

The publication, funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), gives detailed guidance on setting local standards for access, quantity and quality of playable space, signposting benchmark standards for different types of local authority. It also shows how provision for better play opportunities can be promoted in planning policies and processes. Giving detail of how local development frameworks and planning control can be utilised in favour of child-friendly communities.

http://www.playengland.org.uk/Page.asp?originx_6879hr_303383240418p87b_200912183831m

Comments on specific parts of the Core Strategy of the LDF

SP2 Housing We welcome the agreement to base allocation of public open space for play in all new housing developments on the London Plan Supplementary Planning Guidance - Providing for Children and Young People's Play and Informal Recreation. It is important that in all cases steps are taken to ensure that such space, once created can be adequately safeguarded for future use and to prevent re-designation and to provide sufficient resources to adequately maintain such areas.

SP7 Transport (I was unable to find the relevant chapter on the website, hence no paragraph numbers) This must reference the new *Department for Transport (DfT) Child Road Safety Strategy* this incorporates a specific action point on creation of safe routes to play areas as well as to schools (Action 16, page 62). The new *DfT Manual for Streets* updates 30 years of giving car drivers precedence, to suggest it is now time for people to see their residential streets as places to play, meet friends and hold a street party.

SP13 Public Open Space We welcome the emphasis given to play, but suggest that the use of public space generally for play – using it as “playable space” is specifically noted (see *Better Places to Play through Planning* as noted above). Where areas of deficiency in access to play space are noted as part of the *Haringey Open Space and Recreation Standards SPD*, we suggest consideration should be given to the availability of school grounds for free play, although we understand there will be resource implications for this. We also note that this SPD predates the London Plan SPG on Play, so should be updated to ensure it is referenced as part of the policy background.

SP14 Health and Well-Being We welcome the inclusion of play in 7.1.4 as encouraging good mental and physical health, and suggest that this can be strengthened by referring to new guidance including: -

National Institute of Clinical Excellence has published *NICE public health guidance 8 - Promoting and creating built or natural environments that encourage and support physical activity* in January 2008.
<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/index.jsp?action=download&o=38987>

Healthy Lives, Brighter Futures: The Strategy for Children and Young People's Health (2009) is a joint Department of Health and Department of Children, Schools and Families strategy. It promotes walking, cycling and play as well as the benefits of green space for mental and physical health. It also encourages Local Partnerships to promote child-friendly environments through local spatial and transport frameworks:
www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0031

Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives (2008) is a cross-Government strategy. The initial focus is to reduce the proportion of overweight and obese children. It sets out and supports recommendations from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance ‘Promoting and creating built or natural environments that encourage and support physical activity’ (2008) which includes recommendations on transport.
www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_082378

The Health Protection Agency has published *A Children's Environmental Health Strategy* for the United Kingdom (2009) it offers a range of recommendations to improve the health and wellbeing of children in the United Kingdom by changing the environment they live in: www.hpa.org.uk/cehape/

Children's mental health is specifically mentioned in *“Promoting the Emotional Health of children and young people - Guidance for Children's Trust partnerships”* It says “A range of other factors can also positively influence emotional health – in particular a child's everyday experiences in early years settings, school or college; their friendships and peer network; and their experience of participating in play, sport and other activities in the community”
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/emotionalwellbeingandmentalhealth>

We suggest that the headline policy points in SP14 should be amended to include the aim of improving the built environment to encourage children and young people to engage in more physical activity, play, recreation and sports.

Where increased physical activity is suggested as a healthy option, such as in para 7.1.33, we suggest play should be added to all such lists of activities including recreation and sport.

25/6/17
5/8/17

7.2.18 refers to the need for more physical activity for children and young people, it should also reference the importance of children's play for this, as research shows it is of equal importance as sport, and applies to all children, including those not blessed with prowess in sports.

SP16 Community Infrastructure We suggest the list at the beginning should include play as a separate bullet point, equal to Community and youth facilities. Where appropriate we suggest 8.1.7 could be expanded to ensure outdoor areas of schools are recognized for the contribution they make to children's play space. Under facilities for children and young people 8.1.17 to 19, play should be introduced as a discrete element, with links to Housing, Health and Public Space discussions of play.

5/8/17

NB there is now a national indicator on children and young people's satisfaction with local parks and play areas, NI 199.

25/7/18

Alan Sutton | Development Team Manager

London Play

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