

Appendix 4

Equalities and Diversity Impact Assessment

REVIEW OF FIXED PLAY PROVISION



Durham County Council – Altogether Better equality impact assessment form

NB: Equality impact assessment is a legal requirement for all strategies plans, functions, policies, procedures and services. We are also legally required to publish our assessments. You can find help and prompts on completing the assessment in the guidance from page 7 onwards.

Section one: Description and initial screening

Section overview: this section provides an audit trail.

Service/team or section:
Sport and leisure Services, Outdoor Sport and leisure

Lead Officer:
Strategic Manager, Sports and Leisure
Planning and Policy Team Leader

Start date:
02 July 2012
Reviewed 1st May 2013
Reviewed 28th October 2013
Reviewed 23rd January 2014
Reviewed 1st August 2014

Subject of the Impact Assessment: (please also include a brief description of the aims, outcomes, operational issues as appropriate)

County Durham has a population of just under 500,000, of which 120,000 are children and young people aged 0-19 years, covering a large geographical area of 862 square miles.

The review will consider the need to establish a 'core offer' of fixed play site provision across County Durham. This will involve a series of consultation activities; initially focussing on - the factors and considerations that will be used to inform the core offer; the identification of bonafide third party groups who may consider adopting sites, in excess of the Council's offer and capturing the views of the area action partnerships in relation to their provision and the delivery of the Council's offer.

Who are the main stakeholders: General public / Employees / Elected Members / Partners/ Specific audiences/Other (please specify) –

- Children and young people
- Disabled people
- Residents and visitors of County Durham
- Voluntary Sector (community/residents associations)
- Town and Parish Councils
- AAP's
- Elected members
- Children's Trusts
- Local Children's Boards
- Police

Is a copy of the subject attached? No

If not, where could it be viewed? Please contact Durham County Council's Outdoor Leisure Services

Initial screening

The assessment process will remain open throughout the duration of the play review and will be refreshed in parallel with key decision making points in the process.

Though play is enjoyed by people of all ages, fixed play facilities are of higher value to children and young people.

Children and young people should have access to quality play facilities in order to promote health and well being

The review aims to introduce a fairer and more equitable distribution of fixed play sites throughout the county.

Reviewed October 2013

The core offer has not as yet been agreed and as a result further consultation has not taken place. The target date for action 2 is now be January 2014 and the EIA review date will adjusted accordingly to January 2014.

Reviewed January 2014

Action 2- Further consultation will take place once core offer has been agreed – target date now adjusted - February 2014

Reviewed 1st August 2014 –

Following Phase 2 of the consultation

Prompts to help you:

Who is affected by it? Who is intended to benefit and how? Could there be a different impact or outcome for some groups? Is it likely to affect relations between different communities or groups, for example if it is thought to favour one particular group or deny opportunities for others? Is there any specific targeted action to promote equality?

Is there an actual/potential negative or positive impact on specific groups within these headings?

Indicate :Y = Yes, N = No, ?=Unsure

Gender	N	Disability	Y	Age	Y	Race/ethnicity	N	Religion or belief	N	Sexual orientation	N
--------	---	------------	---	-----	---	----------------	---	-----------------------	---	-----------------------	---

What evidence do you have to support your findings?

Consultation Results (Extracts relating to Equality)

A significant countywide consultation was developed to achieve the broadest possible response, including attendance at and feedback from Area Action Partnership events.

Information was forwarded to the County Durham Disability Partnership, with links to the online survey, to be circulated to all interested parties. Groups represented include:

- Gay Advice Durham and Darlington
- Blind Life Durham
- Durham Police
- Learning Disability Parliament
- County Durham Society for the Visually Handicapped
- Darlington Association on Disability

- Durham City and District Access for All
- Developing Initiatives Supporting Communities
- Mental Health Trust

Stakeholder Feedback

224 responses were received via an online questionnaire and paper surveys
 Feedback from members of eXtreme Sensory Support group was also received

(

Consultation Questionnaire – Summary of results

- Most respondents visited the type of play area which has up to five pieces of equipment.
- Nearly two-thirds of respondents felt play provision should be based on settlement type.
- More than three-quarters of respondents felt main towns should be divided into play sectors.
- Four-fifths of respondents felt play provision should be based on the current population of young people, with an age of up to 14 years being considered for play provision.
- Proximity to other facilities was the most common factor which should influence distribution of play sites.
- All four suggested destination parks each received support from more than 70% of respondents.

Which type of play site do you mainly visit?

Type of play site Number Percentage

Altogether Better guide to Equality Impact Assessments

Type A (small with up to five items of equipment)	75	33.5%
Type B (large with up to five items of equipment)	74	33%
Type C (large with equipment and other facilities such as skate parks, bmx tracks, multi use games area)	48	21.4%
I don't use fixed play sites	27	12.1%
Total	224	100%

Population

Population

Allocation of play sites might also be based on population levels within cities, towns and villages. This could be based upon:

- the current overall population levels
- the current population levels of younger people
- predictions about the future number of young people

Question 5: Do you think that the number of fixed play sites should be based on:

the current overall population of the area yes/no

the current population of younger people of the area yes/no

the predicted future population of young people of the area yes/no

Population base Number of responses received

Percentage of respondents saying 'yes'

the current overall population	70	46.4%
the current population of young people	133	81.6%
the predicted future population of young people	117	75.5%

Question 6: If the population of young people was to be used to inform the fair distribution of fixed play sites, up to which age should be considered?

- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- Other

Age Number of responses received Percentage

10	3	1.7%
11	3	1.7%
12	4	2.2%
13	0	0.0%
14	68	38.0%
15	5	2.8%
16	53	29.6%
17	5	2.8%
18	28	15.6%
All ages	2	1.1%
Other	3	1.7%
Total responses received	179	100%

Question 7: What is the main factor that you feel should influence the distribution of play sites?

- Population
- Proximity of other facilities

Ease of access
Other

Factor Number of responses received Percentage

Population	42	22.3%
Proximity of other facilities	74	39.4%
Ease of access	48	25.5%
Ability to maintain site	3	1.6%
Actual/projected use	2	1.1%
All areas should have facilities	4	2.1%
All of the options	3	1.6%
Child population	2	1.1%
In areas lacking facilities	3	1.6%
Itinerant population	1	0.5%
Population & Ease of access	2	1.1%
Population & Proximity of facilities	1	0.5%
Settlement locality	1	0.5%
Proximity to facilities & Ease of access	2	1.1%
Total responses received	188	100%

Destination Parks

Developing destination parks would make County Durham a more attractive place to live and visit and would encourage visitors to spend time participating in the parks attractions. A 'Destination park' is defined as: 'a play area that, whether design or otherwise, attracts a range of people from a wider area and may be treated as a day out. For instance, it may attract users from neighbouring towns or districts.' - Department of Education (DfE)
County Durham's current destination parks are:

Riverside Park, Chester-le-Street
Hardwick Park, Sedgefield

It is proposed that Durham County Council develops more destination parks. The following are proposed:
Allensford Park, Consett

Wharton Park, Durham City
 Town Recreation Ground, Bishop Auckland
 Scar Top, Barnard Castle

Would you support the creation of destination parks at:

- Allensford Park, Consett
- Wharton Park, Durham City
- Town Recreation Ground, Bishop Auckland
- Scar Top, Barnard Castle

Yes/No/No opinion/don't know

Location Number of responses received Percentage of respondents saying 'yes'

Allensford Park, Consett	71	71.7%
Wharton Park, Durham	97	78.9%
Town Recreation Ground, Bishop Auckland	71	71.0%
Scar Top, Barnard Castle	73	71.6%

Equalities Information gathered as a voluntary part of the survey

What is your gender?

Gender	Number of responses Received	Percentage
Male	58	33.1%
Female	117	66.9%
Total responses	175	100%

What is your age group?

Age group	Number of responses received	Percentage
Under 16	3	1.7%
16-24	6	3.4%
25-34	40	22.9%
35-44	69	39.4%
45-54	30	17.1%
55-64 17 9.7%	17	9.7%
65+ 10 5.7%	10	5.7%
Total responses 175 100.0%	175	100%

Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person?

Disabled	Number of responses received	Percentage
Yes	9	5.3%
No	160	94.7%
Total responses	169	100

No 160 94.7%

What is your religion or belief?

Religion/belief	Number of responses received	Percentage
Christian	107	66.5%
None	54	33.5%
Total responses	161	100%

161 100.0%

How would you describe your sexuality?

Altogether Better guide to Equality Impact Assessments

Sexuality	Number of responses received	Percentage	
Bisexual	1	0.7%	
Heterosexual	152	99.3%	
Total	153	100%	

What is your ethnicity?

Ethnicity	Number of responses received	Percentage
Mixed race	1	0.6%
White	158	99.4%
Total responses	159	100%

eXtreme group Sensory Support – Young People’s feedback on play parks review

(note – feedback replicated below exactly as received)

The group met on Wednesday 28 Nov and discussed play parks as part the their agenda.

The following comments were made regarding play parks in their local areas and the young people came up with some ideas which they feel would improve play parks and parks in general.

a) Some villages in County Durham don’t have parks and some places have pay areas and parks – it seems unfair that not everywhere is equal.

b On the whole park equipment isn’t oof, its old and adtes and often broken.

c) Because play parks aren’t that nice or invited they can becaome not well used. When this happens they start to be used for the woring think, like people hangig out and drinking.

d) Play parks are usually aimed at young ones and there’s never equipment for older ones, this emans that the older ones have nothignto us. They try to use the little stuff and it breaks. It also gets them in trouble and means people think they are no good and a

nuisance.

e) There are swings, but never enough for a whole friends group, that's why older ones try using little baby swings and break the or get stuck.

f) Paly park should have more to them, if you want children and young people to play hten you should provide them with enough stuff to be able to play, like lots of big and small swings, advemture stuff suitable for older age groups, seating for parents of younger ones and young people, places to shelter, zip wires, bmx tracks, skate parks.

g) If there was lots to do in one area that would be better.

h) If friends could all go along to one pace and everyone had something they could do, go on the swings, use their bike or skateboard or just sit and chill that would be better.

i)Not many prakns in county durham are inclusive for people with disabilities, the one in

j)Stanhope is good. All play [arks in future should be made to be fully inclusive.

k) Generally parks in County Durham are very boring. They have mainly, flowers, a bowling green for old people (where young people aren't welcome) maye a cricket club that is all locked up and a playpark, usually aimed at young children. Park are somewhere young people can go to be with their friends but often there's nothing there for them to do so they just wander around ior mess about and make nose, they are often asked to leave parks because of this.

l) If parks had more going on then maybe young people wouldn't get so bored, would be doing things that look positive to adulst and therefore they would be left alone and would be allowed in parks.

Consultation Phase 2

Summary of Results

- Overall agreement with the proposed core offer
- Overall agreement with the proposed countywide strategy
- Overall agreement with the proposed play site types (A,B,C)

- Overall agreement with splitting larger towns and settlements into play sectors
- Other key areas of interest were issues around transfer of sites, maintenance and double taxation, although these topics were not directly being consulted on.

concern as to variation in population because of caravan parks – The proposals are based upon the number children in population of the settlement. It should be noted that the Ramshaw facility will not be impacted as it is under the control of the Town/parish council.

children/youngsters moving from one village to another – This refers to children moving from Willington to Oakenshaw. The children will have the option of staying in Willington. Children will have the choice as to which play area they want to use, however the provision is based upon the settlement.

provision for older children/teenagers within that particular settlement – the settlement in Great Aycliffe is not at risk. Children and Young people will travel to a skate park on their bicycles.

Chosen sites should take on board any particular wishes of the parents and children of the area – further consultation will take place once the policy is implemented to identify local priorities

Communities divided into distinct and separate areas by roads rivers or major obstructions – each site will be looked at on a case by case basis. The council has a duty of care to the public in such cases as Croxdale where the settlement is divided by the A167.

The consultation results are available with the report.

Decision: Proceed to full impact assessment – Yes

Date:02-07-2012

If you have answered 'No' you need to pass the completed form for approval & sign off.

Section two: Identifying impacts and evidence- Equality and Diversity

Section overview: this section identifies whether there are any impacts on equality/diversity/cohesion, what evidence is available to support the conclusion and what further action is needed.			
	Identify the impact : does this increase differences or does it aim to reduce gaps for particular groups?	Explain your conclusion, including relevant evidence and consultation you have considered.	What further action is required? (Include in Sect. 3 action plan)
Gender	No negative impact has been identified.	There is no evidence in the consultation that gender is an issue.	
Age	<p>The core offer will include a range of different types of fixed play provision depending upon children and young people population numbers</p> <p>a) equipment suitable for children aged 8years and under (no more than 5 items of equipment)</p> <p>b) equipment suitable for children aged 12 years and under (no more than 4-8 items of equipment)</p> <p>c) equipment suitable for children aged 12 years and over in addition to the above this will include for example skate parks BMX tracks and ball courts.</p>	<p>See above eXtreme group Sensory Support – Young People’s feedback on play parks review</p> <p>Comments d,e,k</p> <p>Comments d,e,f,</p> <p>Comments d,e,f,h, k,l</p>	

	<p>Seating where appropriate will be considered during the design phase of fixed play provision.</p> <p>The core offer will focus on children and young people aged 0-15 years</p> <p>Positive impact for children and parents. It will enable children and young people to enjoy the outside and play.</p> <p>Comments from Phase 2 of the consultation</p> <p>Concern as to variation in population because of caravan parks.</p> <p>Children/youngsters moving from one village to another.</p>	<p>These comments will be considered within the development of the core offer.</p> <p>The proposals are based upon the number children in population of the settlement. It should be noted that the Ramshaw facility will not be impacted as it is under the control of the Town/parish council.</p> <p>This refers to children moving from Willington to Oakenshaw. The children will have the option of staying in</p>	
--	---	--	--

	<p>Provision for older children/teenagers within that particular settlement.</p> <p>Chosen sites should take on board any particular wishes of the parents and children of the area</p> <p>Communities divided into distinct and separate areas by roads rivers or major obstructions</p>	<p>Willington. Children will have the choice as to which play area they want to use, however the provision is based upon the population of children within settlement.</p> <p>The settlement in Great Aycliffe is not at risk. Children and teenagers will travel to skate parks on their bicycles.</p> <p>Further consultation will take place once the policy is implemented identifying local priorities.</p> <p>Each site will be looked at on a case by case basis. The council has a duty of care to the public in such cases as Croxdale where the settlement is divided by the A167.</p>	
Disability	Consultation results indicated that there should be access to	Comments i, j	

	<p>all fixed play areas. Any paths, gates installed leading into the play areas will take into consideration the needs of the disabled</p> <p>Potential negative effect where sites exceed the core offer</p> <p>Positive effect where the core offer isn't met</p> <p>Where new equipment is provided, disability and sensory needs will be considered.</p> <p>Play areas will provide some equipment suitable for children with disabilities.</p>	<p>These comments will be considered within the development of the core offer</p> <p>Comment a</p> <p>Comment d,e,f,g,h,i,j,l</p>	
Race/Ethnicity	No negative impact has been identified.	There is no evidence from the consultation that any negative impact has been identified	
Religion or belief	No negative impact has been identified.	There is no evidence from the consultation that any negative impact has been identified	
Sexual Orientation	No negative impact has been identified.	There is no evidence from the consultation that any negative impact has been identified	

How will this promote positive relationships between different communities?

The review should lead to greater equitability of provision across the County

Section three: Review and Conclusion

Summary: please provide a brief overview, including impact, changes, improvements and any gaps in evidence.

The assessment process that will remain open throughout the duration of the play review and will be refreshed in parallel with key decision making points in the process.

The consultation resulted in comments supported many of the aspects of the review i.e. provision of equipment reflect age range, proximity to other facilities and accessibility of fixed play being important to those who responded to the questionnaire.

Action to be taken	Officer responsible	Target Date	In which plan will this action appear
1) Young people including those who are disabled, and their carers, will be specifically involved in consultation, and their views will be sought on the factors to be used in assessing levels of provision.	Outdoor Sport and Leisure Officer	Completed	Neighbourhoods Services Equalities Monitoring
2) Further consultation will take place once core offer has been agreed.	Outdoor Sport and Leisure Officer	Complete	Neighbourhoods Equalities Monitoring
Review	Outdoor Sport and Leisure Officer	September 2015	
When will this assessment be reviewed?	Date: September 2015		

Are there any additional assessments that need to be undertaken in relation to this assessment?	No
Lead officer - sign off: Steve Howell Head of Sport and Leisure	Date: 6/07/2012 <u>Reviewed 1st May 2013</u> <u>Reviewed 30th October 2013</u> <u>Reviewed 24th January 2014</u> <u>Reviewed 1st August 2014</u>
Service equality representative - sign off: Mary Readman Customer Relations, Policy, Performance and Communications Manager	Date: 6/07/2012 <u>Reviewed 1st May 2013</u> <u>Reviewed 30th October 2013</u> <u>Reviewed 24th January 2014</u> <u>Reviewed 1st August 2014</u>