

## Appendix A

Neighbourhood Services



Neath Port Talbot  
Castell-needd Port Talbot  
County Borough Council Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

# Playground Management Plan

APPROVED BY JD

DATE November 2021

EDITION/VERSION 1

REVIEW DATE

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

This plan is intended as an operational guide to those members of staff who have responsibility for the safety of the Council's playgrounds. It may also be used as an information guide for other interested parties. The plan deals with the ongoing maintenance and management of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council's playgrounds, which fall directly under the Environment and Regeneration Directorate. The plan does not include any strategy for the development of provision but has been prepared to formally codify the maintenance and inspection arrangements for play facilities, and the assets within them, to demonstrate how the council will meet its legal obligations.

Playgrounds by their very nature should provide a degree of perceived risk and challenges to the users. The plan therefore addresses the objectives of providing challenging and enjoyable play, while maintaining an acceptable degree of risk.

When assessing the safety of playgrounds members of staff must be aware that some people will not use the equipment in the way intended, and this fact must be considered when undertaking inspections or maintenance work. Staff should also consider that a small minority may, from time to time, vandalise the playground equipment, and furthermore consider the outside possibility that in rare circumstances individuals might try to harm unaccompanied children who are using the equipment.

## **2. LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY**

There is no specific legislation on play safety. However, the key related legislation is the:

- Health & Safety at Work Act 1974;
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Act 1992;
- Occupiers Liability Act 1957 and 1984; and,
- Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and its staff have a duty to take actions to ensure the safety of people at work and members of the public who may be affected by the facilities it provides. The level of duty is measured by the test of "reasonable practicability", in other words whether it is reasonable to mitigate a risk in terms of time, money and effort. So, for example, there would be no legal expectation to spend considerable resources on addressing very minor risk issues.

The Council and responsible employees thereby have a legal duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety of persons using children's playgrounds. As such the Council must be proactive in the way it manages playgrounds and why, for example, an inspection regime is necessary.

The Council also has a legal duty to report accidents and dangerous occurrences under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR).

Furthermore there are relevant standards and best practice guides which include:

- European Standard (BS EN 1176) on Playground Equipment
- European Standard (EN 1177) on Playground Safety Surfacing
- R.O.S.P.A Publications
- N.P.F.A Publications.

As part of the management plan for Council playgrounds, a full independent risk assessment is currently procured every year.

With respect to the Council's employees who carry out work on playgrounds, a separate risk assessment is undertaken by line managers relating to the risk associated with their duties.

### **3. PLAYGROUND LOCATIONS**

A list of playgrounds under the control of the Environment & Regeneration Directorate is attached as Appendix A.

### **4. RESPONSIBLE PERSONNEL**

The management responsibility for Council playgrounds detailed in this plan, lies with the remit of Neighbourhood Services, a section within the Streetcare Services Division of the Environment & Regeneration Directorate. Neighbourhood Services has specific responsibilities to ensure:

- 1) The overall safety of the playgrounds listed in the plan.
- 2) That systems are in place for regular checks of the playgrounds, and that records are kept.
- 3) That any corrective actions arising from inspections, or public reports, are undertake in timely fashion in accordance with the urgency of the work.
- 4) That playground inspections are undertaken in the prescribed manner and at the prescribed time.

- 5) That the annual playground risk assessment is undertaken.
- 6) That remedial work is prioritised to address any on-going risks.
- 7) That an appropriate stock of playground spares is maintained.
- 8) That workplace risk assessments are regularly carried out relating to employees responsibilities in relation to playgrounds.
- 9) That site asset inventory and condition data files are kept up to date.

## **5. INSPECTION FREQUENCY AND TYPE**

The table below details the required inspection type and frequency for playgrounds.

FREQUENCY OF INSPECTION	INSPECTION TYPE	INSPECTOR
Weekly	Visual	Mobile Ranger/ relevant park employees
1 – 3 Months	Operational	Qualified Staff
Annual	Annual Independent Detailed	External 3 <sup>rd</sup> party organisation
As required	Bespoke Visual/Operational /External	Dependent on nature of situation

All inspections will be initially recorded onto a paper document. For the purpose of data protection the inspection findings are scanned and stored.

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council will ensure all inspectors receive the appropriate training to carry out the inspections.

### **Inspection Type / Definitions**

Routine visual inspection ('look and see'):

Undertaking a recorded inspection of playgrounds at the required frequency by either the Mobile Ranger or relevant park employees, to include the identification of obvious hazards resulting from use, weather and vandalism, broken parts or bottles, litter, graffiti, or equipment misuse. Where defects are observed, form to be completed and submitted as per Appendix F to line manager. If immediate action can be undertaken to remove any resultant hazard from a defect then the inspector should do so. If any significant hazard cannot be attended to at the time, then the inspector should endeavour to fence off and/or immobilise the equipment and place signs to prevent further use of the equipment. The inspector should call on the line manager or contact the Building Services Section for support if needed.

The Mobile Ranger/relevant park employee's role is also to arrange any litter clearance and grounds maintenance.

## Quarterly Operational inspection ('poke and prod'):

Quarterly operational inspections provide a more detailed inspection to check the operation and stability of all equipment and surfaces, especially for wear. Checks to include reviews of and for:

- previous repairs; rust and rot; bearings.
- Cleanliness
- Equipment Ground Clearance
- Exposed Foundations
- Sharp Edges
- Missing Parts
- Excessive Wear (of moving parts)
- Structural Integrity

Inspectors will be trained to 'RPII Operational inspector' level enabling them to perform an operational inspection.

## Annual Independent Inspection:

Independent 3<sup>rd</sup> party inspections using qualified 'Outdoor Annual RPII (Register of Playground Inspectors International)' Inspectors will be procured to include checks for:

- The overall safety of equipment, foundations and surfaces
- The effects of weather, evidence of rotting or corrosion and any change in the level of safety as a result of repairs made or added or replacement components.

## Bespoke Inspections:

These inspections can be carried out by a suitable external provider or Council officer depending on circumstance. The inspection method is carried out using the same inspection system as all other inspections.

Typically, bespoke inspections can be as a consequence of a citizen enquiry, an accident in a play facility, or in response to an urgent request, or to carry out a post installation inspection following the installation of new equipment. Bespoke

inspections can also be carried out as a method of verifying and checking existing inspections.

## **6. ACCIDENT/DANGEROUS OCCURRENCES**

Council officers will record all accidents and enquires relating to play areas and the facilities within them. The details of the enquiry, complaint or accident will be recorded using the standard Authority procedures and documentation.

Consistent recording of incidents in this manner enables officers to illustrate a clear evidence trail in relation to resultant inspection, risk assessment, remedial actions/repairs, and general information record. Such information is important in the case of any litigation, and also provides an effective management tool for future improvements.

Results of investigations must be distributed to everyone involved in playground management/maintenance including the Council's Health and Safety Section, noting as above there is a legal requirement to report accidents and dangerous occurrences. Where appropriate, events will be reported to the Health and Safety Executive by the Health and Safety Section.

## **7. ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

Anti-social behaviour is the behaviour of any person or group that causes harassment, alarm or distress to others. In play areas this can include a range of problems such as dumped material, graffiti, litter and vandalism of play equipment or youth nuisance.

All evidence of anti-social behaviour within play areas will be recorded and passed to the Council's anti-social behaviour officer/section.

Where there is evidence of criminal activity, such as vandalism, this should also be reported directly to the Police.

## **8. RECORD KEEPING**

A record of all inspection reports are to be held for a period of 21 years.

The Health and Safety Section will retain all accident reports for a minimum of 3 years, however in the case that an incident involves a minor, records will be kept for the period up to the person's 21st birthday. After 3 years such documents may be transferred back to the Service for record keeping. All accident reports are to be supported with photographs.

## **9. SAFE SYSTEMS OF WORKING**

As indicated previously, the supervisors of the employees deployed in undertaking work on the Council's playgrounds will undertake work risk assessments to identify and reduce the risks associated with their duties.

### **Methodology**

The risk assessment utilises the 5x5 methodology and risk is assigned as a product of probability and severity.

### **Risk score**

A final risk rating of immediate, high, medium or low is then obtained from an outcome matrix based upon the final score.

The risk scores are calculated by plotting the likelihood of harm against the severity of the injury sustained. The likelihood is given a score of 1 to 5, and the severity is given a score of 1 to 5. In doing this a matrix is produced which gives a numerical assessment of the risk on a score of 1 to 25, and a judgement is made as to which risks are low, which are medium and which are high.

Having obtained a risk score, the qualitative risk rating is obtained using the following matrix. These factors will combine to produce a score for the likelihood from injury from the hazard identified.

### **Risk Rating**

PROBABILITY	SEVERITY				
	1	2	3	4	5
<b>1 (Rare)</b>	1	2	3	4	5
<b>2 (Unlikely)</b>	2	4	6	8	10
<b>3 (Possible)</b>	3	6	9	12	15
<b>4 (Likely)</b>	4	8	12	16	20
<b>5 (Certain)</b>	5	10	15	20	25

<b>Rating</b>	<b>Risk</b>	<b>Action</b>
1-9	Low	Monitor situation, action required in the event of any deterioration or exceptional circumstances likely to affect risk rating e.g. review of risk assessment following an accident. Action will be required on some situations where indicated.
10-15	Medium	Monitor situation, action required as soon as practicable, and within defined time frame, to reduce risk to lowest practicable level e.g. provision of suitable fencing and gates around play area.
16-24	High	Immediate action required to remove risk or reduce to its lowest reasonably practicable level e.g. replacement of severely worn swing chains.
25	Immediate	Immediate action required and access by the public must be prevented.

<b>Severity Score</b>	<b>Severity of injury</b>
1 Very Low	No injury likely <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damaged or soiled clothing, minor bruising</li> </ul>
2 Slight	Minor injury <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laceration or bruising requiring first aid only</li> </ul>
3 Moderate	Injury requiring medical intervention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laceration requiring stitches</li> <li>• Sprain, fracture of small bones of hand or foot</li> </ul>
4 High	Serious injury including hospitalisation for observation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concussion</li> <li>• Fracture of long bones of leg/arm</li> <li>• Back/neck injuries</li> <li>• Fractured scull</li> </ul>
5 Very High	Severe injury involving the potential for permanent disability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amputation</li> <li>• Loss of sight</li> <li>• Spinal injury</li> <li>• Fatality</li> </ul>

Equipment is assessed for compliance against the appropriate standards, which are listed next to each item on the record file, although compliance with the standards is not mandatory in law and non-compliance does not necessarily mean that a change is needed. If a change is deemed necessary then this is noted in a report.

Compliance with standards is not always a clear cut and some interpretation can be required, which it need be recognised can be somewhat subjective.

Exposure to acceptable levels of risk and challenge is essential to children's development and allows them to exercise their right to play. Therefore, it may be judged that levels of risk above low risk can be acceptable. The risk scores shown allow the provider to make a judgement after first considering the benefit of the activity to which the risk score relates.

## **10. INSURANCE CLAIMS**

In the event of a serious accident, claims can often be based on alleged negligence: that is, the party responsible for the play facility took some action, or failed to take some action, which made the accident more likely to happen, or worse than what might have otherwise have been the case. The council will need to rely at least in part on the operation of the Playground Management Plan and associated documentation hence the importance with compliance and record keeping.

Any person indicating that they wish to make a claim against the Council for any accident must be advised to contact the Council's Insurance Officer. Under no circumstances must staff other than the Insurance Officer discuss the circumstances of any claim with the claimant or admit liability. If details of an alleged accident have not previously been received then the officer taking the call must fully record them, even if the accident was some time previous.

As soon as there is knowledge of a possible claim against the Council, the matter must be investigated and any associated inspections supported with photographs.

## **11. TRAINING**

Only staff who have received adequate training in playground inspections and relevant risk assessments are to be deployed to carry out inspections.

Inspectors need to refresh their training every 3 years, or more frequently if there are changes in legislation, best practice or changes to equipment.

## **12. FIRST AID**

Each vehicle utilised for mobile inspections must carry a first aid kit.

## **13. COMMUNICATIONS**

Mobile Ranger and relevant park employees are to carry mobile telephones when undertaking their duties to ensure that they can communicate efficiently and effectively with fellow officers and summon assistance if required.

## **14. REGULAR MEETINGS**

Good communication between the Mobile Ranger/Inspectors and line managers is essential to ensure that the systems of checks on playgrounds operates effectively and efficiently, and that any changes to legislation or systems is relayed to all parties.

Regular communication meetings between inspectors and line managers is to be held to ensure that: -

- 1) Inspection reports are handed over.
- 2) Any works required are highlighted and discussed.
- 3) Any accidents or incidents are discussed and the need for actions are reviewed/implemented.
- 4) Work required is prioritised and issued to deal with the most urgent tasks first according to risk.
- 5) Feedback is shared to ensure good practice is consistent.

## **15. CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, it is essential that everyone works closely as a team to ensure that the Council's playgrounds are safe and enjoyable places to visit. The full support and co-operation of everyone involved is sought in trying to minimise any risk associated with our playgrounds.

## **16. EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS**

### **Appendices**

- A) Play areas falling within the management plan
- B) Playground Management Structure
- C) Weekly visual inspection checklist
- D) Quarterly inspections checklist
- E) Important Authority Documents
- F) Sample Defect Sheet
- G) Notes on European Standard for Playground Equipment

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Play Areas falling within this Management Plane**

#### **Port Talbot Area**

1. Baglan Park, SA12 8UB
2. Bishop Mead, Cathedral Way, Baglan Moors, SA12 7DZ
3. Bryn Park, SA13 2RS
4. Coed Hirwaun, Margam Village, SA13 2TX
5. Cross Street, Velindre, SA13 1AZ
6. Fire Station, Cymmer, SA13 3HR
7. Sunny Crescent, Cymmer, SA13 3PG
8. Goytre Close, Goytre, SA13 2YL
9. Hopkin Street, Aberavon, SA12 6HA
10. Margaret Terrace, Blaengwynfi, SA13 3UT
11. Parc Siencyn Powell, Depot Road, Cwmavon, SA12 9BA
12. The Princess Margaret Way, Aberavon, SA12 6QW (Adventure Playground)
13. The Princess Margaret Way, Aberavon, SA12 6QW (Young Children's Playground)
14. The Princess Margaret Way, Aberavon, SA12 6QW (Skate Park)
15. Talbot Memorial Park, Talbot Road, SA13 1DT
16. Tollgate Park, SA13 2DD
17. Tudor Park, Brynheulog Road, SA13 3RR
18. Vivian Park, Sandown Road, SA12 6PT
19. Western Avenue, Seaway Parade, SA12 7BR
20. Ynyscorrwg Park, Park Street, Glyncorrwg, SA13 3DS

#### ***Neath Area***

21. Bowen Street, SA11 1BU
22. Brynnaud Wood, Cimla, SA11 3YQ
23. Cefn y Allt, Aberdulais, SA10 8L
24. Crymlyn Parc, SA10 6DG
25. Evans Road, Melyn, SA11 2DB
26. Gnoll Park, Neath, SA11 3BS (Adventure Playground)
27. Gnoll Park, Neath, SA11 3BS (Junior Playground)
28. Graham Terrace, Skewen, SA10 6RL
29. Heol Glynderwen, Waunceirch, SA10 7RS
30. James Field, Briton Ferry, SA11 2LW
31. Jersey Park, Briton Ferry, SA11 2AX
32. Maes y Hafod, Cadoxton, SA10 8AZ
33. Mount Pleasant Park, Neath, SA11 2YL
34. Parc Newydd, SA11 2UP
35. Pen y Dre, Neath, SA11 3HD
36. Vale of Neath, Glynneath, SA11 2HP
37. Victoria Gardens, Neath, SA11 3BD
38. Victoria Street, Neath, SA11 2RE

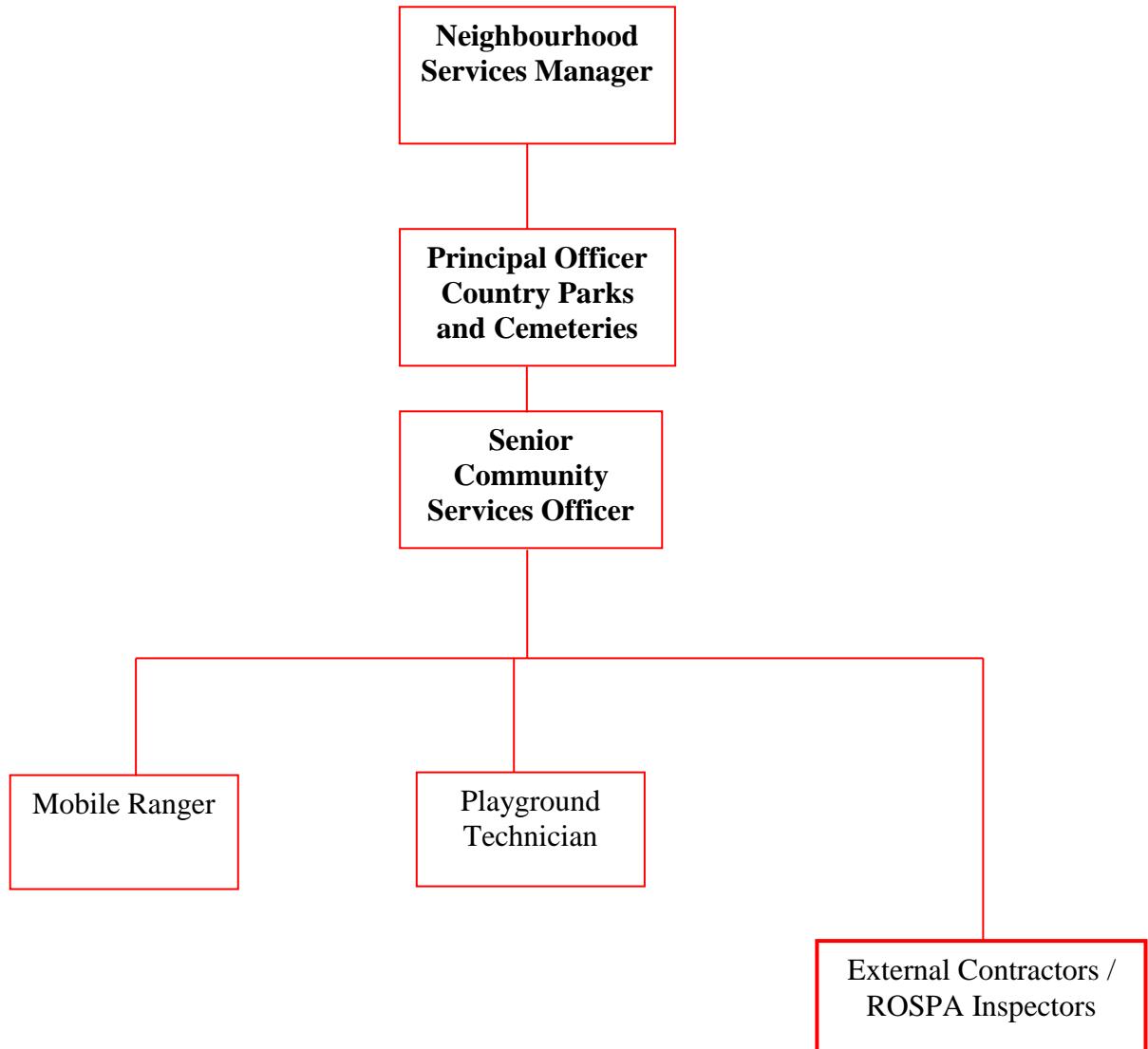
39. Wellfield Square, SA11 1YY
40. Hunters Ridge, Tonna, SA11 3FE

***Lliw Valley Area***

41. Ger yr Afon, Gwaun Cae Gurwen, SA18 1PD
42. Heol Daniel / Heol y Coedcae, Cwmllynfell, SA9 2FY
43. King George V Park, Pontardawe, SA8 4GP
44. Llwyn Road, Cwmgors, SA18 1RE
45. Parc y Darren, Ystalyfera, SA9 2LR
46. Parc y Werin, Gwaun Cae Gurwen, SA18 1EW
47. Parc Ynysderw, Pontardawe, SA8 4EG

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Playground Line Management Structure**



## **APPENDIX C**

### **Weekly Visual Routine Inspection Checklist**

#### **Introduction**

The regular check of the children's playground is intended to be quick and simple. Its primary function is to identify faults or dangers arising from vandalism or breakage.

#### **Site and ancillary items**

- Are signs present and legible?
- Are road barriers present and in good condition?
- Are fences complete and secure?
- Are the gates in working order?
- Are pathways undamaged and unobstructed?
- Is the site free of litter or any dangerous object?
- Are the seats secure and undamaged?
- Are the litter bins secure and undamaged?
- Have they been emptied?
- Has the planting been damaged?

#### **Surfacing**

- Is all safety surfacing undamaged?
- Are loose-fill surfaces at the right level?

#### **Equipment**

##### **All items**

- Are all supports present?
- Is all timber work undamaged?
- Are all safety barriers present?

##### **Swings**

- Are the swing chains unbroken?
- Are the seats fixed on securely and undamaged?

##### **Slides**

- Are the steps undamaged?
- Is the chute undamaged?
- Is it clear of foreign objects?

## **Roundabouts**

- Does it revolve smoothly and noiselessly?
- Is it undamaged?
- If it has a speed governor, does this work?

## **Rocking items**

- Does the item move smoothly and noiselessly?
- Are all safety guards present?
- Does it strike the ground?

## **Spring items**

- Does the item move freely and noiselessly?
- Is the spring undamaged?  
Climbing frames
- Are all the bars in place?
- Are they securely fixed?

## **Cable runaways**

- Does the runner move smoothly and noiselessly?

## **Sand play**

- Is the sand free of rubbish?

## **Ropes**

- Are the ropes secure and undamaged?
- Are the connectors present?

## **Multi-play items**

- Are the guard rails present?
- Are there signs of new timber where a piece has been removed?
- Are there holes in the metal indicating where a piece has been removed?

## **Recording**

- Have you reported all faults?
- Have you dated and signed a log book on completion?

## **APPENDIX D**

### **Quarterly Inspection Checklist**

The inspection will include those elements contained in the weekly inspection schedule, plus: -

#### **EQUIPMENT GENERAL**

- Check for corrosion of the equipment especially at ground level.
- Where equipment is installed with bark around the support legs, the bark is to be cleared to ground level to inspect support legs for corrosion.
- Check paint work of equipment is in a good condition.
- Check all supports are firmly fixed.
- Check timber equipment is in a safe condition with no breaks or splintering, or serious structural creaks.
- Check moving equipment for squeaks and arrange lubrication where required.
- Check signs for any problems.
- Check equipment generally for obscene graffiti and arrange for removal or the painting over of any observed on the site.

#### **SURFACING**

- Check drain covers are in place.
- Check drain silt traps are cleaned.
- Check paths, steps and surface area for potholes, trip hazards etc.
- Check depth of bark is 300mm.
- Check rubber safety surfacing for completeness and that it is fixed in place.

#### **ROUNDABOUTS**

- Check ground clearance of roundabouts whilst stationary and in motion to ensure it conforms to current standards.
- Where lubricating points are provided check the equipment is sufficiently lubricated.
- Check for smooth operation.

#### **SEE –SAWS**

- Check safety guards are securely in place.
- Check motion of see-saw and adjust if necessary.
- Lubricate where necessary.
- Check ground clearance meets the current standards.

## **SWINGS**

- Check swing bushes and replace if necessary.
- Check top bars for security of fixings.
- Check ground clearance of swings of fixing.
- Check ground clearance of swings meets the current standard.

## **SPRING MOBILE ANIMALS**

- Check ground clearance meets the current standards.
- Check fixings for security.
- Check the spring for damage.
- Check for smooth operation.

## **SLIDES**

- Check all steps and general fixings for secureness of bolts etc.
- Check all handrails/chutes for smooth running.

## **CLIMBING FRAMES**

- Ensure all bolts welds are secure.
- Ensure any handgrips, hand bars etc, are secure and do not rotate.
- Check timber equipment for finger traps.
- Check for structural cracks in equipment.
- Check barriers and protective rails etc, for security and safety.

## **DEFECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

- Any defective equipment that has the potential to cause serious harm to users should, where possible, be removed. If this is not possible the equipment must be secured against use by temporary fencing where appropriate and signed accordingly until repaired.

## **GENERAL SITE**

- Check gates and fences for safety defects.
- Check bins and seats for security and safety.
- Check streams for depth of water and other safety concerns.

## **ACCESS AND EGRESS**

- Walk access routes into the site to ensure safety.
- Check any surrounding streams etc, are free running and that any protective fencing is in place.
- Check perimeter fencing for security.

## **APPENDIX E**

### **Important Authority Documents**

The Council's corporate documents are all available via the Council's intranet

Important Council documents to be considered in relation to this document include:

- Corporate Health & Safety Policy
- First Aid at Work
- Procedure for Dealing with Discarded Needles/Syringes
- Risk assessments
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Violence and Aggression
- Accident Reporting
- Lone Working
- Manual Handling
- Noise
- Working at Height

**APPENDIX F****Sample Defect Sheet****Neighbourhood Section****No****Playground and Country Parks Defects Sheets**

Site: .....

Week Ending.....

DATE							
DAY	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
TIME							

Details:.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**Immediate action taken on site:**

.....  
.....  
.....

Signed:..... Name in print:.....

**Action taken by:**

.....  
.....  
.....

## **Appendix G**

### **European Standard for Playground Equipment (EN 1176) - Summary of Requirement**

#### **PROTECTION AGAINST INJURIES IN THE FREE SPACE**

- \* No obstacles in the minimum space (other than structures to assist or safeguard the user)
- \* Traffic flows should not go through the minimum space

#### **PROTECTION AGAINST INJURIES IN THE FALLING SPACE**

- \* Free height of fall should not exceed 3m
- \* No obstacles in the falling space
- \* Platforms with fall heights of more than 1m between them require surfacing

#### **PROTECTION AGAINST INJURIES DUE TO OTHER TYPES OF MOVEMENT**

- \* No unexpected obstacles

#### **SURFACING SAFETY REQUIREMENTS**

- \* Surfacing should have no sharp edges or protrusions
- \* Loose fills should be 200mm more than the depth required to meet the HIC reading (usually 100mm)
- \* Hard surfaces should only be used outside where children fall
- \* Testable Impact absorbing surfaces if falls over 600mm are possible. Topsoil or turf may be used up to 1m

#### **DESIGN AND MANUFACTURE**

- \* The equipment must be suitable for the user and risks should be identifiable by the child
- \* Accessibility: adults must be able to gain access to help children
- \* Grip requirements: permitted diameter 16 - 45mm (i.e. overhead bars)
- \* Grasp requirements: maximum diameter 60mm (i.e. handrails on steps)
- \* Not easily accessible for children under three

#### **FINISHING**

- \* Timber species and synthetics should be splinter resistant
- \* No protrusions or sharp edged components
- \* Bolts should not protrude by more than 8mm
- \* Corners, edges or projecting parts over 8mm should have a 3mm radius.
- \* No hard and sharp-edged parts (i.e. razor blade effect caused by sheet steel)
- \* No crushing or shearing points
- \* Connections should not come loose by themselves and should resist removal
- \* Timber connections should not rely solely on screws or nails.
- \* Leaking lubricants should not stain or impair the safety of the equipment

#### **FIBRE ROPES**

- \* Conform to EN 701 or 919 or have a material and load certificate
- \* Ropes used by hands shall have a soft, non-slip covering

#### **WIRE ROPES**

- \* Non-rotating and corrosion resistant with no splayed wires outside the ferrule
- \* Wire connector clip threads should protrude less than 8mm
- \* Turnbuckles should be enclosed, have a loop at each end and be secured

#### **CHAINS**

- \* Maximum opening of individual links: 8.6mm in any one direction
- \* Connecting links between chains must be less than 8.6mm or over 12mm

## **SWINGING SUSPENDED ROPES**

- \* Not combined with swings in the same bay
- \* Less than 2m long: over 600mm from static parts; over 900mm from swinging parts
- \* 2m - 4m long: over 1000mm from anything
- \* Diameter: 25 - 45mm

## **CLIMBING ROPES**

- \* Anchored at both ends and movement less than 20% of rope length
- \* Single climbing rope diameter: 18 - 45mm (nets comply with Grip requirements)

## **ENTRAPMENTS**

- \* Entrapment: a place from which children cannot extricate themselves unaided. There are seven probes: the Torso Probe, the Large Head Probe, Probe 1, Probe 2, the Wedge Probe and the two Finger Probes. There is also a toggle test to reduce the dangers of clothing toggles being caught on slides, fireman's poles and roofs.
- \* The space between the flexible bridge and rigid sides should be not less than 230mm

## **ENTRAPMENT OF FEET AND LEGS**

- \* Inclined planes (not suspension bridges) less than 45° should have no gaps over 30mm
- \* There are no requirements for suspension bridge gaps other than the main entrapment requirements

## **FINGER ENTRAPMENTS**

These occur in: 1. gaps where child's movement may cause a finger to become stuck; 2. open-ended tubes; 3. moving gaps

- \* Tube ends should be securely enclosed and removable only with tools
- \* Moving gaps should not close to less than 12mm

## **BARRIERS AND GUARD-RAILS**

- \* Hand-rail: a rail to help the child balance
- \* Guard-rail: a rail to prevent children falling
- \* Barrier: a guard-rail with non-climbable in-fill

## **HAND-RAILS**

- \* Where required they should be between 600 and 850mm above the standing surface

## **EQUIPMENT FOR UNDER 3'S**

- \* Platforms over 600mm require a barrier with a minimum height of 700mm high + impact absorbing surfacing

## **EQUIPMENT FOR OVER 3'S**

- \* Platforms up to 1000mm: No barriers or guard-rails required + impact absorbing surface over
- \* Platforms 1000-2000mm: 600 - 850mm high guard-rail + impact absorbing surfacing
- \* Platforms 2000-3000mm: 700mm high barrier + impact absorbing surfacing
- \* No bars, infills or steps which can be used as steps. Tops should discourage standing or sitting

## **MEANS OF ACCESS**

The main change in this area is that the probes should now be applied to accesses. All means of access should have no entrapments; be securely fixed; be level to  $\pm 30$  (ramps across width) and have a constant angle. It does not refer to agility equipment used as an access i.e.