

## **PORTISHEAD TOWN COUNCIL – COVID-19 SECURE RISK ASSESSMENT**

**FACILITIES COVERED:** Play Areas & Outdoor Gyms – Various locations

**HAZARD COVERED:** Spread of Covid-19 (Coronavirus) by those using the Facilities.

**POTENTIAL HARM TO:** Children and public using play areas and gym/play equipment

**ASSESSMENT PREPARED:** 9 July 2020   **ASSESSMENT LAST UPDATED:** 9 July 2020

**ASSESSMENT PERFORMED BY:** Martin Salisbury

**COVID-19 SECURE GUIDELINES:** Facilities open to the public should be assessed as **Covid-19 Secure** in accordance with the following 5 key points:

- **Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell:** Nobody should use if they have symptoms or are self-isolating due to symptoms in their household.
- **Clean your hands often:** Users to wash or sanitise hands at entry and exit points.
- **Respiratory hygiene:** Everyone needs to be encouraged to avoid touching their mouth, eyes, and nose. “Catch it, Bin it, Kill it” guidance is relevant.
- **Regular cleaning of surfaces that are touched frequently:** to encourage effective sanitisation by users, parents, guardians and carers.
- **Maintain social distancing where possible:** Current requirement for 2 metre social distance or 1 metre with risk mitigations.

### **PLAYGROUNDS & OUTDOOR GYMS GUIDANCE:**

This Covid-19 Secure risk assessment is based on Covid-19 Guidance for managing playgrounds and outdoor gyms issued on 26 June. These facilities being closed by law and announced by the Prime Minister on 23 June as being able to reopen from 4 July. The message from the government being that *owners and operators responsible for playgrounds and outdoor gyms will have discretion over when they consider it safe to open for activity permitted by legislation, and may decide to keep these areas closed should they feel they are not able to facilitate their safe usage. Where owners and operators share the responsibility for management of a facility, they should work together to ensure that the appropriate risk assessment is completed.*

### **PLAYAREAS COVERED:**

PTC has full or partial responsibility for the following play equipment, other facilities in Portishead are operated by North Somerset Council (NSC)

- i. Mead Road, North Weston – Play Area
- ii. Underwood Road, North Weston – Play Area
- iii. Heaven’s Field, Newhaven Rd – Play Area
- iv. Parish Wharf, Station Road – Metal Multiplay Unit
- v. Merlin Park – Skate Park
- vi. Lake Grounds – Childrens Gym – located in NSC Play area and operated in conjunction with NSC
- vii. Lake Grounds, Esplanade - Adult Gym Equipment -located on public pavement
- viii. Portishead Youth Centre Harbour Rd – MUGA – located at and under control of the Portishead Youth Centre

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

The government guidance recommends some measures such as frequent cleaning and provision of sanitiser, queue management and stewarding of facilities that are not practicable in the operation of PTC play areas which are unmanned, unlocked and outdoors. However, the guidance also states that clear signage to users is important and that the risk of transmission is reduced in outdoor environments where social distancing can be maintained, and equipment is not enclosed. Accordingly, it is considered that with clear signage and weekly maintenance inspections to ensure equipment is safe and signage is in place that PTC can open its play areas and equipment for use in accordance with the following risk assessment, with the following exceptions:

- PTC Childrens Play Areas will reopen from Monday 20 July, following the conduct of works and signage in accordance with the risk assessment
- Adult gym equipment on the Lake Grounds Esplanade will remain closed as it is primarily used by adults who are at higher risk and it is located on a public walkway so maintaining social distancing with pedestrians in the context of physical exercise is difficult. The nature of the equipment has multiple touch points and the installation of signage in an open area is difficult. However, PTC will consult with NSC in connection with the four gym stations on the Esplanade as they are located on NSC land.
- The Childrens gym equipment in the Lake Grounds play area is part of the enclosed play area managed by NSC, its opening and use will be under the NSC risk assessment, although PTC will install its signage by the equipment if not clearly signed by NSC.
- To ensure compliance with health and safety regulations approval is sought for the purchase of:
  - i. 15 A3 temporary Play Area Signs at an estimated cost of £90
  - ii. 3 x 50 litre railing mounted litter bins at a cost not to exceed £400
  - iii. 4 new A4 PTC aluminium operator signs at an estimated cost of £250

**COVID-19 SECURE RISK ASSESSMENT: Playgrounds & Outdoor Gyms**

Risk/Hazard	Controls Required	Risk Mitigation Action Taken	Action by	Done ✓ ✗
<b>Equipment is safe to use and risks from defective equipment are addressed before opening</b>	To inspect equipment and resolve any defective equipment and general safety issued before opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual playground inspection conducted by ROPSA in June 2020</li> <li>• Pre-opening inspections conducted by maintenance service provider</li> <li>• All defects itemised and action taken to resolve any high risk and Covid-19 risk items before reopening play area.</li> </ul>	ROSPA  GBS  PTC/GBS	✓  ✓  <b>WIP</b>
<b>Overcrowding and lack of social distancing by users</b>	Limit maximum capacity of play area to encourage social distancing. The guidance stating that <i>measures to support social distancing such as signs to remind users of the need for and adherence to social distancing.</i>	<p>Conduct assessment of each play area to determine capacity based on area and number of socially distanced play items and provide signage to indicate that users should wait to use areas when above capacity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Mead Road Play Area – capacity 6</li> <li>ii. Underwood Rd Play Area – capacity 3</li> <li>iii. Heaven’s Field Play Area – capacity 4</li> <li>iv. Parish Wharf Multiplay unit – capacity 3</li> <li>v. Merlin Park, Skate Park – capacity 10</li> <li>vi. Lake Grds, Childrens Gym – capacity 6</li> </ul> <p>At this point it is not planned to open the Lake Grds Esplanade Adult Gym Equipment and the Harbour Rd MUGA is under the control of the Youth Centre.</p> <p>It is not possible to physically steward or observe the areas to ensure compliance. However clear capacity and usage signage will be installed and is considered</p>	PTC	<b>Ordered</b>

		sufficient. <b>Example sign at end of this document; 15 temporary signs have been ordered.</b>		
	To ensure children, particularly those with additional needs, keep distance and wait turns for use of play equipment.	Signage to require one adult to supervise each child to ensure social distancing and limit to 1 adult per child using the play area.	<b>PTC</b>	<b>Ordered</b>
		Emphasise the social distancing requirement with additional floor signs, where possible.	<b>PTC</b>	<b>Ordered</b>
	Limit the use of play equipment on which social distancing is not possible and close or remove items the proximity of which is not conducive to social distancing, such as swings next to each other.	Review each play area and determine equipment that should be taken out of use:  Equipment to be taken out of use by play area: Underwood Rd, one larger child swing (in set of 2) Mead Rd, 2 middle swings (in set of 4)	<b>GBS</b> <b>GBS</b>	<b>Ordered</b> <b>Ordered</b>
	Using a booking system or setting time limits for users.	Not considered possible due to nature of play areas of different sizes but messaging considered met by signage for maximum capacity and do not use when busy.		<b>x</b>
	Outdoor Gyms use of one-way systems and separation of equipment to ensure 2m social distancing.	The Lakes Grds Adult Gym equipment is located on a public walkway and used primarily by adults, it is not considered possible to ensure social distance between users and members of the public at this time, consistent with physical exercise. Subject to consultation with NSC it is not proposed to open that equipment.  To install new equipment closed signs and tape on Lake Grds Adult Gym equipment.  Other play areas, with the exception of the Lake Grds Childrens Gym equipment, have single entry/exit point and so the introduction of a one-way system is not practicable but with clear social distancing and hand user signage this is considered of low risk.	<b>NSC/PTC</b>  <b>PTC Signs</b>	<b>WIP</b>  <b>Ordered</b>

		The Lake Grds Childrens Play area has multiple entry/exit points but NSC control this play area and will sign it.		
<b>Cleaning &amp; Hygiene,</b> <i>with guidance stating that risks are reduced when outdoors, where surfaces may be subject to UV light and/or rain but the virus could survive long enough on frequently touched outdoor surfaces to facilitate transmission</i>	Cleaning high traffic touch points frequently.  Owners and operators should encourage effective sanitation by users, parents, guardians and carers.	As the play areas are not manned frequent cleaning is not possible between users. Instead signage to encourage users to wash or sanitise hands before and after use is provided.  It is not considered practical to require users to clean and sanitise the equipment. However, hand hygiene is clearly signed. PTC Play Areas do not contain any enclosed play equipment (tunnels etc) that are considered of higher risk.	PTC	Ordered
	Providing (more) waste facilities for the disposal of rubbish.	Review each play area for rubbish provision and provide signage that litter should be taken home.  No rubbish bins are provided at Heavens Field, Mead Road and Parish Wharf. <b>It is proposed to purchase 3 railing mounted bins.</b>	PTC	Quote
	Where practicable provide hand sanitiser or hand washing facilities at entry and exit points.	As play areas are unmanned and outdoors, this is not considered a practicable measure as equipment it likely to be damaged or stolen. Instead users are encouraged by signage to bring and use own hand sanitisation.	PTC	✘ ✓
<b>Ongoing monitoring</b>	Review to ensure problems with use are identified	Signage provides PTC contact details to report problems.  All play areas will be inspected weekly by PTC contractor, who has instructions to check that Covid signage remains in place.  Operator signs with contact details are missing or defaced at Merlin Park, Heavens Field, Underwood Rd,	PTC	✓ Quote

		and Mead Road. It is proposed to purchase 4 new operator signs.		

**EXAMPLE OF PTC PLAY AREA NOTICE:**



PORTISHEAD TOWN COUNCIL

**PLAY AREA NOW OPEN**

Please maintain 2m social distancing



Maximum Capacity\_\_Children

Play area open but please remain Covid-19 alert; and

- X Do not enter if you, or anyone in your household have symptoms, or are self-isolating**
- ✓ Bring hand sanitiser and wash/wipe hands on entering and leaving the play area**
- X Do not enter if crowded or at capacity (noted above). Wait your turn and limit your use to one child per piece of play equipment at a time**
- ✓ An adult to supervise each child, only 1 parent or carer to accompany each child**
- X Avoid shouting, touching faces or mouths. Do not eat, drink, or smoke in the play area**
- ✓ Use the rubbish bins provided or take your litter home**
- X The Covid-19 virus can survive longer on internal hard surfaces, so avoid entering enclosed play equipment**

*Please follow the above advice, the decision to use the play equipment is at your own risk.*