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| If Rating=Very low / Low |
| No further action – ensure controls are maintained |
| If Rating=Medium |
| Look to improve by next review if reasonably practicable |

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| If Rating=High |
| Look to improve within specified timescale |
| If Rating=Very High |
| Stop activities and make immediate improvements |

Risk Assessment Form

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|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Site | Assessor(s) | Approved by |
| Beresford Drive Play Park | P Alder P Donoghue | W Grosvenor |
| Activity Assessed | Date compiled | Version |
| COVID-19 Play Areas | 31/03/2021 | 1 |

Government advised that outdoor play areas and gyms could re-open from 4 July 2020 and issued guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms> The guidance states that owners and operators must work together to undertake a risk assessment to ensure that measures have been considered relating to covid-19 and the re-opening of play areas following an extended period of closure.

The guidance also states owners and operator have discretion over when to open and may decide to keep areas closed should they feel they are not able to facilitate their safe usage. There is public expectation that play spaces are formally re-opened, indeed some play areas have seen use during lockdown. It is not practical for play spaces to remain closed as users will force their way onto site regardless of any advice or measures in place, potentially creating other hazards and general nuisance.

What are the hazards? Risk of potential COVID-19 transmission to users of the equipment such as children, parents, guardians and carers, as well as staff tasked with the maintenance or cleaning of equipment and play spaces. Owners and operators should do everything reasonably practicable to minimise risks recognising that it is not possible to completely eliminate the risk of COVID-19. It is public knowledge that children are at lower risk of developing covid-19 but can spread the virus.

The guidance also refers to the HSE promoting a balanced approach to children’s play and leisure <https://www.hse.gov.uk/entertainment/childrens-play-july-2012.pdf> – this states

- Play is important for children’s well-being and development
- When planning and providing play opportunities, the goal is not to eliminate risk, but to weigh up the risks and benefits
- Those providing play opportunities should focus on controlling the real risks, while securing or increasing the benefits – not on the paperwork
- Accidents and mistakes happen during play – but fear of litigation and prosecution has been blown out of proportion



Risk rating scoring matrix

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| Ref No. | Hazards Associated with the Location, Equipment or Activity | Persons Affected (User, visitor, contractor, public) | How They Might be Harmed (Risk) | Initial Risk Rating | Existing Control Measures | Residual Risk Rating | Additional Risk Controls Required (Ensure all actions are placed on the action plan and these actions completed in a specified time frame) |
|---------|---|--|--|---------------------|--|----------------------|---|
| 1 | General Maintenance and Inspection of Play Equipment | Members of public and staff | Defects with equipment that could cause harm through slip, trips, falls and contact with damaged equipment | | Routine inspections have continued throughout lock down and defects attended to as per normal existing arrangements. Annual independent inspections are to be completed in July by the Play Inspection Company. Any new defects will be assessed, made safe and works completed as required. All visits and works undertaken will adhere to social distancing requirements. | | The likelihood of an accident remains low and there is nothing further that can practically be done to reduce the potential severity of any injury. |
| 2 | Contact with COVID-19 infected persons - Social Distancing | Members of public and staff | Exposure to air born Covid-19 | | Introduction of signage to warn users of the potential risk and to maintain social distancing whilst using the facilities including the supervision of young children. Due to the free access to spaces and the irregular configuration of equipment it is not practical to introduce any form of distancing control measures without significant impact on the benefits of allowing children to play. Staff will also adhere to all COVID measure implemented and only undertake works and inspections whilst maintaining a minimum distance of 2m, barriers will be used as and when required. | | Ensure that signage remains in place by way of routine inspections. |
| 3 | Contact with COVID-19 on surfaces and equipment | Members of public and staff | Exposure to surface contaminated by Covid-19 | | Suitable signage to be in place advising users that there is a risk of contaminated surfaces and materials and that the equipment is not routinely cleaned. | | Ensure that signage remains in place by way of routine inspections. |



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| | | | | | Government advice is that the virus can survive for several days on some hard surfaces and that these risks are reduced when outdoors where surfaces may be subjected to UV light and/or rain but there is potential for transmission on frequently touched surfaces. Signage is to advise that all users maintain high levels of hygiene and wash/clean hand before and after using equipment and that children are supervised to avoid touching their mouths with their hands. | | |
| 4 | Contaminated waste material | Members of the public and staff | Waste material potential contaminated with Covid-19 | | Potential for contamination on waste materials including food packaging and tissues etc. and bins. All users are to be encouraged via to user litter bins provided/take litter home and maintain high standards of hygiene. Staff emptying bins and collecting litter to follow existing procedures and Covid enhancements. Waste may include face coverings and gloves. Potential for waste levels to exceed normal levels, to be monitored and additional visits to be arranged as required. | | Ensure that signage remains in place by way of routine inspections. Undertake additional bin provision and litter picking as required. Provide staff with protective equipment where necessary. Ask Norse to replace the missing rubbish bin. |
| 5 | Additional advice relating to COVID 19 exposure and prevention | Members of public | Exposure to covid-19 | | Remind all users by signage that they use equipment at their own risk. Refrain from consuming food and drink in play areas due to the associated risk of exposure to the virus by direct hand to mouth contact. Take PPE home or dispose of them in a bin where provided. A notice will be placed at the gates to the playpark with advice signage. | | Ensure that signage remains in place by way of routine inspections. |



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| 6 | Routine cleaning of play equipment by way of spillage etc | Staff | Exposure to covid-19 | | No regular cleaning will be carried out. Any cleaning of equipment will only be undertaken as per normal operational conditions eg when required due to reported spillages, graffiti etc. Staff will follow Covid practices, will wear protective gloves and if spray and splash is likely to be created then a face mask will be worn. Cleaning activities only to be undertaken when there are no public nearby. | | Ensure that staff have adequate protective equipment and cleaning materials |
| 7 | Visitor numbers – social distancing | Members of the public | Exposure to covid-19 | | The play park can attract several users/visitors at any one time. Many visitors will attend in family groups and we should be aware that different social distancing guidance will apply. Clear signage will be introduced to remind users to maintain social distancing as per government guidelines and this should include visual indicators as well as text. There may be an initial surge of users attending any site particularly if the weather is favourable, however it is anticipated that normal levels of use will return quickly. Maximum number of persons in the play area at any one time is set to 20. | | Any reports of excessive numbers of users attending any site will be reported to council and instruction sought on how to address persistent problems. |
| 8 | Specific changes to equipment | Members of public | Exposure to covid-19 | | No changes will be made to the equipment. The play equipment is well spaced and open. As it has all been open since the 4 th July and restrictions are easing it was felt that no equipment needed to be removed (eg swings) or closed off. | | Review if restrictions are reinstated. |