

The Play Hub

Introduction

Play Radnor is a rural children's charity that works towards the delivery of quality opportunities for play, recreation and leisure for children and young people in Powys. Based within its own building – The Play Hub, it aims to make Powys a better place for children, young people and families to live.

The Play Hub has faced many challenges, the main one being the lack of services for children and young people across Powys. Rural isolation, poor transport links and limited facilities all play a part in children and young people not being able to participate in what services are currently running.

Solution

Play Radnor's answer to help support Children and Young people in Powys was to create a project that would support groups to network, enhance their provision and make the groups popular and well known about, whilst also keeping them sustainable. Not only did the project want to look at groups, they also wanted to help create opportunities for community engagement and involvement.

Play Radnor wanted to also increase play opportunities right across Powys so that children and young people have a chance of a happier and more productive life. Many activities focus around the urban communities and environments, so Play Radnor wanted to ensure that they reached the rural communities and meet the needs of all their participants. Play Radnor's overall vision was to create a positive contribution to the long-term vision for play in Powys.

Benefit

The benefits of the Play Hub project have created new opportunities and better access to play, recreation and services for children, young people and their families. The project has developed new play and recreation opportunities such as those outlined in the pilot project. (Bibs, Family Walks, Coding Club, and other half-term activities to name a few).

The Play Hub has also created new opportunities for participation and service development by working with other groups and organisations to establish services such as Yoga and Play, Wild Tots, Teen Scheme and Cheeky Monkeys. There has also been an increased opportunity for volunteers throughout the project, as they have been able to get involved in the groups which have been delivered.

Play Radnor and the Play Hub project have developed new partnership working which benefits the children and young people in the area. The Hub offers a venue for local and national children's service and organisations who deliver mutually beneficial services. All Wales network meetings, family contact sessions, consultations with PAVO and Ceredu are but a few organisations and services who have made use of the hub creating partnership working within the local area.

Result

The Play Hub Project has increased play Radnor's capacity and introduced new services for children and young people both at the Play Hub and out in the urban and rural community. The increased range of services have been better able to support a wider range of needs, ages and interests of children and young people. The post of play development officer has ensured that a wide range of projects have been developed ranging from new services for 0 – 5's such as Bibs, Wild Tots and Play @ the Hub to projects for children with specific needs such as Cheeky Monkeys.

The Play Hub has provided a child friendly, safe and affordable space which has been accessed by other organisations, individuals and groups. The play development officer has ensured that groups such as Yoga and Play, Home Education and the Coding Club have been able to use the hub and benefit from the facilities we are able to provide.

We have also been able to offer new volunteer opportunities across a range of activities within the organisation. We have supported volunteers during their time with us, offering advice, training and help to develop their skills and knowledge. Volunteers such as those in Stay and Play and Cheeky Monkeys have benefitted from volunteering with Play Radnor by reducing their isolation, giving them the opportunities to make new friends and become more involved in their local community. It also contributed to increasing their self-esteem and confidence. One of our volunteers is accompanied by his support worker and calls in to see the team, do van checks and loads toys. All his support workers have told us that he feels he has a job with Play Radnor, a purpose and loves coming to the hub. For him the Play Hub, Play Radnor and of course our old van, are a very important part of this life.

Throughout the project we have delivered accredited and informal play training to volunteers, play and childcare practitioners from a variety of settings. The accredited training – L2APP was delivered in partnership with Adult Learning Wales, providing free accredited Playwork training to volunteers, childcare and Playwork practitioners at level two.

The project has also encouraged individuals and groups to approach Play Radnor to discuss the development of community activities and how we can work together to achieve this. This has resulted in projects such as Teen scheme – a pilot project to provide holiday activities for children aged 12+ with a disability and their siblings. This was made possible through the Play Development Officers attendance and contribution at meetings with the local authority, local CVC and other childcare organisations to discuss the potential issues and look at ways of finding appropriate solutions.

We have also helped to develop new initiatives through providing information, advice and resources to groups and individuals. The Play development officer has met with representatives from Knighton community centre who needed further information and advice on how to replicate some of our services within their local community. We were able to provide them with advice on funding, costing and information about the projects we provide that may work well within their own area.

The play Hub has been used by local and national organisations to deliver a range of activities, workshops and projects such as biannual All Wales Network meetings organised by Play Wales. These have offered the opportunity for increased communication and cooperation between organisations. Play organisations have been able to share their own experiences and gain advice and information on the latest developments within the Playwork sector.



The Hub has also provided increased opportunities for partnership working on both projects within the Hub and outreach within Powys. The Wild Tots project was developed in partnership with Wild Tots in Abergavenny and has been successful in offering outdoor play sessions for parent/carers and children aged 0-5 years. The project aims to encourage families to access the outdoors more often and for children to develop a love of nature at an early age. The play development officer has also been able to develop links with the Powys Health Board, attending the Obesity strategy/Healthy pre-school/schools meetings resulting in a small grant to the organisation for the delivery of outdoor play sessions.

Project Contact Details

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Partners/Match Funders Logos



Project Details	
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Match funding:	£21,093.00	22.0460%

