A NEW VEHICLE FOR PLAYWORK

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Photo: Meriden Adventure Playground
The Argument for Playwork
Two-day summit at Sheffield Hallam University, July 2013
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Outwood, looking too talking to other professionals

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Professionals bodies for young workers, groups, etc.

Sports people, children, etc.

Independence

... and need to retain

How people/organisations become part of the governance?

Who is part of the governance?

Need to talk to the nations.
Since Sheffield, 2013

- Open meetings
- Blogs
- Stall at Eastbourne 2014
- Agreed broad principles
- 170 expressions of interest to join new body
- Article in Children and Young People Now
- Bi-lateral discussions with Skillsactive, CYWU and Play England
- Steering group created by open nomination
- Research and planning
- Survey of potential members
Other professional bodies in the children’s sector

- PACEY
  - Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years
- IYW
  - Institute for Youth Work
- NCMA
Role of professional bodies

- Set and assess professional examinations
- Support Continuing Professional Development through learning opportunities and tools for recording and planning
- Publish professional journals or magazines
- Provide networks for professionals to meet and discuss their field of expertise
- Issue Codes of Conduct to guide professional behaviour
- Deal with complaints against professionals and implement disciplinary procedures
- Enable fairer access to the professions, so that people from all backgrounds can become professionals
- Provide careers support and opportunities for students, graduates and people already working
QUESTIONS

Is a professional body (based on existing models) what we want for playwork right now?

Or…
QUESTIONS

...Do we want (need) to fashion a different type of vehicle?
QUESTIONS

What would be its role and purpose?
Possible aims and functions

- Represent playworkers UK-wide, giving them a collective voice.
- Be a focus for good practice: supporting research and other areas that develop playwork.
- Promote playwork nationally and support local campaigns.
- Lobby for policy change to create a legal and regulatory framework conducive to playwork services.
- Provide support and benefits for playworkers, such as networking, information, skills sharing, events and resources.
- Be outward looking, building links with other professions and sectors.
Broad Principles

- Based on a cohesive narrative of playwork
- Principled
- Pioneering
- Independent
- Collaborative
- Non-directive
- Inclusive
- Representative
- A champion for play
- Credible and united
- Not-for-profit
Steering Group

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The Survey

Date Created 12 December 2014
Date closed 1 March 2015
Responses 153
Respondents’ profile

Answered: 151  Skipped: 2
Do you think playwork needs a new body in the UK?

Answered: 153  Skipped: 0
Comments

I think this is the only way to get playwork taken seriously as a profession and as a body of knowledge distinct from other areas. With many schools providing a wrap-around service delivered by teaching assistants, playwork is becoming extinct. Something more 'grass roots' than previous ones. This has to be streamlined. How would it work with Play England, Play Wales etc? Is it really necessary? I believe that it possibly is. Any support for playwork in light of further looming cuts would be great. There needs to be a national body with some power and money, to have time to lobby, and also employ people with appropriate expertise...
Comments

"To have a nationally or internationally recognised body representing play would benefit us hugely.

I think it’s important that playwork is viewed as a profession.

It would be interesting to know what people think are the existing bodies for playwork in the UK?

Well it would be good to have someone promoting playwork that doesn't have their own agenda and would actively promote the importance and value of playwork.

Playwork is undervalued in this country and we need a body that will help raise awareness of what playworkers have to offer.

Now is the time."
How interested are you in joining a new body for playwork in the UK, created along the lines of the above description?

Answered: 153   Skipped: 0
What are your priorities for a new body?

- To represent playwork and playworkers: giving us a collective voice?
- To raise the status of playwork and improve the standing of playwork jobs?
- To support playwork research, aiming to advance good practice?
- To campaign for playwork - promoting it nationally and supporting local campaigns?
- To influence policy-making - to create a legal and regulatory framework that would support authentic playwork services?
- To be outward looking, building links with other professions and sectors?
- To provide networking opportunities for playworkers and the playwork community?
- To provide practical services for playworkers and the playwork community?
- To work to create (or become) a professional body for playwork?
What should be the most important aims for a new body for playwork in the UK?

- To represent playwork and...
- To raise the status of...
- To support playwork...
- To campaign for playwork...
- To influence policy-making...
- To be outward looking...
- To provide networking...
- To provide practical...
- To work to create (or...
Should there be other important aims for it?

- Answered: 124
- Skipped: 29

Bar chart showing:
- Yes (please state below)
- No
Other things a new body should address...

- Standardise training for playworkers
- Aim for a National Playwork Curriculum alongside the National Educational Curriculum in schools
- Lobby government
- Aim for playwork to be preferred qualification for all working within school-age childcare
- Generate income for advancement of playwork through symbiotic partnerships with other sectors
- Work for recognition of playwork qualifications
- Raise funds for playwork training at government & local levels … since the government scrapped play pathfinder money, it’s all gone downhill for the profession. Training is no longer subsidised.
Other things a new body should address...

Define playwork (as a methodology) which can be deployed by a wide range of occupations with children.

Support the development of a network of local and regional organisations promoting play and play services.

Act as a channel of communication for children and young people who use play facilities.

Explore why race has never been an issue for the profession.

Support playwork understandings & develop a community of practice.

Oversee the consistency and quality of playwork qualifications and training.

Have its own fundraising ability.

Be accessible, not too academic, and fun!
Which services from such a body would be most helpful to you in your role?

Answered: 153    Skipped: 0
If a new body for playwork in the UK seemed to meet your expectations, would you be prepared to pay a membership subscription?

- Answered: 153  Skipped: 0
What level of annual subscription would you be willing to pay for membership (assuming you are employed at the time of joining)?

- Answered: 151  Skipped: 2
If membership of such a body was available how likely would you be to join it immediately?

Answered: 151  Skipped: 2
What level of annual subscription would you be willing to pay for membership (assuming you are employed at the time of joining)?

Answered: 151  Skipped: 2
If such a body existed and you became a member, how likely is it that you would be available for voluntary work?

- Answered: 151
- Skipped: 2
A crowded field?
A crowded field?
Where do we go from here?

- Register as a charity
- Stage inaugural meeting
  - Accept founder members
  - Elect board
  - Adopt name
  - Adopt constitution
- Launch website
- Submit funding applications
- Agree membership structure and fees
- Promote membership
- Develop strategy
- Develop services and activities…
Change the world!