

Play Sufficiency Consultation Response

Consultation Question 12

Do you agree with the proposed definitions?

"children"	Yes
"localities"	Yes
"open space"	Yes
"play spaces"	Yes

Consultation Question 13

Do you agree planning authorities should map the locations of the two categories of play spaces, and how they are described in draft Regulations 3(2)(a) and (b)?

Yes

Consultation Question 14

Do you agree with the proposed requirement to assess play opportunities in respect of their suitability by age groups?

Yes

We would agree that this could be a useful tool as it could highlight potential areas requiring development eg. if it is identified that the only fixed equipment available is for children aged 12 and under then fixed equipment/structures such as a parkour course, or outdoor gym equipment could be considered for children aged 12+.

Consultation Question 15

a) Do you agree with the proposed three aspects of the assessment- 'accessibility', 'quantity' and 'quality'? and;

Yes

In addition to the 3 aspects identified in the question, we believe that inclusion should not be for future guidance but included from the start. Inclusion is about equality for all children and families, and should not be a secondary or future thought but embedded from the start of the process- we believe it is a fundamental consideration of any assessment.

Furthermore, for childcare or other children services which operate inclusive practices, they need to know in advance that play spaces have basic requirements such as toileting, changing facilities, parking, shelters etc.; this is especially important during holidays when a service may be based outside for most of the day.

b) to provide them in written statements in respect of the totality of the local authority area and at each locality level?

Yes

Following on from comments above. 'Inclusion' must also be provided in written statements in respect of the totality of the local authority area and at each locality level.

Consultation question 16

a) Do you agree to the requirement to consult as part of the process of carrying out the play sufficiency assessment?

Yes

b) Do you agree with the proposed list of consultees on play sufficiency assessments?

Yes

In addition to those identified we would like to see specific mention to consult local services supporting children (either statutory or community-based) e.g. registered childcare services, schools, youth groups, play services, uniformed organisations, as all are services which support children, and provide play and activity opportunities within the local community.

Consultation question 17

Do you agree with the publication requirement for play sufficiency assessments?

Yes

Although having copies available online in some ways makes them more accessible we know of the digital divide, and in fact many families struggle to access online documents. Therefore to ensure inclusivity, we would suggest that hardcopies should be made available through statutory services which support children and families- ELC, school and health centres, in addition to local authority-run leisure facilities such as libraries, sports centres and museums.

National Planning Framework Consultation

Policy 6: Design, quality and place

Q28: Do you agree that this policy will enable the planning system to promote design, quality and place?

Yes. We especially like that a sense of 'joy' which will contribute to people feeling and being playful is considered- it is very important for children and young people to feel connected to, and at ease in, their local outdoor spaces.

Policy 7: Local living

Q29: Do you agree that this policy sufficiently addresses the need to support local living?

Yes. However, we know that some children attend childcare and school settings which are distant from the family home, either by choice or necessity (such as rural areas). Therefore, as some children will spend much of the day (school-time and holidays) away from the family home, it could be useful to additionally consider schools and childcare settings as hubs of 20 minute neighbourhoods. So we believe the 20 minute neighbourhood concept should consider how accessible outdoor spaces, libraries, etc are in terms not just of smaller family units but larger childcare and education groups as this could raise accessibility issues.