



## Performance Reward Grant Scheme

### APPLICATION FORM

To be returned to:

[wiltshirelaa@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:wiltshirelaa@wiltshire.gov.uk)

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| Area Board   | Name of Area Board   |   |
| Form submitted by<br>(contact for all queries)                               | Action for Children,   |   |
| Name of initiative   |  |   |
| Brief Description of Initiative  | <p>Action for Children has been running a Play Ranger Initiative in Salisbury for over 4 years. Play rangers provide open access play opportunities in open spaces to children age 5-13 and especially targets vulnerable children in Salisbury's most deprived neighbourhoods. Play rangers provide structured play to children who spent a lot of time outside, often unsupervised, and feedback from neighbourhood forums and the police confirms the service reduces problem behaviour from that age group. The Project has received joint funding from the big Lottery and from Wiltshire Children and Family Trust Board. Action for Children is preparing a lottery grant for 2011, to continue the project in Salisbury; extend it to rural areas of Wiltshire and make the project sustainable through community involvement and training parents to become play ranger volunteers.</p> |   |
| Please put a cross against the ambition(s) that this initiative will support | Building resilient communities   | X |
|  | Improving affordable housing   |   |
|  | Lives not services   | X |
|  | Supporting economic growth   | X |
|  | Safer communities  | X |
|  | Protecting the environment   | X |
|  | Action for Wiltshire – combating the recession   |   |
| Amount of funding sought   | £ 15,000   |   |

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| <p>What will this money be spent on? (please show split between capital and revenue. For capital expenditure guidance – see Appendix 1 in the Bid Pack)</p> | <p>This money will be spent on the revenue costs for continuing the service.</p> <p>The continuation of a Play ranger service for vulnerable children in the most deprived areas of Salisbury.</p> <p>To undertake a research activity to assess the best locations to develop the service and reach the maximum target group. This will form the basis for our Lottery bid.</p> <p>We have appointed a young person from the Future Job Fund to provide a male influence into the sessions and support this research.</p> <p>The benefit of this project is the use of open spaces, which is beneficial for children’s health and does not make use of any venue.</p>   |
| <p>Please describe how your initiative will support the ambition(s) indicated above, and summarise the action that will be taken</p>                        | <p>Play Rangers will provide services for children in the most disadvantaged areas of Salisbury. Play rangers make use of the environment to promote safe play and work closely with schools and communities to reduce anti social behaviour and identify families in need of additional support.</p> <p>Play Rangers have joined the Future Job Fund to give young people an opportunity to develop skills to enhance their future employment opportunities.</p> <p>We have been advised that we have a strong case for a Lottery Application to not only continue the service in Salisbury but extend this to other areas using communities to promote and support this service, thus strengthening community cohesion and enabling parents to become involve in play.</p> <p>Report attached.</p> |
| <p>What makes this initiative a local priority (eg evidence from research and local support)</p>  | <p>Play rangers have received funding from the lottery until April 2011. Annual funding from Wiltshire Family and Children Trust Board to continue the project was has been awarded only until October 2010. Wiltshire Family and Children Trust Board’s criteria for funding have changed with emphasis placed on front line services. This has left a shortfall to continue the service in its present form.</p> <p>The project receives a lot of support from local community boards such as Friary Task Group and Bemerton Heath Neighbourhood Multi Agency Forum.</p>   |

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| How will you know you have been successful?   | The Project provides quarterly reports for the lottery commission which has indicated that on average between 18 – 20 children attend the sessions. We will continue to request feedback from service users, parents and community groups. Number of children who have attended the service between Jan. and March 2010: Friary 56: individual children<br>Bemerton heath: 103 individual children<br>Old Sarum : 28 individual children. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How will you measure the impact? (may have more than one measure)</li> </ul>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of children attending the service</li> <li>Reduction of anti social behaviour in areas serviced.</li> <li>Improved behaviour in schools.</li> <li>Feedback from parents and community forums.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is your improvement target (s), and when do you expect to achieve this/these?</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We aim to reach between 20-25 children at any one session.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How will you ensure that the improvement continues after the end of the initiative?</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We aim to recruit and train parents and people from the community as Play rangers to enable them to provide sessions either unaided or with limited professional support.</li> <li>We are in the process of applying for lottery money to continue the project for a further 4 years.</li> </ul>   |
| Who will benefit from this initiative?  | Children and families living in the most deprived areas of Salisbury namely : The Friary; Bemerton Heath, Old Sarum<br>As well as local schools: St. Martins'/ Stratford sub Castle and Woodlands.  |
| Confirm no unfunded commitments from this initiative  | Please delete the statement that does not apply:<br>1. I confirm that there will be no unfunded financial commitments arising from this initiative.   |
| What are the key risks to success and how will these be managed?  | Ensuring full staffing ratio has proved difficult, however we have access to some volunteers and have appointed 1 play ranger and 1 play worker from Future Job Fund .  |
| Who will manage the initiative  | Action for children,  |

Signed:

Chairman of Area Board

Dated:



## **Play Rangers Project**

Action for Children has been providing a Play Ranger's Service in Salisbury for the past 5 years. The project is now working at full capacity in the areas that were identified to have the highest need.

This very popular project has received a lot of positive feedback from a wide range of agencies including Wiltshire Play Partnership; Gill Hanlan Acting Head of Early Years and Child Care and Ian Brown, Head of Amenities and Leisure, Wiltshire. The service has been developed to provide play activities to children who have difficulty in accessing structured play opportunity for a variety of reasons. It is especially accessible to children from disadvantaged background, young carers and has also been attended by children with a disability and their carer.

The service is provided at the same time at the same place and all year round. Children and families can depend on the presence of the Play Rangers to provide a safe and stimulating environment for play at specifically identified times and locations.

As the service targets children from disadvantaged backgrounds it has proven to be a valuable preventative service through promoting safe environment for play, providing examples of team games and sporting activities possible in open spaces which are duplicated by children and their families at other times. Many children come from disadvantaged backgrounds, where poverty, unemployment and mental ill health prevent them joining other forms of leisure. As the activities take place within the immediate community children can attend alone, but parents often come to join the sessions for short periods bringing siblings.

Play Ranger's provide a very child led service where children and parents are actively involved in shaping the services.

### **Service Provision**

At present Play Ranger's provide services at the Friary, Bemerton Heath (in two locations) Old Sarum and Bishopdown after school from 4- 6pm and during school holidays . Provision is adapted in the summer holidays when play days are often organised together with other agencies. Parents are encouraged to join in where ever possible and volunteers are recruited to provide additional help.

In addition to the 7 Sessions in open spaces, Play Rangers also provide play activities at lunchtime in 3 schools: Woodlands; Stratford Sub Castle and St. Martin's, which are much valued sessions that have improved the children's interaction with each other, their ability to play independently in team games and play in harmony during unstructured play times.

### **Benefits of the service.**

The Play Rangers provide open access play and encourage children and parents to pay respect to their immediate environment by encouraging children to make the best use of available open spaces without damaging the area they play. Play rangers situate themselves in Salisbury's most deprived areas and emphasis is placed on providing a preventative service for the most vulnerable children.

Police confirm that this provision has reduced criminal behaviour in the neighbourhood by children in this age group.

Attending school sessions has promoted multi-agency working and engagement with parents and good communication with the school further safeguards children as families (and more specifically the hard to reach families) can be referred for additional support. This involvement with the school provides a good channel to promote the service to children and parents.

Action for Children manages 7 children centres in South Wiltshire, and Play Rangers work closely with Children's Centres to provide joint services such as family play days during school holidays which has strengthened families and strengthened communities by sharing the responsibility for safe play. Joint working has improved our access to the 'hard to reach' families and has enabled additional support by outreach workers from the Children's centres. Many families have or are receiving Outreach support, or are attending Children Centres through Play rangers intervention.

### **Extending the service significantly.**

Funding for this project will come to an end in April 2010. We are in the process of applying for Lottery funding for an extended Prevention for Vulnerable Children Service. More emphasis will be placed on accessing children with special needs and young carers, work in partnership with Action for Children Outreach Service for children over 5 and with Children's Centre Services and work with other Projects such as 'Freetime' to promote access to leisure activities and sports.

The service will be extended to rural areas in South Wiltshire and will aim to recruit and train parents and members of the community to become volunteers to make this service self sustaining, support families and strengthen communities.

Martie Stanwell  
24/05/2010