

# Max Card Fun Day Evaluation

October 25<sup>th</sup>

## Temple Park Leisure Centre



## Description of the Event

The Max Card fun day was held on 25<sup>th</sup> October at Temple Park leisure centre in South Tyneside. Over 100 young people and parents/carers attended the day. The day was organised by The Culture and Leisure Sub group of the Multi-Agency Looked After Partnership.

The Culture and Leisure Sub work towards ensuring children and young people who receive Social Care Services have opportunities to develop personal and social skills, talents and abilities and to spend time in freely chosen play, cultural and leisure activities.

In particular the group aims to increase the number of disabled children who have access to inclusive play, leisure and cultural services including holiday play schemes, after school clubs and pre-school provision with appropriate support if necessary.



It is a multi agency group consisting of representatives from social care and health, children with disabilities team, the play section, sports development, the youth service, Custom's House, South Shields Museum and South Tyneside libraries.

The group works towards completing the individual actions identified in it's commissioning plan; one of which was to "Establish an annual multi-disciplinary event" with the aim of providing greater links with culture and leisure activity providers and encouraging the target group to "try out" activities which they may not have experienced before.



The MAX card Fun Day was organised to bring together young people who normally may face exclusion from, or lack confidence to attend, universal services and cultural provision. The sub group put together a range of activities intended to give the young people a taste of something and hopefully try it out again, in the future.

### Range of activities:

Multisports challenge	Bouncies	Facepainting
Dancing	Trampolining	Magician
Friendship bands	Storytelling	"Hobby Boxes"
Object handling	Whirling gonks!	Consultation
Music corners	Information stands	Parachute games

### Cost

The total cost of the event was over £2000 however members of the Culture and Leisure MALAP provided their services for free meaning that the actual cost was £500. This was paid for through the STAN network and Service Development Team.

### Multi-Agency Approach

The Multi-agency element of the event was one of the secondary aims and it was the groups intention to build strong links within the culture and leisure field as well as encouraging involvement from service providers from the health and social care directorate.

To meet this aim the MAX card fun day had input from:

STAN Network	Service Development Team	South Shields Museum	Customs House
Play Section	Sports Development	Particip8	The PLACE
Jane Fry Family Centre	Youth Service	SNIPS	Contact a Family
Tourist Information	Children's Information Service	Extended Schools	Temple Park Leisure Centre

### Evaluation by parents and children

The secondary aim of the event was to consult with young people and parents and cares about accessing cultural and leisure activities as well as evaluating the day itself.

### Parents

To enable us to gather information from parents we provided drinks vouchers with consultation questions on the back. To claim two free hot or cold drinks, parents needed to complete the



questions on the back. A total of 51 vouchers were completed and the answers were as follows:

### **Have You Enjoyed Today's Event?**

All 51 replies gave a very positive answer:

- "yes"
- "very enjoyable"
- "enjoyed this ever so much"
- "very enjoyable"
- "my child had a great day"
- "yes lots of interesting activities"
- "yes especially the sports"

### **Does Anything Stop You Accessing Leisure Activities With You Child/Children?**

Answers were 44 parents replied with a "no". Other comments were:

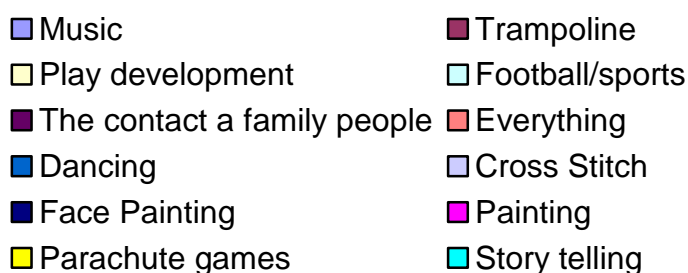
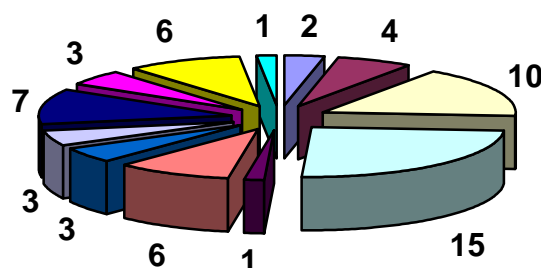
- Two parents said "cost"
- Three parents said "they didn't have enough time"
- One parent said that "transport was a barrier"
- One said "sometimes lift accessibility, waiting around/looking for staff to open the lift".



### **Which activity did your child enjoy the most?**

Activity	Number
Music	2
Trampoline	4
Play development	10
Football/sports	15
The contact a family people	1
Everything	6
Dancing	3
Cross stitch	3
Face Painting	7
Painting	3
Parachute games	6
Story telling	1

## Max Card Fun Day Events



### Could you suggest any improvements for future events?

38 parents answered "no" or could not make any suggestions.

4 parents felt that activities were too far apart and everything should have taken place in the hall.

2 parents said that we should undertake more advertising.

Other suggestions included:

"More activities"

"Less sport, more craft"

"More information - more children involved"

"Heating in storytelling room - it was freezing"

"More communication between organiser and staff"

"More staff to tell the children where things were happening, e.g. trampolining"

**Overall parents and children enjoyed the day.**

Other replies to this question included:

"It was perfect"

"It was great"

"Fab day"

"Well done!"

"Everything catered for"

"Keep it going, the day is well worth attending, well done"

Two parents replied that the only way we could improve was by having events more often.

## Children and Young People



Children and young people were asked to comment on three different areas; a) what activities/hobbies they liked to do in their spare time, b) suggestions for overcoming various problems/difficulties in accessing cultural and leisure activities, c) what they thought of the event itself and how it could be improved.

### A) What activities/hobbies they liked to do.

This activity was arranged by Particip8; the borough wide children's participation project. It consisted of asking the children what activities they would like to do and to decorate a cardboard box with this activity. The boxes eventually made "a wall of activities". The types of activities that the young people listed were; *going to youth club, playing instruments, skate boarding, playing with cats and kittens, doing arty things, watching Sunderland FC, horse riding, riding on trains, watching Newcastle FC, playing football, going to the seaside, playing with friends, looking at the stars, playing out.*



**b) Solving problems regarding accessing cultural activities.**

The young people were presented with eight different scenarios consisting of young people who needed help to access a cultural activity. Each scenario was different and young people could be as creative as possible in finding a solution.

The problems and the young people's solutions can be found below:

**Problem 1:**

"I've always wanted to join the brownies but I'm too shy and scared to go on my own. What can I do?" Sarah, aged 9.

**Some of the Young People's Solutions:**

Ask a friend to go with you

Go with a group of people

Go and have a try - if you like it keep going

Have a special group of brownies that are just like you

Have a special trip to the brownies with school or a club

**Problem 2:**

"I love playing football and I want to play for a proper club, but I don't know where any are. How can I find out?" Colin, aged 12.

**Some of the Young People's Solutions:**

Ask your teachers at school

Look in the newspapers

Look in the just for us newsletters

Go to Monkton stadium

Look on the internet

Go on the doucare website

Go to a youth club and ask

Start up your own team with your friends

**Problem 3:**

"I went to a museum with school and I really liked it. I want to go back with my family but my mam is ill and can't take me - how can I get there?" Simon, aged 10

**Some of the Young People's Solutions:**

Youth clubs or young carers

Organise max card trips

Go with a club

**Problem 4:**

"I used to love going down to the stables near my house to look after the horses. But now I live with foster carers and they don't know how much I enjoyed it. What can I do?" Chelsea, aged 8

**Some of the Young People's Solutions:**

Tell them how much you like it  
Tell them you like go to visit the horses  
Hire a bus  
Tell them how much you like it  
Make sure you tell them when you first go

**Problem 5:**

"I've been really poorly this year and I've been off school loads - I missed my school trip to Beamish, but now I want to go. How can I find out whether it's worth going?" Ben, aged 11

**Some of the Young People's Solutions:**

Ben could ask his friends  
Ask anyone from your school if they enjoyed it  
Ask a family member  
Go on the internet to find out or ask at school  
Ask people who have already been there  
Ask his mam  
Ask the school if it was good and how to get there  
Get other yp to write about it and say whether it's good

**Problem 6:**

"I asked my carer if we could go to a castle for a look around, she said that we didn't have a car and so we can't go. How can I get there?" Jordan, aged 7

**Some of the Young People's Solutions:**

Try and get a few friends to go on bus trip  
Make it cheaper  
Organise a special event  
Say it's something you would love to do  
Ask his brothers or sisters to take him  
Look on the website and it may give instructions on how to get there by public transport

**Problem 7:**

"I love finding out about the Romans and really want to visit a Roman fort but I don't know if my wheelchair will get in - How could I find out?" Sasha, aged 10

**Some of the Young People's Solutions:**

Pick up a leaflet it may tell you or ask people who work there

Tourist information or internet

Find a list of places with room for wheelchairs

Organise transport for Max card holders

Phone them

**Problem 8:**

"I've read all my books at home and my teacher told me to go to a library but I've never been before. My brother says he doesn't like reading and libraries are boring! So my carers wouldn't take me as we have to do things together - how can I persuade them to take me?"

Robin, aged 13

**Some of the Young People's Solutions:**

Go to the library at school

Go by yourself

Tell the family what's on at the library

Get them in the library somehow and they might see that it is good

Ask for a leaflet it may state what fun activities are on and your brother may change his mind

Organise special trips to libraries

**c) Evaluating the event**

The young people were given a "passport" when they first registered into the event. Each activity that they attended during the day awarded them a stamp on the passport. A questionnaire about what they thought of the day was on the back of the passport. Completed passports could be redeemed for a lucky dip prize and a STAN balloon! The results of the questionnaire can be found below (there were 63 respondees):

**1) How much fun did you have?**

All the young people said that they had lots of fun and had enjoyed it! 100% scored the day in the top choice possible!

**2) What could we do to make it better?**

Some of the suggestions were; to have a theme, to have everything in one room, to have some more heating, to have more time, to

provide things to buy, to have these events more often, to make the trampoline session longer. However the most popular answer was "nothing"!

**3) What was your favourite activity?**

The young people's favourite activities were the multi-sports challenge and the trampoline session closely followed by the bouncies and the friendship bands!

**4) What was your worst activity?**

Very few people had a "worst activity" but a couple of young people said that the dancing was the worst.

**Conclusion - what would we do differently?**

- 1) A suggestion that came through from the Young People, parents and providers was that we should try to keep the activities in one place rather than spread over a few different locations in the same building.
- 2) We also need to make sure that groups of children are accompanied by staff.
- 3) Some service users would like the event to be longer next time.
- 4) Some families and providers would like themed events.
- 5) Possibly ask families to confirm that they will attend - which would help us to provide the right amount of staff.