

# **‘Something to do’ Coventry’s Play Strategy**

**Gennie Holmes – Play Strategy Manager**

# Strategic Aims of the Play Strategy

1. Widen the range of play experiences available to children and young people by increasing the opportunities for informal and natural play
2. Identify, understand and work to remove the barriers to free, open access play
3. Ensure City Council, partners and citizens understand and value the benefits that play can bring to children and young people
4. Fully engage children and young people, parents and carers in the design, development and delivery of play opportunities in the city



# Strategic Aims of the Play Strategy

5. Improve co-ordination and management of the delivery of play across Council services and partners
6. Address inequalities in play
7. Encourage healthy play
8. Ensure that play opportunities offer a balance between risk and challenge and safety
9. Build on best practice and research innovation in play
10. Develop children's capacity to play independently and together, and promote intergenerational play

# The 10 principles for designing successful play space

## Successful play spaces...

- Are 'bespoke'
- Are well located
- Make use of natural elements
- Provide a wide range of play experiences
- Are accessible to both disabled and non-disabled children

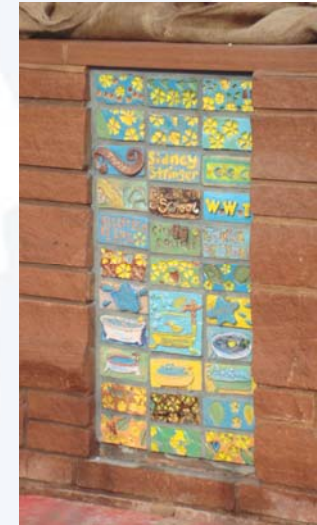
# The 10 principles for designing successful play space

## Successful play spaces...

- Meet community needs
- Allow children of different ages to play together
- Build in an opportunity to experience risk and challenge
- Are sustainable and appropriately maintained
- Allow for change and evolution

PLUS Include opportunity for local people to be involved in some aspect of the final design

# New Play Sites in Coventry



Primrose Hill Park and tile project by local children and young people reflecting the nature and history of the park

# New Play Sites in Coventry



Willenhall  
Brookstray and the  
sandblasted coat  
of arms and motto  
to fit with the  
Mediaeval castle  
theme designed by  
local children

# New Play Sites in Coventry



Willenhall Wood and the arrow heads designed by local children to fit in with the woodland encampment theme

# New Play Sites in Coventry

Cash's Park



# New Play Sites in Coventry

Sovereign Row



# New Play Sites in Coventry

Allesley Park



# Any Questions?

Gennie Holmes

Play Strategy Manager

[gennie.holmes@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:gennie.holmes@coventry.gov.uk)

024 7683 2944