

Service being assessed	Environmental Services – Children’s Play
Who will be involved in completing this assessment?	Lead: Geraldine Hough – Environmental Services Officer Support: Lisa Crook - Waste & Recycling Communications Officer Jules Tinsley – Environmental Services Support Officer SUM: Simon Mutten - Environmental Services Manager
Date of Review	7 June 2011
Date of Next Review	7 June 2012
What is the purpose of the service?	To provide quality and freely accessible play opportunities for children and young people aged between 3 and 18 years old
Is this assessment being undertaken because of changes to the service? If so what are they?	Assessment being undertaken as part of Council’s annual review of equalities information, not because of change to service/policy. The Council’s Play Strategy 2006-12 is due for review later this year.
The purpose of this assessment is to understand how services can help the Council to meet its duties under Equalities legislation. The duties can be summarised as  1. Eliminate discrimination 2. Advance equality of opportunity	The service identifies barriers to children’s play and works to remove them. It commissions new play areas and is responsible for their development.  It provides free local access to play opportunities across the Borough at 87 locations.  The Big Lottery Fund funded a Play Development Worker until December 2010 who carried out work with schools and the wider community to identify barriers to play, create an action

<p>3. Foster good relations between different parts of the community</p> <p>How does this service help the Council to do this, in particular in relation to the categories specifically mentioned in legislation - Race, Gender/Sex, Disability, Age, Religion/Belief, Gender Reassignment, Sexual Orientation, Pregnancy &amp; Maternity and in respect of Duty 1 only – Marriage and Civil Partnerships?</p>	<p>plan and work to remove those barriers through the plan. The outstanding actions from the plan and others that have been identified will be taken forward in the review of the Play Strategy 2006-2012.</p> <p>Work with community groups to design and create new play spaces.</p>
<p>How will you know that service is working as it should?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feedback from 2008 and 2010 surveys</li> <li>• Indicators / measures / targets</li> <li>• Actions completed within action plan</li> <li>• Play England play indicators / statistics</li> <li>• Resident correspondence</li> </ul>
<p>What data have you used to help you make this assessment?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Playgrounds list</li> <li>• Survey responses</li> </ul>
<p>Is there any additional data that you need to collect to help in continuous improvement?</p>	<p>Not currently.</p>
<p>How have you ensured that this service has been designed from a customer's perspective and how have you involved customers in that process?</p>	<p>Play Strategy 2006 – 2012 was created through extensive consultation with key partners. The Play Development Worker visited schools and other locations to talk to school children, their parents and teenagers to find out what was important to them and fed this information into an action plan.</p>

	<p>The Play Partnership will be key to the refresh of the Play Strategy in the next 6 to 12 months.</p> <p>When a decision is made to create a new play area and/or Section 106 monies are received, officers approach contractors to find out what equipment can be purchased for the funding available. The type of equipment / age range that the play area is aimed at is determined by national research into how far it is appropriate for a child to travel to play and the availability of different types of play areas near to the proposed site. Consultation then takes place on what the local residents, and in particular the children themselves, would like from their new play area. From this a design brief is given to contractors who come up with the designs. These are taken back for the residents/children to choose their preferred design.</p>
<p>Has any other consultation been carried out, including to ensure that we have taken into consideration the needs of those not currently using the service?</p>	<p>2008 survey carried out at all the Borough's schools with random sample of each year group, not with children at the play spaces. Whole communities are offered the opportunity to advise on new play areas when they are designed.</p>
<p>What is, or what do you expect to be the impact of the way you work on different parts of the community, including those covered by equality legislation?</p>	<p><b>Who benefits?</b> Children, young people, parents: Improved knowledge of, and easier access to, free play opportunities, irrespective of age, gender, culture or ability.</p> <p>Residents: When young people use play areas rather than streets for play – reduction in anti-social behaviour through boredom caused by lack of access to facilities</p> <p><b>Who should be expected to benefit but don't – Why not?</b> Children still experiencing some of the barriers identified.</p>

<p>On the basis of what you have found out, which of these options will you now follow</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>No major changes</b></li> <li>• Adjust the policy</li> <li>• Continue the policy</li> <li>• Stop and remove the policy</li> </ul> <p>Assess the options choose one or more and explain why.</p> <p>This assessment is being undertaken as part of an annual equality information review. The Play Strategy is due for review and updating and an equality impact assessment will be completed as part of the review process.</p>
<p>Say how the new policy will be reviewed to assess the impact</p>	<p>The service is due to undergo review when the Play Strategy 2006 – 2012 is updated in the forthcoming year. Information from the Big Lottery project together with further consultation will inform any equality impact assessment.</p> <p>Ongoing use of data and discussion both within the team and service delivery partner to ensure continuous improvement.</p>
<p>What now needs to be done and by who?</p>	<p>Review of Play Strategy, led by the Environmental Services Officer, will be undertaken within the next 12 months. This action plan and impact monitoring system developed with the strategy will be reported on annually.</p>
<p>Signed off by</p>	<p>Simon Mutton - Environmental Services Manager</p>