

# Play today

NATIONAL PLAYWORK CONFERENCE SPECIAL MARCH 2018

**Play  
England**  
Freedom to play



## Play England calls for national funding for Play

With the latest report by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) showing girls spending more time involved in play activities than boys, Play England is highlighting how the chronic funding crisis on the play sector means girls in particular are missing out on play opportunities. The ONS report 'Children's engagement with the outdoors and sports activities, UK: 2014 to 2015' shows that whilst boys spent longer on sports activities, girls spent more of their time in play activities – 127 minutes per day compared to boys at 96 minutes.

Yet government's investment in play has been cut from £235 million prior to 2010 to zero in 2018. Between 2012 and 2017, Sport England received £1 billion from the government and National Lottery funding. Play England is calling for these levels of national funding to be made available for play.

Download our model letter to MPs here: <http://bit.ly/2FgvxHx>

## Play England calls for Adventure Playgrounds in London developments

Play England has welcomed the Mayor of London's New Draft London Plan which includes a Policy on Play and Informal Recreation. It states that London Boroughs undertake audits of existing play and informal recreation provision, make assessments of need, and produce strategies on play and informal recreation facilities. Play England has made a submission calling for adventure playgrounds be included in all new developments.

See Play England's submission:  
<http://bit.ly/2ozXYKh>



## New resources!

'Staffed play provision – why it's important' explains how playworkers in staffed play provision provide a crucial public service to local families and children and urges councils to halt damaging cuts to play provision.

Download it here:  
<http://bit.ly/2E9WBrZ>

'Open access play provision – why it's important' explains what makes them different to other play provision and the unique benefits they offer, particularly to some of our most vulnerable children and young people.

Download it here:  
<http://bit.ly/2F48bZG>





## Shiremoor Adventure Playground lead the way on Quality in Play

Congratulations to Shiremoor Adventure Playground — the latest play organisation to be accredited with Quality in Play (QiP), Play England's quality assurance system for playwork practitioners. QiP is about helping providers demonstrate quality and value for money whilst creating and maintaining excellent staffed play environments. Keeks McGarry, Manager of Shiremoor said "QIP status it's given the team credibility and confidence. Its helped us to focus on what we provide as professional playworkers and we've used the accreditation as evidence of quality in funding bids. QIP has helped us to develop good, mutually respected relationships in the local and wider community This has given us the opportunity to 'educate' some of these people and organisations in relation to the importance of play in the lives of children."



### Help us put play on the map!

Local play providers offer an absolutely crucial public service, making sure children and young people have access to high quality play provision.

Play England is launching '**play in your area**' – a new section on its website devoted to promoting local play organisations – to highlight the great play opportunities that exist for children and young people in England.

Check it out: <http://bit.ly/2FfDpfc>

We're developing a listings of all the local play organisations, who run Adventure Playgrounds, after-school clubs, half-term and summer activities, as well as specialised play provision for children and young people with additional needs.

If you know of a great playground and can't see it on our map, or you are a play provider offering free play opportunities but can't find your organisation listed, please complete **our on-line form** and we'll add you to our map!

Visit: <http://bit.ly/2FHG6UT>

Read Keek's full interview here: <http://bit.ly/2FIhsDR>

### Play England is expanding its Board of Trustees!

We're seeking people from a broad range of backgrounds with skills in HR and/or employment law, fundraising, and marketing in particular, as well as people from related sectors such as child psychology, social work, healthcare, teaching or youth work. Play England is committed to strengthening diversity and inclusion, to better understand and reflect the needs of the communities that we work with. The recruitment process is open to all, but we are particularly keen to hear from people from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) background, as these groups are currently underrepresented.

Trustees meet every two months in London, and can have reasonable travel expenses reimbursed, if necessary, to enable attendance. Outside of meetings, you'll be expected to engage in other tasks to support the charity.

If you have the skills we are seeking, have an interest in children's play and would like to contribute to our work, please email [info@playengland.net](mailto:info@playengland.net) for an application pack or download it from our website at <http://bit.ly/2Cy8Qff>

Completed application forms should be returned to [info@playengland.net](mailto:info@playengland.net) by Monday 30 April 2018.

#### It's free and easy to join Play England!

Just register online  
<http://www.playengland.org.uk/get-involved/join-us/>

**Help us spread the word!**  
Pick up a supply of our **new postcards** at the conference!

