

# Cheltenham Play Rangers

## Play Gloucestershire

Play Gloucestershire is a charitable company established in May 2007 to develop playful communities with active children. Our overall aim is that all children and young people in Gloucestershire should have regular and easy access to high quality, free and inclusive spaces and places for play and recreation. Our simple message is to “Get Out and Play!”

## Background Information

Play Rangers is far from a new concept in Cheltenham, with other organisations and charities operating seasonal play rangers in various parks throughout Cheltenham. Although these schemes have been high quality they have been sporadic, only able to run for a very limited time in some school holidays as they were reliant on one-off grants. Play Rangers by Play Gloucestershire will address this by delivering a service all year round providing continuity vital to children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.



## Play Rangers

The project will be a mobile outreach service delivering play activities in open spaces in Cheltenham’s most disadvantaged communities. Qualified play workers will operate two teams of play rangers delivering a varied programme of play, informal sports, arts and crafts and traditional games. The two teams will deliver ten weeks of holiday activities per year using a van stocked with tent, table, chair and activities equipment. A smaller team of two staff will operate a lightweight detached service the rest of the time. The target age group will be 8-16 year olds with a particular focus on 8-13s. Under 8’s will be

welcome to attend but should be supervised by a parent or carer.



A fundamental part of the programme is that the Play Rangers operate an open access policy. This means that children and young people are free to come and go as they please. There is no registration and the Play Rangers do not need to know if children and young people leave the site.

This encourages independence and self reliance.

The Play Ranger team will utilise existing open spaces. They will target areas with large amounts of social housing which makes the activities easily accessible. It is within walking distance of home for large numbers of children and young people and is free to use. The programme will operate on the 'Three Frees' principal of 'Free to use, Free to Choose, Free to come and go as you please'.

### Play Rangers in Cheltenham

The Play Ranger team in Cheltenham will deliver play sessions in, Whaddon, Lynworth & Priors, Hesters Way & the Moors and St Pauls & St Peters in a total of 8 sites during the week. The play sessions will begin in the February half term 2009 (week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> Feb) with one team visiting the 4 areas for a day each. After this week the evening play sessions between 4-6pm after school in the same areas. It is at this point that we will be looking to introduce the other sites and a new team of Play Rangers.



#### For more information contact:

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*Get Out and Play!*