

## Action in rural Sussex Play Programme

Action in rural Sussex has been active in the field of Children and Young People's activities for many years. This is an exciting time in particular for play work, and in 2008-9 we will be providing targeted play opportunities in communities across Sussex, working in partnership with District Councils and other partners.

### Rother Supervised Play Provision

Funded through the National Lottery as part of the national play programme, Action in rural Sussex is working with **Rother District Council** and the other partners to deliver a programme of exciting, challenging, and locally focused play sessions initially across a two-year schedule. The programme will also build local engagement in play opportunities, and aim for some sessions to be continued with the support of local volunteers through building skills and capacity in communities.

#### The programme includes:

- **2 weekly term-time play sessions at appropriate times for 2-3 hours each session.** These regular sessions will take place in Bexhill in both years of the programme, and in 2 other locations in Rother (1 per year)
- **Roving play sessions.** Taking place on Saturdays to a regular programme, predominantly across the rural areas of the District, utilising open spaces, fixed facilities, and in sympathy with other events and activities. 3-4 hour sessions, with an average of 3 per month including holiday periods and special events
- **Innovative School Holiday sessions.** Complementary opportunities for the school holidays, in sympathy with other provision and to add new opportunities to those already available. Sessions of varying lengths.
- **Volunteer recruitment.** Enabling volunteers from local communities to assist in the provision of play opportunities, offering training and support as a way of building local capacity with the aspiration that play sessions will continue into the future
- **Play development.** Working with those seeking to provide localised play initiatives or develop additional opportunities based on our provision to ensure that this is done safely, sustainably, and in a high quality way.

The majority of sessions will focus on the needs of 8-13 year olds, with specific activities arranged in partnership with others for the 13-16 age range. Sessions will take place indoors and outdoors in a range of settings and communities. We want our play provision to:

- be free to access for young people
- be facilitated in a way that allows participants to take risks, work collaboratively, and design activities and future sessions
- engage holistically with participants to recognise their individual needs
- be designed to be as inclusive as possible, with targeted information to those families and young people that consider themselves to have barriers to taking part
- reach out to those that have limited current opportunity to participate in play, and both choice of setting and promotional methods will be important in making this a reality

## Lewes District Play Out sessions

Also funded through the National Lottery, AirS will be providing outdoor play activities and opportunities in rural Lewes across the school holidays and summer months in 2008 and 2009. These may follow a play day or play bus format, encouraging children and families to make use of their local play environments to have fun.

## Staffing

A new post of Community Play Coordinator will organise the ongoing opportunities and staff many play sessions. They will supervise and be assisted by sessional play workers, including a senior sessional play worker who will take the lead on some sessions. A key part of the Community Play Coordinator role will be to recruit and support suitable local volunteers, and plan with them to increase skills and capacity. Volunteers will initially assist in the operation of play sessions and will play an increasingly important role that may allow additional sessions to be offered.

The role of the Community Play Coordinator will be focused on the success of the Rother Play Programme but will be expected to contribute to the overall success of Action in rural Sussex play work or play development initiatives.

The overall programme will be managed within our East Sussex County Team, drawing on the specialist skills of different project managers and development workers.

***For further information on Action in rural Sussex activities in East Sussex please contact Colin Anderson through our main switchboard, on 01273 473422.***



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**The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>  
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