

Agenda Item 11



**SOUTH WEST
LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING – 22 FEBRUARY 2024
WRITTEN ANSWER PROVIDED TO
PUBLIC QUESTION**



1.	Public question from Julia Watkinson
	<p><i>“What Council fundraising support can we seek to offer teenagers and young adults essential mental health benefits through recreational play and the environment?</i></p> <p><i>Our vision for 2025 and beyond is to create an outdoor activity hub for teenagers to meet and acquire ‘self-taught’ agility skills such as skate boarding and low level core and team building activities.</i></p> <p><i>Background to question</i></p> <p><i>I am the current Chair of More in Dore (Dore Recreation Ground Playground Appeal) (‘MID’).</i></p> <p><i>MID is a subcommittee of Dore Village Society (Charity Commission No. 1017051). There are 4 of us who juggle parenting, work commitments and fundraising.</i></p> <p><i>Since 2018, with the fantastic support of Sarah Garrett and the SCC Parks Team, we have raised and spent £39,500 to begin to refurbish the playground. As with many playgrounds within Sheffield, Dore has not benefitted from Council funding for over 20 years. The high cost of equipment and safety surface (which has to be installed in conjunction with Sheffield City Council who maintain equipment and retain liability) means the £39,500 has done little more than add a small toddler and Junior climbing frame.</i></p> <p><i>Next year the Council will remove the swings. We are currently fundraising to replace the slide, removed during 2023.</i></p> <p><i>We would like help and guidance as to how best to fundraise to achieve our aim of safe recreational play for all ages and abilities*.</i></p> <p><i>Our focus for 2025 and beyond is mental health and the environment.</i></p> <p><i>* Currently the playground cannot cater for children with disabilities.”</i></p>
	<p>Response</p> <p>Thank you for your question. We would welcome the opportunity to continue to support the aims you have, working alongside our colleagues in the Parks and Countryside Service and the Youth Service as part of our ongoing Local Area Committee work.</p>

Dore and Totley Councillors have previously supported the improvement of the Dore playground via the Ward Pot, plus our recent decision to split the Dore and Totley Play Equipment funding between Dore and Bradway playgrounds so this is very much building on our collaboration so far. We have had follow up conversations with More in Dore (Claire in Julia's absence) on the points raised, and Mubarak is going to arrange a meeting with yourselves and the Parks and Countryside Service to discuss fundraising opportunities and moving some of this work forward.

We have committed funds from each ward in this year's budget to improve on play equipment. In order to maximise the impact of these funds, £6,250 for each ward, we are working closely with 'Friends Of' groups and other groups to collaborate and match fund if possible. This is something we hope to build on for the year ahead so can look at how we plan and move this forward with a specific consideration to inclusive play equipment that meet the needs of all children.

To support with initiatives that enable the physical and mental well-being of teenagers, the Local Area Committee has invested time and funds into developing the Youth offer in the area, and have had a designated Youth Worker assigned for the first time 6 months ago. We can link together with the Youth Service around the activities that are available and see what can be developed in terms of activities/initiatives.

In respect of funding, we can work with you and link into South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau to ensure you have information around, and support with, accessing funding that may be available to your group.

We shared your question with colleagues in Parks, and here is their response:

"We would like to firstly mention that the group has done a tremendous job to achieve the investment into the playground and their work to support the Park and playground is very much appreciated. Parks and Countryside Service's playgrounds budget is small and provides limited funds to support the inspection and maintenance of the city's 150 playground facilities. Funding to support the renewal and improvement of playgrounds across the city has therefore needed to come from external sources including grant provision organisations, private donations and development related funding such as Section 106 agreements and Community Infrastructure Levy. The Lottery and Landfill Tax credit schemes are some of the funders that have supported investments in playgrounds in recent years".