

Dear Councillors,

As many of you will be aware the opportunity for our children and young people to engage in enriching and enjoyable Play activities form an essential part of their development. Whether it is through more structured sessions or through freely chosen play, these early experiences form an integral part of physical and social skills in readiness for transition into adulthood.

At the start of this financial year Play provision within MonLife was re positioned to align closer to our Sport Development and Youth Service, ensuring clarity of programme delivery and providing the best possible support for children and young people across these service areas. The focus of the collective teams is to 'develop a future generation of *healthy* and *confident* young people, who feel *safe* in their community and *empowered* to make a positive difference.'

We are pleased to present to you information detailing a fantastic summer 2022 programme which has had a significant impact on children and young people right across Monmouthshire. The impact has been captured in a series of formats including a detailed report, which we attach for your reference. The reports provide information on project delivery across MonLife, Monmouthshire County Council and partner organisations. Please feel free to share this across your networks as you wish.

The delivery of such a diverse range of activities would simply not be possible without the ongoing support from Town and Community Councils that we receive. The team remain extremely grateful for this and, as the report demonstrates, it is playing a vital part for families in response to the ongoing cost of living crisis. We would welcome conversations with regards to budgets for 23/24 to ensure this financial commitment remains and we can collaboratively discuss ways in which a localised offer can be developed to meet countywide objectives.

Can we also take this opportunity to thank Mike Moran for the huge role that he has played in the development of both play provision and community spaces for play. There are thousands of children and young people across Monmouthshire that have benefited from his tireless efforts and commitment to providing these opportunities. Mike's focus will continue with strategic community infrastructure projects, including play, and to support our future ambitions we have appointed a new officer. Becky Hall recently joined us in the role of Play Development Lead and she will work closely with officers and key stakeholders as we move forward to reach actions within our Play Sufficiency Assessment.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely,

MonLife Play Team

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