

PRESS RELEASE- National Play Day- Cork City Events 2020

Saturday July 4th 2020 is National Play Day and the theme is 'Playful Communities, Playful Homes'. Lets Play Cork, a novel partnership in Cork City is encouraging everyone to celebrate play in any way they can. Recently pedestrianised Tuckey Street in Cork City will be transformed with chalk into a Community Play Street for the day. With current physical distancing restrictions in place Let's Play Cork will animate the street with chalked out play activities inviting people of all ages and abilities to come along and interact in a safe and distanced manner with the assistance of volunteers from Pedestrian Cork and IBIKE Cork.

Let's Play Cork is part of a European funded partnership between Cork Healthy Cities, Cork Local Sports Partnership, Cork City Council, Young Knocknaheeny, Cork City Library Service and Foroige seeking to develop Cork as a Playful city. The partnership has carried out a number of play related activities in Cork City in the past 12 months. With the support of Healthy Ireland Funding Cork Local Sports Partnership have employed a part time Sports Facilitator for play activities in Cork, to help deliver, administer and lead activities for the Lets Play Cork Initiative. Projects to date include the closure of the Marina for play in 2019, pop up play events in the city centre, School Streets in St Catherine's National School, Play Packs for families in response to COVID-19 and the forthcoming development of play bag lending through Cork City libraries.

'Play Day is a great opportunity for us to showcase our work in Cork City centre' said Denise Cahill Healthy Cities Coordinator. *'With current physical distancing restrictions we have to be creative about how we invite people to engage in being playful. A Play Street is a great opportunity to do just that'* she said

Tuckey Street will be animated for play using chalk similar to the play streets initiative on North Main Street last July when the street was closed.

'Cork local Sports Partnership have long been a main partner and supporter of Play activities for Cork and we are thrilled to support the new Lets Play Cork Initiative with the support of Healthy Ireland' said Claire Hurley Programs Manager. *'Play has been a great way to engage people of all ages and abilities in being physically active particularly over the last 3 months and we in Cork sports Partnership are delighted to support this innovative initiative for Cork''.*

Let's Play Cork is partnering with Cork City Central Library on the Grand Parade to distribute play packs funded by Community champions Eoin McCuirc and Siobhan O'Dowd from programme funding and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs National Play Day fund to the first 65 families that call on Saturday. The Play booklet designed by the Playful Paradigm is free to download at www.letsplaycork.ie

'Cork City Libraries is excited to be part of National Play day 2020' said Eibhlin Cassidy, Executive Librarian, Cork City Libraries *'Play has long been an element of our library programming, and stories themselves are a type of play. The current Covid-19 restrictions mean that we can't hold our usual indoor events as part of our summer programme but we are delighted to be able to distribute play packs and the Let's Play Cork booklet so that families can enjoy a wide variety of fun play ideas. We are also launching our Read with Red summer reading challenge 2020 on the day'*

The public are being encouraged to get lots of ideas on play at www.letsplaycork.ie, to download the play booklet and to tag any play day activities by using the #LetsPlayCork
For further details on the Lets Play Cork or other Play projects please contact Sports Facilitator Laura Coady by emailing healthyireland@corksports.ie