



## **General Specification Brief for East Lothian Council Play Areas**

### **Overarching Aim**

Our aim is that East Lothian Council Play Areas will offer a variety of inspiring, stimulating, fun and welcoming play opportunities to children and young people across the county. Accessibility and inclusion are important to us so that children of all ages and abilities can take part in play. We value the qualities natural elements can bring to play spaces and landscaping which nurtures biodiversity as part of our green infrastructure. We want children and families to find Play Areas packed full of ‘play value’ whenever they visit, whatever the time of year and to want to keep coming back.

### **General Requirements for Play Areas:**

We expect to have Play Areas which offer a range of fun, challenging and interesting play opportunities and equipment, varying from location to location. Play Areas must meet the needs of a range of ages and abilities including disabilities; and there must be a focus on accessibility and inclusion.

All locations should:

- provide opportunities for physical, sensory, creative and social play;
- be welcoming spaces where children can play together;
- maximise the range of play opportunities offered by the equipment and the environment as a whole;
- comply with the relevant safety standards (BS EN 1176 and BS EN 1177);
- be compatible with accessibility and inclusion guidance (e.g. ref. BSI Standard Publication PD CEN/TR 16467:2013);
- incorporate natural play elements such as grass mounds, logs, stepping stones, play boulders, i.e. a range of different textures, as appropriate;
- appropriate paths / access;
- be designed with maintenance in mind.

Identified locations should also:

- incorporate play/hang-out spaces for teenagers, including spaces for teenage girls (e.g. ref. [‘Make Space for Girls’](#));
- ensure accessibility and inclusion;

- have more challenging play equipment aimed at older children and teenagers up to age 15, for example climbing frame or spacenet, where appropriate;
- Each Play Area site as a whole must be spacious to enable circulation of people within the Play Area, including space for children waiting to play on the equipment and supervising adults/carers.

#### **Items Required for Play Areas:**

- Play equipment, seating, bins, appropriate safety surfacing, and landscaping / natural play elements should be provided.
- Boundaries / hedging / fencing / gates are required where appropriate.

#### **Play Equipment requirements, within a context of Play for All:**

The Play Area should provide a good range of individual activities, including play equipment that enables swinging, rotating, climbing, balance, scrambling, sliding, resting, meeting etc.

The play equipment provision should cover all required age groups and include provision for children with a range of abilities including disabilities.

#### **Play for All Requirements:**

- Children can access a variety of items
- Paths/access
- Comfort of adults
- Body support, grips
- Consider the senses
- Remember parents/care-givers may have access needs