

Community Play Boxes

Report card

Description

Work with organisations/volunteers to introduce storage play boxes within public open spaces providing children with access to loose parts to enhance their opportunities for play. Boxes are managed by organisations or local volunteers.

Policy instigators and drivers

- Play Sufficiency Duty
- Wrexham County Borough Council open space strategy

People instigators and drivers

- Local volunteers
- Community councils
- Wrexham County Borough Council Play and Youth Support Team
- Wrexham County Borough Council environment department

Resources/enablers

- All Wales Play Opportunities Grant
- Development of briefing paper
- Play boxes
- Loose parts

Process

- Circulation of briefing paper and engagement from interested groups
- Securing permission and insurance for installation of the play boxes
- Training for volunteers
- Sourcing and replenishing resources
- Ongoing support when required

Challenges

- Permission for installation of the play boxes at site
- Identifying roles and responsibilities – insurance, maintenance, replenishing resources
- Change of personnel/circumstances involved in project can lead to breakdown in regular opening of the play boxes
- Ensuring that loose parts are suitable, plentiful and of high quality

Outputs/outcomes

- Further enhances the potential opportunities offered by a space for children's play
- Presents an opportunity for local residents to become actively involved in supporting children's play – contributing to increased community cohesion
- Promotes children's permission to play in a broader range of public open spaces by providing people with an indication that play is welcome in these areas