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| Service Area | Open Space and Contracts (Parks, Open Spaces and Coastal Areas) | Head of Service | Linda Farley |
| Activity/ Task/ Location | Children’s Play Areas (including outdoor Gyms) – Potential Transmission of COVID - 19 |
| Assessed by | Andy Frost, Senior Specialist Advisor | Date of Assessment | 1st July 2020 | Review Date | 30th June 2021 |
| Consulted | Open Space and Contracts Team |



**Likelihood**

1. Remote
2. Unlikely
3. Possible
4. Likely
5. Certain

**Severity**

1. Trivial – None or superficial injury
2. Minor – Injury that requires basic first aid treatment only
3. Moderate – Injury that requires hospital or GP visit.
4. Major – Over 7 day injury, Reportable Injury
5. Catastrophic – Fatal or life changing injury.

**Likelihood X Severity = Risk Rating**

**Green** = Low Risk

**Yellow** = Medium Risk

**Red** = High Risk

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|  |  |  | Before Controls |  |  | After Controls |
|  | **Hazards** | **Who might be harmed and how?** | **Likelihood** | **Severity** | **Risk Rating** | **Control Measures** | **Monitoring and who is responsible** | **Likelihood** | **Severity** | **Risk Rating** |
| 1 | **Transmission of COVID 19 by physical contact with play equipment and site furniture.** | General public, children and employeesTransmission of COVID 19 by touching and holding the childrens play equipment, site furniture and bins etc | **3** | **3** | **9** | Signage to be erected to request users to carry out approved hygiene measures on a regular basis, such as hand washing and using hand sanitizing gel whilst In the play area or outdoor gym. Signage to display both text and graphics so that they can be understood by adults and children. This is in line with Government guidance on hygiene.Note: Regular sanitising of equipment is not considered a practical solution due to the time and resource requirement – sites are not supervised.  | Signage to be erected and monitored by Neighbourhood First teams. | **1** | **3** | **3** |
| 2 | **Transmission of COVID 19 by face to face contact with other users** | General public, children and employeesTransmission of COVID 19 by children playing in close proximity to others, and by adults forming groups of people**.** | **3** | **3** | **9** | Signage to be erected to request users to maintain social distancing within the play area as per Government guidance (2m distancing or 1m plus where this isn’t possible). Signs to have both text and graphics to make them easy to interpret. . This is in line with Government guidance on social distancing.Although it is understood this is difficult to enforce, the fact that all play areas and gyms are out of doors will reduce transmission risks. Also, play areas are primarily used by children where levels of virus spread and severity are known to be low.It is not possible to control numbers entering play areas as they are not supervised – however if users follow social distancing guidelines, overcrowding should be avoided. | Signage to be monitored by Neighbourhood First teams. | **1** | **3** | **3** |
| 3 | **Transmission of COVID 19 due to items 1& 2 not being****Adhered to by users** | General public, children and employees | **3** | **3** | **9** | Regular checks will be made to ensure that the signage is still in place.Active management of social distancing rules is considered impractical due to the resource required as play areas are not supervised. However regular inspections will be carried out by Neighbourhood First who will report back any particular concerns. | Signage to be monitored by Neighbourhood First teams. Usage of play area to be monitored. | **1** | **3** | **3** |
| 3. | **Transmission of COVID 19 due to contact with entrance and exit gates** | General public, children and employeesTransmission of COVID 19 by touching and holding the children’s play area gates, which are self closing and cannot be opened without touching them. | **3** | **3** | **9** | Entrance and exit gates will, by their nature, have regular contact from all users. However, if these gates were to be left in the open position, there would be potential higher risks due to parents being unaware that young children had left the play area, possible access to dangers such as busy roads, and potential for dogs to enter the play area. However, if signage guidance is followed and users sanitise regularly, the risk of contact with gates should be mitigated. Note: Regular sanitising of gates is not considered a practical solution due to the time and resource requirement – sites are not supervised.  | Signage to be monitored by Neighbourhood First teams. Self-closing mechanisms on gates to be checked on weekly inspections. | **1** | **1** | **3** |
| 4. | **Transmission of COVID 19 by using play equipment where users are in close proximity** | General Public, ChildrenSome equipment, such as double bay swing, will give the opportunity for children to play in close proximity to each other. | **3** | **3** | **9** | Signage states that social distancing should be practiced and users of the play area should follow these guidelines. It is not considered practical or necessary to close or remove items of play equipment for this reason and because if they are used by children, levels of virus spread and severity are known to be low. Removing or closing items of equipment has the potential to cause other risks, such as trip points. | Signage to be monitored by Neighbourhood First teams. | **1** | **1** | **3** |
| 5 | **Safety of employees – Neighbourhood First, Parks staff, contractors and play inspectors** | Employed staffStaff will need to enter the play area to carry out day to day activities and maintenance | **3** | **3** | **9** | Operatives are to wear gloves as necessary and to maintain social distancing from any other users. Operatives should carry out hand sanitising or washing after each contact. | All paid staff and contractors. | **1** | **1** | **3** |
| 6 | **Risk of transmission of COVID 19 through contact with litter and rubbish on site** | General public, children and employeesThere is a small risk that the virus could be picked up from other peoples litter left on site | **3** | **3** | **9** | All play area sites will be litter picked regularly. All litter bins in play areas will be emptied regularly.  | To be monitored by contractors and Specialist Advisors | **1** | **1** | **3** |