

PLAY AREA POLICY

31 March 2020

Prepared by:	Jo Cole
Date effective from:	31/03/2020
Policy approved by:	Si Welch
Review Date:	31/03/2024

EIA Required?	<input type="checkbox"/>
EIA Completed?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Revision number:	3
Lead officer:	Jo Cole

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Stockport Homes (SHG) Greenspace Strategy sets the context for managing, maintaining and improving a network of greenspace across the borough. This ensures that the spaces are well designed, high quality, safe and accessible and that they are integral to making neighbourhoods places where people want to live, visit work and invest. Within the network of greenspaces are a variety of play spaces, which SHG are responsible for managing. Stockport Homes.

1.2 Play should be enjoyed by everyone; it is one of the ways that we make sense of ourselves, the people around us and the environment in which we live. All children and young people regardless of culture, gender or ability engage as individuals or groups in play and leisure activities.

1.3 Children, young people, parents, carers and communities see play and informal leisure provision as important. It offers everyone the opportunity to learn and develop new skills. It is about encouraging and providing increased opportunities for our children and young people within the Stockport community to be more active and healthy, to celebrate cultural diversity, and to reach their full potential through play and leisure.

1.4 When play is combined with other initiatives and strategies around inclusion, housing, health, regeneration, child care, parenting, extended schools, youth offending, green space and sustainability it will contribute to reducing inequalities.

1.5 Poor quality greenspaces that do not fit the needs of the local people that are inappropriately managed, neglected or unkempt have a detrimental impact on neighbourhoods, both visually through physical appearance and customer satisfaction.

1.6 The Play Area policy gives guidance to staff as to what action should be taken regarding the management, maintenance and improvement of play spaces managed by SHG in addition to those play areas which form part of new build development schemes. There are parks and play areas that are managed by Stockport Council and others within these neighbourhoods. The guidance provides advice on action required where issues or opportunities for improvement are identified.

2 STRATEGIC LINKS

2.1 The policy links in with SHG and partner strategies, policies and action plans, which ensures action is being taken to provide play spaces that are integral to ensuring the long term sustainability of neighbourhoods. These are;

- Stockport Borough Council Open Space Assessment Report August 2017
- Stockport Active Communities Strategy 2019-21

- Estate Inspection and Customer Walkabout
- Greenspace Strategy and Action Plan
- Funding Strategy and Action
- Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy
- Asset Management Strategy
- Eyes Wide Open Statement

3 KEY FEATURES OF THE POLICY

3.1 SHG will provide guidance to staff to enable a consistent approach in taking action to ensure safe, accessible and high quality play spaces are provided in neighbourhoods they manage. Neighbourhood and Support teams will work closely with Stockport Council and key stakeholders to identify opportunities to enhance existing, and where appropriate provide new play spaces in consultation with residents.

4 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

4.1 An EIA screening form has been completed and has determined that a full EIA is not required.

4.2 As part of the assessment, it was determined that during design of new or improved improvements to a play space, consultation with customers would be carried out to ensure that the design and implementation considered the potential impacts on minority groups, particularly disabled children as they will be the primary group who could be affected.

5 OWNERSHIP, MONITORING & REVIEW

5.1 The policy is owned by the Head of Neighbourhoods and will be monitored by Policy Review Group through the schedule.

5.2 The policy will be reviewed on a three year basis to ensure policy reflects current legislations and best practice.

5.3 Any queries with the policy should be forwarded to the Policy Officer on 0161 474 5151.