Kelly        | Castlecomer | 056-4441774  |
| Convent National School          | Nuala Horan       | Castlecomer | 056-4441426  |
| Wandesford National School       | Ann Byrne         | Castlecomer | 056-4441517  |

Piltown Area: Community Contact: Billy O'Keefe, John Crowley

| School Name                    | Principal/contact | Address                  | Phone number |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Carrigeen National School      | Dan Dineen        | Carrigeen, Via Waterford | 051-895423   |
| Mooncoin National School       | Esther Howley     | Mooncoin, Via Waterford  | 051-895503   |
| National School Mhuire Lourdes | Pat Duggan        | Mooncoin, Via Waterford  | 051-895411   |

Thomastown Area: Community Contact: PJ Whelan, Seamus O'Brien

| School Name               | Principal/contact  | Address              | Phone number |
|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Scoil Naomh Tobair Mhuire | Brendan O'Sullivan | Ladywell, Thomastown | 056-7724633  |
| Thomastown Convent        | Margaret Walsh     | Thomastown           | 056-7724290  |

Kilkenny City Area: Community Contact: Gladys Bowles, Mags Leahy

| School Name           | Principal/contact | Address                  | Phone number |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| St. John's Jr. School | Mary Weadick      | Michael St. Kilkenny     | 056-7762888  |
| St. John's Sr. School | Pádraig O'Neill   | Ballybought St. Kilkenny | 056-7763528  |

Callan Area: Community Contact: Sharon Delaney, Noel Cullen

| School Name        | Principal/contact | Address | Phone number |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------|--------------|
| Scoil Mhuire       | Louise Phelan     | Callan  | 056-7725674  |
| Scoil na mBraithre | John Moloney      | Callan  | 056-7725572  |

### List of Pre-schools participating in Consultation – Play

| Pre-School Name                      | Address                                   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Little Rascals Playgroup Quarrymount | Polerone, Mooncoin                        |
| Carrigeen Community Playschool       | Carrigeen                                 |
| St. John's Community Playschool      | St. John's Church Basement, Kilkenny City |
| Kids Inc. Crèche & Montessori,       | 10/11 Lintown Way, Johnswell Rd, Kilkenny |

## Appendix 6:

### Glossary of Terms

| Kilkenny Local Authorities | Kilkenny County Council and Kilkenny Borough Council                          |
|----------------------------|---|
| CDB                        | County Development Board  |
| LA                         | Local Authorities   |
| GIS                        | Geographic Information Systems  |
| ICT                        | Information Communication Technology  |
| KCAN                       | Kilkenny Community Action Network   |
| FRC                        | Family Resource Centre  |
| SPC                        | Strategic Policy Committee  |
| KRSP                       | Kilkenny Recreation and Sports Partnership                                    |
| IWS                        | Irish Water Safety  |
| RLSS                       | Royal Life Saving Society   |
| C&E                        | Community and Enterprise Department   |
| AIT                        | Area Implementation Team  |
| RAPID                      | Revitalising Areas by Planning Investment and Development                     |
| CLÁR                       | Cearntair Laga Árd-Riachtanais -targeted investment programme in rural areas. |