

LCF Case Study

LCF
funding
£81,693

Adventure Playground

Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham (AVOW)

Background

AVOW identified a neglected, overlooked piece of land that they felt could be better utilised to serve the community. They wanted funding to turn it into an adventure playground with a difference - a child-empowering, junk playground.

A junk playground provides materials for children to create their own play areas. Materials include tires, wood, hammers, nails, pipes and ropes.

AVOW felt the concept of adventure playgrounds not being compatible with natural areas was wrong and that the natural piece of land would be maintained, enhanced and protected by the development. They felt the development would compliment the natural space because it would encourage children to play in and interact with the natural environment and would increase people's understanding of the local environment and also enhance biodiversity.

The planned facility aimed to utilise and maintain the existing natural features including trees, the water course and some of the planting.

Objectives and outcomes

The project aimed to provide the community of Plas Madoc with the opportunity to design, create and build an Adventure Playground. The Playground provides six days per week, year round open access to the adventure playground which enhances the current school holiday playscheme.



The project had two strands to the proposal:

1. The project expanded the opportunities currently available to children and young people in and around Plas Madoc through the creation of a new Adventure Play Area.
2. It enhanced the existing open access play model by providing a physical base for play, which complemented the current activities as



well as providing a different element to appeal to a wider group.

The project makes a significant contribution to local and national play strategies. The very essence of play promotes a healthy lifestyle the adventure playground enables children

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to develop enhanced peer networks which are imperative for their social and emotional security.

The presence and skills of the playworker provides opportunities for increased community safety which provides reassurance to the adults, children and young people on the estate. The enhancement of social networks in the community have been increased as members of the community have become encouraged to access the outdoors and spaces available to them.



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Further information

AVOW

www.avow.org/play-provision/

March 2014

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Additional information and images courtesy of <http://playgroundadventureuk.wordpress.com/2012/07/22/i-drove-to-wrex/>