

REPORT TO: Executive Board Sub Committee
DATE: 19th March 2009
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Children and Young People
SUBJECT: Play Service Charges
WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To consider proposals for increasing Play Service charges for childcare, building hire (Windmill Hill Playcentre) and Holiday Playschemes.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the proposed charges are agreed and are implemented from 1st April 2009

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Childcare fees were last increased in 2006/07 and are as follows:

Breakfast Club	£3.00 per day, 7.30am – 9.00pm
After school	£3.00 to 4.00pm £5.00 to 5.00pm £7.00 to 6.00pm
Holiday care	£15.00 full day, 7.30am – 6.00pm £8.00 half day

Proposed fees from 01.04.09:

Breakfast Club	£3.25
After school	£4.00 to 4.00pm £6.00 to 5.00pm £7.50 to 6.00pm
Holiday care	£16.00 full day £10.00 half day

Increases are largely in line with annual inflation at 3 to 4% pa except for to 4.00pm; after school and half day holidays were the increase also includes the need to reflect in charges the way that delivery costs include the following, regardless of length of provision:

- a. Collected from school and are
- b. Provided with a snack

Increases would also keep charges in line with the sector norm (Childcare Audit)

3.2 Room Hire

In addition to delivering open access play and childcare service, Windmill Hill Playcentre is a multi-use building extremely well used by both CYPAN 5 team for the delivery of their services and by the local community. CYPAN services as part of the Children's, Families and Extended Services Division do not pay a room hire fee.

Charges for community use are currently;

Community Groups	£4.50 per hour
Commercial / Private	£6.25 per hour
Community Use Weekends	£6.75 per hour Saturdays £9.00 per hour Sundays
Commercial/Private Weekends	by arrangement

Proposed:

Community Groups	£5.75 per hour
Commercial/Private	£10.00 per hour
Community Use Weekends	£10.00 per hour
Commercial/Private	£17.50 per hour

(By arrangement includes children's parties / functions / weddings etc)
NB bookings are not accepted for 16th's, 18th's, 21st birthdays etc.

These revised charges bring Windmill Hill Centre in line with charges levied at the Authorities other Community Centres operated by Culture and Leisure.

4.0 Playscheme Charges

To reflect the developing partnership approach to delivering holiday (sessional) play activities. Halton Play Council will increase its sessional playscheme charge to £1.00 per session (session = 2.5hrs) to bring in line with charges for similar sessional (holiday) activities delivered through extended schools.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Childcare provision at Windmill Hill Play Centre will shortly become part of the expanding remit of Windmill Hill Children's Centre. For a period of transition (12 months maximum) childcare provision will be provided by the existing Play Service. The childcare provision is required to be self-sustaining. The fees proposed will enable this to happen.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The Local Authority has a duty under the Childcare Act to secure sufficient childcare provision to meet the needs of the local population. The provision provided via The Play Service contributes towards fulfilling that duty.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Provision of childcare supports the employment and skills agenda, supporting access to employment via the provision of childcare to working parents.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Not applicable

6.4 A Safer Halton

Not applicable

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

Promoting access to employment contributes to the economic re-generation of communities.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Staffing structures are flexible to childcare demand.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 Childcare provision is accessible to all children regardless of need or ability.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

9.1 Not applicable