

PLAY AREAS POLICY

APPROVED BY HHP BOARD:
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EFFECTIVE DATE:
February 2025



hebridean housing
partnership

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INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 We are committed to maintaining the Health and Safety of employees, tenants and members of the public. We recognise the potential health risks associated with play areas which we wholly own within our schemes.
- 1.2 We have a duty of care to ensure that play areas are safe and are maintained. This duty is discharged through periodic inspections to check that play equipment is in a satisfactory condition for continued use.
- 1.3. Periodic inspection and testing is necessary because equipment can deteriorate due to a number of factors such as damage, wear & tear, corrosion and misuse.

AIMS

- 2.1 All play areas will be visually inspected weekly using the approved inspection form specific to each play area.
- 2.2 An approved independent specialist will carry out an annual Safety Inspection for all play areas to ensure the long-term safety of the site, equipment and ancillary items. A written report will cover the site safety and condition, equipment, surfacing and ancillary item safety and condition and compliance with the requirements of EN1176 (the European Playground Standard) where relevant. Recommendations for any remedial action required will be given together with an assessment of the degree of risk.
- 2.3 The Assets and Contracts Manager will monitor reports and plan for repairs from both the weekly inspections and from the independent specialist. These reports will identify any capital improvements and replacements.
- 2.4 If serious defects that put safety at risk are found during any inspection, these should be corrected without delay. If this is not possible, the equipment must be immobilised, isolated or removed.

INSPECTION

- 3.1 The annual inspection written report for each scheme is to be completed as a permanent record of the level of serviceability found.
- 3.2 Current play area sites are located at Gibson Gardens, Stornoway, Manor Drive, Stornoway and Mackenzie Park, Parkend.

REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- 4.2 Members of the public are to be encouraged to report any issues for remedial action as soon as they are noticed. This may be reported by a variety of methods i.e. telephone, letter, email or in person. Our Complaints Procedure will be followed obtaining sufficient information to enable remedial action to be undertaken according to the severity of the complaint.

MONITORING & REVIEW

- 5.1 We will review this policy every 3 years. More frequent reviews will be considered if, for example, there is a need to respond to new legislation/policy guidance

INTERPRETATIONS & ABBREVIATIONS

The following interpretation and abbreviations are used in this policy:

WORD	INTERPRETATION
<i>We</i>	Hebridean Housing Partnership
<i>EN1176</i>	European Norm Playground Equipment Standard

All references to the masculine gender in this policy shall read as equally applicable to the feminine gender



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