NICS HR

Interchange Unit

# Hosting Opportunity Proforma

Department of Education (DE)

Name of Host

Organisation

**1. Interchange Manager’s details**

June Wilkinson

Name

Organisation/

Children and Young People’s Strategy Team (CYPST)

Department

Room 6.12

6th Floor

Rathgael House

Balloo Road

Bangor

BT19 7PR

Address

N/A

028 9185 8020

Telephone Fax number

Number

[june.wilkinson@education-ni.gov.uk](mailto:june.wilkinson@education-ni.gov.uk)

E-mail

**Deputy Principal - Children and Young People’s Strategy Team**

Secondment – 18 months with the possibility of an extension. Subject to the agreement of all parties.

Type of Opportunity

**2. Details of hosting opportunity**

**Description of opportunity**

To design and develop a play and leisure project with two specific aspects:

1. In partnership with other stakeholders provide parents and guardians with the skills, knowledge and confidence to meaningfully play with their children and gain a better understanding of the underlying developmental benefits for their child.
2. Develop and deliver a programme of professional development to help people who promote, plan, design, build and manage play within our communities understand the benefits of play in any child’s development and their role in creating child friendly and play friendly environments.

The post holder will be based in Rathgael House Bangor. There will be a requirement to travel to other venues for meetings.

**Outcomes**

1. The project is expected to directly contribute to the delivery of Outcome 2 within the draft Children and Young People’s Strategy, which states “all children and young people enjoy play and leisure”. In addition to the outcome within the Strategy, “enjoyment of play and leisure” is an element of the well-being of children and young people as defined by the Children’s Services Co-operation Act 2015. To ensure we achieve this outcome and improve well-being in this area planned that we engage with parents / guardians that require support to promote play and we must highlight the importance of play with those who influence it.
2. The achievement of this outcome will also, undoubtedly, impact on other outcomes within the CYP Strategy, specifically;

* Increased play opportunities will ensure that our children and young people are *physically and mentally healthy*;
* Evidence demonstrates that play is a key component in supporting our children and young people *learn and achieve*; and
* Play and leisure is useful medium to assist our children and young people to *live in a society in which equality of opportunity and good relations is promoted.*

Play and leisure also contribute directly to outcomes within the draft Programme for Government – namely *we give our children and young people the best start in life* and *we enjoy long, healthy and active lives,* the Making Life Better Health promotion framework and the DH Obesity Strategy and several others. Play is an essential part of a child’s early years and is required if they are to have the best start in life in terms of health, education, social interactions, development etc.

1. **Main objectives of the opportunity**

|  |
| --- |
| **Play for Parents**  Provide parents/guardians with the skills, knowledge and confidence to meaningfully play with their children and understanding the many benefits in relation to the child’s development. Whilst the impulse to play is innate for a child, it still needs to be encouraged and supported by parents/guardians and other family members from birth. Play is an essential part of early year’s development. Play is how a child learns – how they begin their education, how they learn about risk and begin to interact, communicate and negotiate with others. The importance of play needs to be understood by those who are expected to promote it. Support parents/guardians who need to develop and enhance their skills to enable them to facilitate play with their children and strengthen their understanding of play in relation to developmental aspects of a child’s life.  **Playshapers**  It is not within the remit or policy responsibility of a single Department or body to create a play friendly environment where children and young people enjoy play, have the space and time to play outside and the opportunity to take part in new play and leisure opportunities. It requires the input of a range of policy makers, play experts, service deliverers, planning officers and community representatives to effectively ‘shape and facilitate play’.  Develop and deliver a programme of professional development with the objective of supporting a range of different people who promote, plan, design, build and manage play within our communities understand their role in creating child-friendly and play friendly environments. Subject to funding this training / development should be made available to central government policy makers, Council staff, PSNI, planners, teachers, play group leaders, health visitors, architects, housing developers, housing managers, community workers etc.  Issues to be covered could include;   * + - The importance of play;     - The benefits of play;     - Best practice in designing and managing the outdoor environment;     - Best practice in play provision;     - Managing risk; and     - Engaging with children and young people.   This would also seek to support the Community Planning process and embed play within a range of policies and services that link to play. |

**3. Skills requirements**

What qualities, skills and experience is required from the individual

The successful candidate will need to demonstrate three years’ experience (within the last 6 years) working in the field of policy development and project management.

* The ability to deliver a project on time and within budget.
* Previous practical experience in effective project management.
* Effective communication and listening skills.
* A sound knowledge of the importance of play within child development;
* A sound knowledge of the benefits of play within child development;
* A knowledge of best practice in play provision;
* The ability to assess risk and develop and manage mitigations.
* The ability to engage with children and young people.

**4. Personnel: Please state below**

Who will the individual report to?

June Wilkinson, Head of the Children and Young People’s Strategy Team, DE

Who will be the individual’s line manager and/or reporting officer?

June Wilkinson

**5. Transfer of learning**

Please give details of how the Opportunity will benefit your organisation, the individual and their organisation.

**Individual**

* Experience as a project manager within a central Government Department.
* The broad range of experience and responsibility from working closely with colleagues in the CYPST and wider policy areas of DE and other departments.
* Working with a wide spectrum of stakeholders across the public sector and building on relationships and networks (both established and new);
* The additional extensive experience gained at Deputy Principal level which will add value when applying for similar positions within other organisations.

**Parent Organisation**

This opportunity will enrich the postholder’s skills and experience in the provision of project management, working within budgets and timelines, procurement and the high performance culture in the public sector whilst collaborating with an extensive range of key stakeholders.

**Host Organisation**

This opportunity will provide the CYPST with an experienced play policy professional whose knowledge and expertise will play a pivotal role in the success of the project.

**6. Logistics**

Please provide details of the likely start date, duration, location, resources (i.e;

desk, PC, fax etc.) and funding arrangements for the opportunity.

**Start Date:** As soon as a suitable candidate has been identified and a release date has been agreed.

**Duration:** It is anticipated that this opportunity will continue for a period of 18 months from the agreed start date (with the possibility of extension) subject to the agreement of both parties and funding.

**Location:** CYPST, 6th Floor, Rathgael House, Balloo Road, Bangor BT19

It is essential that applicants have access to a form of transport to allow them to fulfil the requirements of the post.

**Salary:** £36,448 - £40,072. Salary will be paid by the Host Organisation and other related costs and recouped from the EITP Programme. Other related costs will be paid by the host organisation.

**Funding:** Funded by the EITP Programme.

**Selection Process:** Shortlisting will take place on the basis of the criteria detailed above and final selection will be by interview.

**Further Information:** For further information about the post please contact Peter Hutchinson, CYPST on 028 9185 8022, or by email at [peter.hutchinson@education-ni.gov.uk](mailto:peter.hutchinson@education-ni.gov.uk).

**Closing Date:** 5pm on Friday 25 August 2017

**7. Endorsement**

**Interchange Manager**

June Wilkinson

Signed

07 August 2017

Date