

APPENDIX 1

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Disability Inclusive Borough

| SCRUTINY MONITORING – PROGRESS UPDATE | |
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| Review: | Disability Inclusive Borough |
| Link Officer/s: | Margie Stewart-Piercy |
| Action Plan Agreed: | November 2021 |

Updates on the progress of actions in relation to agreed recommendations from previous scrutiny reviews are required approximately 12 months after the relevant Select Committee has agreed the Action Plan. Progress updates must be detailed, evidencing what has taken place regarding each recommendation – a grade assessing progress should then be given (see end of document for grading explanation). Any evidence on the impact of the actions undertaken should also be recorded for each recommendation.

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| Recommendation 11: | That lessons learnt from the upcoming refurbishment of the junior/toddlers play area at Preston Park be used to inform future play provision designs with respect to inclusion and accessibility. |
| Responsibility: | Keith Mathews |
| Date: | 2023 |
| Agreed Action: | Meetings held with members of the SEND group, both on site at Preston Park and site visit to Stewarts Park. Design brief to be rewritten based on information gathered. |
| Agreed Measure: | Success All future play provision will consider the learning from Preston Park |
| Evidence of Progress (January 2023): | <p>A design brief has been prepared for the refurbishment of the junior/toddlers play area at Preston Park which highlights the need to create a space, and provide a range of play equipment, which is accessible to a wide range of users.</p> <p>However, the Preston Park scheme will not be delivered until 2023, so while it will help to inform the future development of other play areas in the Borough, there are a number of other schemes where the Council can ensure that inclusion and accessibility are key considerations in the design process of other play areas.</p> <p>Key actions to date include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A requirement that play area designers / suppliers provide an inclusivity and accessibility statement in relation to all items of play equipment (not that the Council would require all equipment to be accessible to all, but that on a given site there is an appropriate range of equipment and spaces to meet the needs of a wide range of users) |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactively involving members of the Stockton Parent Carer Forum (SPCF) at the early stages in the development of a number of play areas projects, e.g. in November/December 2022 they have been invited to comment on proposals for a scheme at Victoria Recreation Ground, Thornaby, and members of SPCF will also be invited to comment on the design brief for improvements to the play area at Harold Wilson Recreation Ground, Thornaby. • Exploring ways in which the Council can maintain an on-going dialogue with the SPCP with the suggested aim of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ developing some broad design principles which we might apply to all schemes going forward ○ learning lessons from a range of schemes and using that learning to inform future projects ○ ensuring parents, carers and their children have opportunities to input the design of future schemes |
| Assessment of Progress (January 2023): (include explanation if required) | 2 – On Track |
| Evidence of Impact (January 2023): | <p>It is too early to assess the success of the above actions, but there has been a very positive response from the Stockton Parent Carer Forum to date and a willingness to input to this work in the future.</p> <p>The Town Centres Team are working with colleagues and appointed professional consultants in designing new play equipment in Preston Park and Stockton Waterfront to be accessible and inclusive where possible.</p> |
| Evidence of Progress (December 2023): | <p>A number of schemes have now been assessed by the Parent Carers Forum (PCF) as part of the design and implementation journey. These include the proposed play areas for Elmwood Community Centre, Hardwick Green, the extension of Redbrook Park and the extension of Harold Wilson Play Area.</p> <p>Each design brief sent to potential contractors now includes a requirement to demonstrate how accessibility and inclusion has been factored into a design, is afforded weighting, and is considered by the PCF.</p> <p>On-site construction has not commenced at any of these sites yet, Hardwick and Elmwood are still subject to planning approval, and orders have been placed with contractors for both Harold Wilson and Redbrook play areas.</p> |
| Assessment of Progress (December 2023): | 2- On Track |

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| (include explanation if required) | <p>The PCF have undertaken an assessment of each play area scheme and have provided feedback to Council officers. This feedback is considered along with other factors and a decision made accordingly.</p> <p>The PCF are delighted to be involved and their feedback is very constructive and helpful. As things stand, they are happy with the process and there is no requirement for modification.</p> |
| Evidence of Impact (December 2023): | It is only when the play areas have been established or extended that we will be able to undertake any assessment of how successful they have been with regards to accessibility and inclusivity. Again, Council officers will work with the PCF to establish criteria for measuring success. |
| Evidence of Progress (April 2024): | <p>Two recent schemes that were assessed for inclusivity and accessibility by the Parent Carers Forum (PCF) have now been implemented: Harold Wilson play area and Redbrook Park play area. In addition the PCF commented on the draft designs for the refurbishment of the Ropner Park play area. in in respect to.</p> <p>The PCF also accepted an invitation to put forward their inclusivity and accessibility as part of a Scrutiny Review of Outdoor Play Provision, currently being undertaken by the Crime & Disorder Select Committee.</p> |
| Assessment of Progress (April 2024): (include explanation if required) | <p>2 – On Track</p> <p>On the basis that lessons are being learnt through the development of play areas other than Preston Park. The scheme for that particular site will now not be delivered until 2024/25.</p> |
| Evidence of Impact (April 2024): | Further work needs to be done to review completed projects for inclusivity and accessibility, but feedback suggests these play areas have been very well-received by users and have delivered an uplift in play value. |
| Evidence of Progress (October 2024): | In the summer of 2024 several specialist play companies were invited to submit designs for the refurbishment of the play area at Preston Park. The brief stated the need for improved accessibility, whilst acknowledging that the limited budget available may mean that there would be a requirement for compromise. |
| Assessment of Progress (October 2024): (include explanation if required) | <p>1 – Fully Achieved Several designs were submitted by the various play area providers and evaluated by officers. Whilst the equipment itself was generally assessed as being accessible and inclusive, there are limitations since the current budget will not allow for the necessary access infrastructure works.</p> |
| Evidence of Impact (October 2024): | The process that the Council has undertaken in reviewing accessibility and inclusivity has been a positive and successful one. All new play areas are being evaluated on this basis amongst a range of criteria. |

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| | As stated above, the Preston Park scheme will deliver a more inclusive play environment but not achieve the levels of accessibility originally envisaged. However, the Council has been seeking input from the Stockton Parent Carer Forum to ensure the planned play area at Stockton Waterfront is highly inclusive and accessible. |
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| Assessment of Progress Gradings: | 1 Fully Achieved | 2 On-Track | 3 Slipped | 4 Not Achieved |
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