

## Appendix 2 – Equality Impact Assessment

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<b>Title</b>	<b>Lewisham Play Strategy</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>17 August 2022</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Strategy and Improvement</b>

### 1. The project or decision that this assessment is being undertaken for

Lewisham Council wants to ensure that Children and Young People in the borough have safe, accessible and well-maintained local place spaces where they are free to express themselves, foster friendships, and engage in activities that promote physical and mental and wellbeing. The strategy captures and demonstrates the borough's ongoing commitment to Play for our children. This is the borough's first five year Play Strategy that covers 2022 to 2027.

The aims of the Play Strategy is to identify existing play provisions and offers, and develop future quality opportunities in the borough to ensure that children and young people have play facilities within walking distance.

In order to achieve this, the borough sets out to:

- Create a holistic cross-cutting approach to play, coordinated across all Lewisham Council departments.
- Develop a co-design model which can be applied to all new developments
- Add recommendations for creating play opportunities to existing council guidance for new developers

The Play Strategy is closely linked with:

Lewisham Parks and Open Space Strategy 2020-2025

Health and wellbeing strategy

Lewisham Local Offer

#### 1.1 Who is intended to benefit or be affected by the implementation of the service or project and in what way?

The Play Strategy is intended to benefit all Lewisham children and young people and their families, Children and young people will benefit from having a variety of safe, accessible and well maintained play spaces local to their homes. In developing this strategy, we engaged with children and young people and their families, across the borough to understand their view on the availability and utilisation of current play provisions in the borough, how this can be improved, and their aspirations for future models of play.

Lewisham council is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of its children and young people by ensuring that obstacles to children playing spaces are altered or removed, and issues of play deprivation are adequately addressed.

#### 1.2 How does the service/policy/project link with Lewisham Council Corporate priorities?

The play strategy fits with priority's one and three of the Lewisham corporate strategy 2018-22 which are:

- Open Lewisham
- Giving children and young people the best start in life

#### How?

- The Play Strategy aims to provide quality supervised and unsupervised safe play opportunities within walking distance of children and young people's homes
- The play action plan from the strategy will provide current and future play provisions that are accessible to all children and young person irrespective of age, sex, disability status, sexual orientation, ensuring that no child or young person and their family is left behind
- A fundamental part of the play action plan will ensure that play is an integral part of Lewisham early years curriculum and there is quality spaces and tools to achieve this within schools and in the community

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- The play action plan will ensure that all providers of play services and facilities offer is welcoming, engaging, and accessible for all local children and young people
- Children and young people, their families and the community will play an active role in the design and development and location of play provisions

## 1.3 Evidence (Consideration of data and information)

The following engagements has been considered

902 Lewisham residents (adults and children) engaged with us through online surveys, face to face interaction, council's citizen space, and focus groups, over a four week period. Residents were asked to answer five key questions on location, accessibility, barriers, quality and benefits of play. The vast majority of the respondents reported that they appreciate and regularly use Lewisham play spaces.

Alongside the resident engagement, an audit of fifty Lewisham's parks and the current five Adventure playgrounds provisions was undertaken which has also informed the Play Strategy.

## 2. The protected characteristics or other equalities factors potentially impacted by this decision

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ethnicity/Race	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion or belief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Language spoken	<input type="checkbox"/> Other, please define:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender/Sex	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender identity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Household type	
<input type="checkbox"/> Income	<input type="checkbox"/> Carer status	<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Socio Economic	
<input type="checkbox"/> Marriage and Civil Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy and Maternity	<input type="checkbox"/> Refugee/Migrant/Asylum seeker	<input type="checkbox"/> Health & Social Care	
<input type="checkbox"/> Nationality	<input type="checkbox"/> Employment			

Equality Group	Impact What Impact will the policy/service have on specific groups			Potential barriers / Reason(s) for choice of impact
	Positive	Negative	Neutral	
<b>Protected Characteristics</b>				
Age	X			<p>Depending on the play provision, location and nature of play, younger children or older young people may feel excluded.</p> <p>As part of the development of the play strategy, an audit of the current play provisions was undertaken and this has highlighted that limited opening times and lack of age appropriate equipment excludes some age groups.</p> <p><b>Solutions</b> The play strategy action plan will ensure that all play spaces and opportunities are available and accessible to all Lewisham children and young people 0 to 17 years or 25 for children and young people with SEND</p> <p>The strategy acknowledges that there is need for targeted play for specific age groups, for instance: transition age groups (14-17years).</p>

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				<p>Opportunities will also be available for intergenerational play, where adult family members can participate and enjoy play.</p> <p>We will achieve this through the co-design of services</p>
Disability	X			<p>Children and young people with disabilities may be negatively impacted if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play spaces and provision are inaccessible</li> <li>• Children and young people with disabilities are not involved in consultations and design of play</li> <li>• Play workers do not have the necessary training to support children and young people with disabilities and their families</li> </ul> <p><b>Solutions</b></p> <p>The play strategy will ensure that all Lewisham play provisions new and existing, are accessible with appropriate reasonable adjustments to allow full participation from children and young people with all types of disabilities.</p> <p>We will seek to include Children and young people with disabilities and their families in the design and development of play opportunities in the borough</p>
Ethnicity/Race	X			<p>Some communities may feel excluded or unable to access play provisions if cultural practices and considerations, and customs are not considered.</p> <p><b>Solution</b></p> <p>As a borough of culture, Lewisham proudly celebrates its rich diversity, and this will be reflected in the action plan of the play strategy by way of ensuring that play spaces exhibit multicultural themes and are responsive to cultural needs</p> <p>Through on-going consultations, the strategy aims to identify and address potential barriers of play for children and young people from diverse backgrounds, and to actively seek ways of meeting the needs and expectations of all families.</p>
Gender/Sex	X			<p>There is a risk of gender inequality if play spaces and provisions exclude a particular sex from participating in play or dedicates play for a specific gender.</p> <p><b>Solution</b></p>

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				<p>The play strategy promotes equality and will ensure that all Lewisham play providers embed equality in their practice.</p> <p>The strategy will hold Lewisham play providers responsible for ensuring that prejudices and anti-discriminatory practices are actively challenged, and children and young people and their families have the freedom of choice of play.</p>
Socio Economic	X			<p>Children and young people and their families may be excluded if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play spaces and provision are not affordable</li> <li>• Play spaces and provisions are not evenly located around the borough</li> <li>• Play spaces and provision are further than walking distances from children's homes</li> </ul> <p><b>Solution</b> The strategy action plan will commits to consider the recommendation of the audit to ensure that current and new play spaces are at the right locations, for the right demographic and at walking distances from children's homes.</p> <p>The strategy further commits to working in partnership with play providers in continued consultation with children and young people, their families and the community, to ensure that play provisions and spaces are well utilised.</p>
Religion/belief and Language spoken	X			<p>Some communities may feel excluded or unable to access provisions if cultural practices and considerations, and customs are not considered.</p> <p><b>Solution</b> The play strategy aims for all play spaces and provisions to be accessible to all Lewisham children and young people and their families irrespective of religious affiliations, belief or language. In development of play provisions we will actively seek ways of meeting the needs and expectations of families expressing different religions/beliefs.</p>
<p><b>3. Action planning</b> To complete upon approval for the development of the Play Strategy five year Action Plan</p>				
<b>Signature of Director</b>	<p>Sara Rahman, Director of Families, Quality &amp; Commissioning</p> 			