

PLAY AREA POLICY

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Prepared by:	Jo Cole
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Policy approved by:	OMT
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EIA Required?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
EIA Completed?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Revision number:	Version 1
Lead officer:	Jo Cole

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 A network of greenspace that are well designed, high quality, safe and accessible and is integral to making neighbourhoods places where people want to live, visit work and invest. As part of managing a diverse network of greenspace Stockport Homes is responsible for managing a variety of play spaces across the borough.

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. The right to play is enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and applies to all children and young people up to the age of 18. It is essential to their health, development and well-being.

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 Stockport Homes. In addition, 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 national, local policy, key legislation, regulation and Stockport Homes 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 Council Plan
- The Health and Safety at Work Act (1974)

- The Health and Safety at Works Regulation (1999)
- Regulatory Standards
- Stockport Homes Delivery Plan
- Environmental Services Strategy
- Greenspace Strategy and Action Plan
- Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy
- 30 Year Asset Management Strategy
- Eyes Wide Open Policy Statement
- Neighbourhood Inspection and Customer Walkabout Policy

2.2 This includes support to SHL compliance as part of the regulatory standards as described in the Neighbourhood and Community Standard. By ensuring that, by working together with customers and partners, communal areas and greenspaces are managed and maintained effectively and that neighbourhoods are safe and clean.

3 KEY FEATURES OF THE POLICY

3.1 Stockport Homes 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 managed by Stockport Homes

3.2 All 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 Operations Directorate and will be monitored through the Operations Management Team. The policy will be reviewed by Operations Management review schedule.