

EQIA Submission – ID Number

Section A

EQIA Title	Installation of new play areas and renewal of existing ones in Country Parks
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Responsible Officer	Timothy Bell - GT EW
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Type of Activity

Service Change	No
Service Redesign	No
Project/Programme	Project/Programme
Commissioning/Procurement	No
Strategy/Policy	No
Details of other Service Activity	No

Accountability and Responsibility

Directorate	Growth Environment and Transport
Responsible Service	GT EPE CP
Responsible Head of Service	Kate Phillips - GT EW
Responsible Director	Tom Marchant - GT EW

Aims and Objectives

Kent County Council has secured funding to enlarge or install new playpark equipment and outdoor seating/picnic areas. The equipment would be funded via the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) to provide further outdoor provision to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. The budget is circa £1.2m.

The aims of the project are:

1. Having new facilities should encourage people to choose outside activities which should reduce the transmission of COVID when compared to indoor activities.
2. Children and those in deprived areas are more likely to have been impacted by the pandemic. Providing the facilities on their doorstep will help those that have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic.
3. The improvements over winter will ensure there are continued activities that are safe, even if low level restrictions begin to be reintroduced which may prevent families and individuals from attending their usual activities.
4. Individuals that may not have re-engaged with their usual activities since the pandemic began due to feelings of being unsafe (i.e. soft-play, gym, seeing friends and families) will have alternative safer locations to engage in activities.
5. Individuals with excess weight are at greater risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Installing outdoor activities/equipment will help reduce the barriers to helping individuals lose the excess weight.
6. The initiative will also help with Public Health priorities in encouraging exercise and helping families and friends to meet in a COVID-19 safe way that will benefit mental health and child development.

Value for money

As the installation of equipment will be permanent, it will provide a lasting benefit long after the pandemic and will continue to contribute towards Public Health priorities and to benefit the community. Many installers offer warranties for their products which will reduce the repair costs for Councils. Where regular maintenance is required for the warranty to remain valid, purchasers should include the requirement to provide regular maintenance within their purchase price.

The playgrounds will be DDA compliant in terms of their accessibility and inclusive design. The surfacing must adhere to standards EN1176 and EN1177.

The aim is to improve the play provision, improve accessibility and improve inclusivity of our existing provision.

Section B – Evidence

Do you have data related to the protected groups of the people impacted by this activity?	Yes
It is possible to get the data in a timely and cost effective way?	No
Is there national evidence/data that you can use?	No
Have you consulted with stakeholders?	No
Who have you involved, consulted and engaged with?	
Due to the timescales related to this funding the normal consultation is not possible. All except 2 of the play areas are in the existing locations and the remit is for inclusive play and the two new areas are immediately adjacent to existing areas and thus enhancing the existing offering as opposed to doing something completely new so the previous stakeholder engagements on the play areas is still relevant.	
Has there been a previous Equality Analysis (EQIA) in the last 3 years?	No
Do you have evidence that can help you understand the potential impact of your activity?	Yes

Section C – Impact

Who may be impacted by the activity?

Service Users/clients	No
Staff	No
Residents/Communities/Citizens	Residents/communities/citizens
Are there any positive impacts for all or any of the protected groups as a result of the activity that you are doing?	Yes

Details of Positive Impacts

The play area is aimed at all ages under 12 and are designed to be more inclusive and accessible for all so the positive impact to all under 12s. So in terms of disability, sex, gender identity/transgender, race, religion and belief, sexual orientation the impacts are all positive impacts as all visitors will have new play equipment, a better range of ages will be provided for and this project enhances facilities for all.

Negative impacts and Mitigating Actions

19. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Age

Are there negative impacts for age?	No
Details of negative impacts for Age	
Not Applicable	
Mitigating Actions for Age	
Not Applicable	
Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions – Age	Not Applicable

20. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Disability

Are there negative impacts for Disability?	No
Details of Negative Impacts for Disability	

Not Applicable	
Mitigating actions for Disability	
Not Applicable	
Responsible Officer for Disability	Not Applicable
21. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sex	
Are there negative impacts for Sex	No
Details of negative impacts for Sex	
Not Applicable	
Mitigating actions for Sex	
Not Applicable	
Responsible Officer for Sex	Not Applicable
22. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender	
Are there negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender	No
Negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender	
Not Applicable	
Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender	
Not Applicable	
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender	Not Applicable
23. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Race	
Are there negative impacts for Race	No
Negative impacts for Race	
Not Applicable	
Mitigating actions for Race	
Not Applicable	
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Race	Not Applicable
24. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Religion and belief	
Are there negative impacts for Religion and belief	No
Negative impacts for Religion and belief	
Not Applicable	
Mitigating actions for Religion and belief	
Not Applicable	
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Religion and Belief	Not Applicable
25. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation	
Are there negative impacts for Sexual Orientation	No
Negative impacts for Sexual Orientation	
Not Applicable	
Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation	
Not Applicable	
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation	Not Applicable
26. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity	
Are there negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity	No
Negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity	

Not Applicable	
Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity	
Not Applicable	
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity	Not Applicable
27. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships	
Are there negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships	No
Negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships	
Not Applicable	
Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships	
Not Applicable	
Responsible Officer for Marriage and Civil Partnerships	Not Applicable
28. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities	
Are there negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities	No
Negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities	
Not Applicable	
Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities	
Not Applicable	
Responsible Officer for Carer's responsibilities	Not Applicable