

WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE -  
22ND FEBRUARY 2012

EXECUTIVE - 27TH FEBRUARY 2012

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – 29TH FEBRUARY 2012

Report by the Director of Children's Services on the future operation of Kimber Road and York  
Gardens Adventure Playgrounds

SUMMARY

Background: This report details the results of public surveys on future operating options for both Kimber Road (Southfields) and York Gardens (Latchmere) Adventure Playgrounds. The aim of the options is to secure the service whilst reducing costs in the longer term. The survey, undertaken during December 2011 and into January 2012 canvassed the views of children, young people and adult users accompanying children to the sites and questionnaires were also made available more widely through local schools, One O'Clock and Children's Centre and Libraries, to seek the views of those that may not currently use the provision. The surveys presented an option for each site. These were: -

- (a) Kimber Road Adventure Playground: The development of the current small skate park provision to provide a bigger more challenging facility and the removal of the current structures. This development would be open-access and would be unstaffed.
- (b) York Gardens Adventure Playground: Following a recent refurbishment of the open access playground designed for older children, it was suggested that this could be extended to provide equipment for younger children in order to provide an 'all age' play site. This would require the removal of the current adventure play structures and the development would be open access and unstaffed.

This report recommends that the options (a) and (b) above are pursued and seeks approval for the necessary budget variations and the inclusion of these schemes within the Council's capital programme.

Policy: The Council faces a possible reduction in expenditure of £70 million by 2014. Each Department has scrutinised its services to ascertain if they can be delivered in different more cost effective ways and to see if they are still required.

## ***Kimber Road and York Gardens Adventure Playground Options***

Issues/Proposals: Approval is sought for a capital budget variation of £150,000 to progress option (a) in respect of Kimber Road Adventure Playground and a capital budget variation of £150,000 to progress option (b) in respect of York Gardens Adventure Playground.

Supporting Information:

Appendix 1 – Sample questionnaires

Appendix 2 – Summary report on survey results from Kimber Road Adventure Playground

Appendix 3 – Summary report on survey results from York Gardens Adventure Playground

Appendix 4 - Examples of equipment for York Gardens Adventure Playground

Appendix 5 - Initial Equalities Impact Assessments.

Director of Finance Comments: If approved, the proposals in this paper would lead to negative revenue budget variations of £73,500 in 2012/13 and £147,000 in 2013/13 and a full year. This is equivalent to an annual reduction of £1.15 on Band D Council Tax. In addition, capital budget variation totalling £300,000 in 2012/13 are required. This would also result a revenue budget variation of £3,420 in 2012/13 and a full year to reflect the loss of interest incurred capital balances, equivalent to £0.03 on annual Band D Council Tax.

Head of Human Resources Comments: The proposals in this paper would result in the deletion of 10 posts (7.99 FTE) from the department's authorised establishment, of which 4 are currently occupied. Details of all of the posts affected are set out in the tables shown in paragraphs 30 (table 2) and 37 (table 4). Staff whose posts have been identified to be deleted will be counselled in accordance with the Council's Redundancy & Redeployment Agreement and every effort will be made to identify suitable alternative employment within the Council.

Head of Property Audit Comments: The initial feasibility studies indicate that the proposals for Kimber Rd. Adventure Playground will indeed cost in the region of £150,000 but that a scheme at York Gardens could be achieved for around £125,000. However, both schemes will be subject to detailed design and consultation. If alternative uses need to be found for the buildings it is recommended that they should be referred to the Children's Services Property Review Team of officers in the first instance and then to the Corporate Property Review Team to consider the options.

Conclusion: This report proposes that options a) in respect of Kimber Road Adventure Playground and b), in respect of York Gardens Adventure Playground above are progressed, as the most expedient options to secure these provisions for children and young people in the longer term whilst reducing costs to the Council.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The Education and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to support the recommendations set out in paragraphs 3 below.
2. If the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approve any views, comments or additional recommendations on this report, these will be submitted to the Executive for consideration.

3. The Executive are recommended to agree that:
  - (a) Kimber Road Adventure Playground be redeveloped as an open access unstaffed skate park;
  - (b) York Gardens Adventure Playground is decommissioned and that the recently refurbished open access playground is extended to provide equipment for children under 5 years and children aged 5-8 years, to provide an all age unstaffed provision;
  - (c) a capital budget variation of £150,000 in 2012/13 to develop the skate park at Kimber Road Adventure Playground;
  - (d) a capital budget variation of £150,000 in 2012/13 to extend the open access playground at York Gardens to provide an all-age facility;
  - (e) a positive revenue budget variation of £3,420 in 2012/13 and a full year in relation to the loss of interest incurred on capital balances;
  - (f) a negative revenue budget variation in respect of staffing costs of £38,500 in 2012/13 and £77,000 in 2013/14 and a full year in respect of Kimber Road Adventure Playground; and
  - (g) a negative revenue budget variation in respect of staffing costs of £35,000 in 2012/13 and £70,000 in 2013/14 and a full year.
4. The General Purposes Committee is recommended to agree the deletion, with effect from 30th September 2012 of the ten posts identified in paragraph 30, table 2 and paragraph 37, table 4.

## **INTRODUCTION**

5. The Council faces a possible reduction in expenditure of £70 million by 2014 and each Department has scrutinised its services to see if they can be delivered in different more cost effective ways and to assess if they are still required. As part of this process, the Adventure Playground Service, along with all other aspects of the Play and Extended Services Section has been subject to scrutiny with the aim of maintaining as much front line service as possible, in line with local needs, delivered at reduced cost whilst sustaining provision in the longer term.
6. The Children's Services Department currently operates three fully staffed, self-built adventure playgrounds;
  - (a) Battersea Park Adventure Playground, a large site within Battersea Park the future operation of which was detailed in Paper No. 12-10 submitted to the Education and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 18th January 2012 and the Executive on 30th January 2012;
  - (b) Kimber Road Adventure Playground (Southfields). A small site at the southern end of King George's Park which incorporates a BMX bike track and a small amount of skate park equipment. The current equipment was installed in response to demand following lobbying and a petition from local young people. An indoor space is also part of the site; and
  - (c) York Gardens Adventure Playground (Latchmere). A small site situated within York Gardens open space. The site shares a building with York Gardens One O'clock and Children's Centre and is a short distance from York Gardens Library.

## ***Kimber Road and York Gardens Adventure Playground Options***

7. The majority of the operating costs of the Adventure Playground Service remain those associated with staffing. Staff costs were previously reduced from April 2011 when recommendations in Paper No. 11-207, presented to the Education and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 23rd February 2011, the Executive on the 28th February and the General Purposes Committee on 16th March 2011. Subsequently changes to operating hours and staff contracts have been applied to realise a budget reduction of £131,000 during 2011-2013, across all three adventure playgrounds.
8. The current annual costs of maintaining the core staff team and sessional workers to meet seasonal peaks, is currently £77,000 at Kimber Road Adventure Playground and £70,000 at York Gardens Adventure Playground. The staffing levels cannot be reduced further without impacting on the opening hours of the site to the public. If cost reductions are to be achieved whilst maintaining a service offer, it is inevitable that this must be achieved through an option that does not require staff supervision of the sites. In turn this means equipment on site will need to comply with British and European standards.
9. The Executive approved the recommendations in Paper No. 12-10 which set out a future direction for Battersea Park Adventure Playground involving further consultation on the removal of the current self-build adventure play structures and their replacement with commercially available adventurous play equipment. Self-build structures do not meet British or European Safety Standards and as a consequence their use must be supervised at all times, whilst commercially available equipment meets rigorous British and European Standards and does not require staffing.
10. This approach, whilst requiring initial capital investment to replace existing equipment, is that it enables the revenue associated with staffing costs to be removed. It is recommended that a similar approach is taken with both Kimber Road and York Gardens Adventure Playgrounds, ensuring that any development takes account of the current character of the sites.

### **SURVEYS**

11. To gather the views of the public on this approach a survey was carried out on each site, with a questionnaire made available to children, young people and adult users accompanying children to Kimber Road and York Gardens Adventure Playgrounds. The questionnaire was also made available more widely through local schools and libraries as well as the York Gardens One O'clock and Children's Centre, to seek the views of those that may not currently use the provision.
12. The surveys were effected through the use of questionnaires titled '*Options for the future of Kimber Road Adventure Playground*' and '*Options to secure a children and young people play facility at York Gardens Adventure Playground*'. The questionnaires suggested an option for each site: -
  - (a) **Kimber Road Adventure Playground:** '*We are considering developing the skate park further as the small skating/BMX area that already exists within the adventure playground is very popular and was built following local demand. This development would mean the current adventure playground structures would be removed and the new facility, once installed, would not be staffed.*'; and

(b) **York Gardens Adventure Playground:** *'We are considering a playground development that could extend the recently opened playground for older children. This could mean the current adventure playground structures would be removed and replaced with new equipment. The new playground would not be staffed.'*

13. The questionnaire for York Gardens also sought opinion relating to the type of equipment that could replace the existing structures and the age range it should cater for. Copies of both the Kimber Road and York Gardens questionnaires are attached as appendix 1.
14. Further consideration has now been given to the options for Kimber Road and York Gardens Adventure Playgrounds in respect of the costs to the Council. In addition consideration has been given to the requirements of the Equality Act 2010, which requires that the Council, when exercising its functions, must have "due regard" to the need to eliminate discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken on each option presented in this report in order to support decision makers in reaching any conclusions.

## **KIMBER ROAD ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND**

### **Survey Results for Kimber Road Adventure Playground**

15. The surveys ran from 1st December 2011 to 12th January 2012. Survey returns were lower than anticipated. At the close of the survey period 127 completed questionnaires had been received in respect of Kimber Road Adventure Playground, 19 of which were completed by parents and carers, and 108 by children and young people. 77 (60%) of the respondents indicated that they were not resident in the Borough. However this should be treated with some caution as a number of young people indicated they did not live in Wandsworth when in fact they were residents of Southfields.
16. 21% of children and young people were in favour of the development suggestion and offered ideas as to what could be included as part of the development. Suggestions were a concrete bowl; grind box; long rails; ramps; volcano; foam pit; and half/quarter pipes.
17. 79% children and young people stated that they were not in favour of the skate park and wanted Kimber Road Adventure Playground to 'remain the same'. A number of the children also asked for trained staff to remain at the park. The four main aspects of the Playground that children named as sources of satisfaction/improvement were: more choice in computer console equipment; the addition of a football pitch; more activities; and the inside building to remain the same or be made bigger.
18. 58% (11) of parent respondents were in favour of a skate park development and also offered suggestions as to what could be included. In line with children and young people's suggestions they included a bowl; bigger ramps; and bigger half pipes. A number of parents/carers also asked for trained staff. Table 1 below provides a summary of responses.

## Kimber Road and York Gardens Adventure Playground Options

Table 1: Would you be in favour of a new Skate Park ?  
(Number/status of respondents)

	Total	No	Yes	No response
<b>Would you be in favour of a new Skate Park ?</b>				
Children and young people	108	85	23	0
Parents/carers	19	8	11	0
<b>All respondents</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>0</b>

Source: Kimber Road Adventure Playground December 2011 Questionnaire

19. The Kimber Road Adventure Playground survey report is attached as [Appendix 2](#).
20. The low response is more likely to be due to the time of year that the survey was undertaken. The current lighting at the Kimber Road site is not optimised for the area which reduces usage after dusk in winter and so whilst some skateboard enthusiasts were clearly present during the survey period, it is likely their numbers were lower than usual.
21. Anecdotal evidence also suggests that the recently opened Skate Park facility in Lambeth on Clapham Common, which is larger and more adventurous than the current limited equipment at Kimber Road, has had an impact on numbers.
22. The case for a skate park facility however remains strong. The level of demand for skate related activity is borne out by attendance levels at the Kimber Road skate park events. These events have grown over the years and now attract up to 200 skate enthusiasts who attend to take part in competitions and showcasing of their skate skills.
23. The Playground Development Officer has also confirmed that requests for a large and challenging facility are frequently made when she encounters young people on site during inspection visits at numerous sites across the borough. Visits by Council officers to other London skate parks in the London Boroughs of Ealing, Richmond upon Thames and Brent have also demonstrated the popularity of such provision with many children and young people in evidence at the sites visited.
24. There is also evidence to suggest that Skate Parks can reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. In 2003 Edinburgh City Council and the local residents and tenants association credited the Sighthill Park skate facility with reducing petty crime and anti-social behaviour in the neighbourhood, whilst in 2010 the Dorchester Police have reported a 19% drop in anti social behaviour since the completion the Dorchester Skate Park in 2009.
25. There is also a public health aspect to skate park facilities. Dumas & Laforest's., 'Skateparks As Health-Resource' (University of Ottawa, Canada, 2009) suggested that '*Skate Parks should be conceived as a valuable health-resource for youth because they provide various social, psychosocial and physical health resources that encourage a safe and active lifestyle*'

### Implications of Kimber Road Adventure Playground Development Option

26. Discussion with officers from other boroughs, site visits and indicative prices from manufacturers and installers suggest the development the Kimber Road Adventure Playground site as an open access skate park could be achieved at a capital cost of £150,000 including fees. As the site would not be staffed this would remove associated annual revenue costs of £77,000.

## ***Kimber Road and York Gardens Adventure Playground Options***

Given the success of skate parks elsewhere such as Bushy Park (London Borough of Richmond upon Thames) and Ealing (London Borough of Ealing), such a provision, which would be the only one of its kind in Wandsworth, is likely to be very popular.

27. Popular and busy playgrounds will need to be repaired and maintained more frequently than less well used sites, particularly once the equipment is outside warranty, typically every two years. Discussion with other boroughs suggests maintenance of concrete equipment is cost effective and less than that of standard modular equipment with moving parts. It is likely that the current playground repair budget would be able to meet the costs of this maintenance.

### **Equalities Impact Assessment**

28. The Equalities Impact Assessment in respect of Kimber Road Adventure Playground shows that usage of the site by BME groups at 53% is higher than both the Borough (22.05%) and ward (17.97%) averages. However this is likely to be due to attendance after school by pupils from Southfields Community College many of whom are not resident in Wandsworth.
29. Comments from respondents to the questionnaire suggest that an unstaffed provision is perceived as less safe than a staffed site. This may result in younger children aged 8-11 years attending less frequently due to perceived concerns about the behaviour of older children and gang activity.

### **Staffing Issues**

30. The resultant provision at Kimber Road Adventure Playground would not be staffed. Consequently five posts (4.0 FTE) would be deleted with effect from 30th September 2012 and the staff in post identified for redundancy. Every effort would however be made to identify alternative employment within the Council. Details of the affected posts are given in table 2 below.

**table 2:** Kimber Road posts for deletion

Post Number	Title	FTE	Status
LS233	Development Officer	1.0	1.0 FTE Occupied
LS222	Senior Playworker	1.0	0.75 FTE Occupied
LS224	Playworker	1.0	0.66 FTE Occupied
L5404/L504WB (split post)	Playworker	1.0 (2 x 0.5 FTE)	Vacant

### **Kimber Road Building**

31. The Kimber Road building was redeveloped in 2009. In an unstaffed setting this building would not be required and other uses and users would need to be sought for it. If this was not possible then it would be declared surplus to requirements.

## **YORK ROAD ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND**

### **Survey Results for York Gardens Adventure Playground**

32. The York Gardens Adventure Playground survey also ran from 1st December 2011 to 12th January 2012. The number of completed questionnaires from York Gardens was lower than that

## ***Kimber Road and York Gardens Adventure Playground Options***

of Kimber Road with only 83 responses received. Of these, 34 respondents were users of the York Gardens One O'clock Children's Centre, 17 were parents who accompanied their children to the site and 32 responses were from children and young people.

33. Whilst the benefits of a staffed site were noted by the respondents, the suggestion of alternative equipment to extend the conventional playground was supported, with the most popular option equipment for both children under 5 years and 5 to 8 years. Table 2 below gives details of the respondents' preferences.

**Table 3:** Preferences to the three sub-options York Gardens Adventure Playground  
(number and status of respondents)

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No response</b>
<b>Option 1 – install equipment for children over 8 year</b>				
One O'clock Children's Centre Users	34	15	16	3
Adventure Playground (Parent/Carers)	17	6	8	3
Adventure Playground (Children)	32	20	10	2
<b>All respondents</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Option 2 – install equipment for children under 5 and children 5 – 8 years</b>				
One O'clock Children's Centre Users	34	31	1	2
Adventure Playground (Parent/Carers)	17	10	5	2
Adventure Playground (Children)	32	23	8	1
<b>All respondents</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Option 3 – provide more grass for play and sports</b>				
One O'clock Children's Centre Users	34	27	5	2
Adventure Playground (Parent/Carers)	17	8	7	2
Adventure Playground (Children)	32	22	8	2
<b>All respondents</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>6</b>

---

Source: York Gardens Adventure Playground December 2011 Questionnaire

34. Respondents to the survey also mentioned community gardens and natural features which could be incorporated into any final design. A report summarising the results of the survey in respect of York Gardens is attached as appendix 3.

### **Implications of York Gardens Adventure Playground Development Option**

35. The open access playground, adjacent to York Gardens Adventure Playground, was refurbished to a high standard during summer 2011 and is equipped with apparatus aimed at older children and young people. Decommissioning the adventure playground structures and extending the open access provision with equipment designed for a younger age group has the potential to provide an all age range playground that would not need to be staffed. This could be achieved at a capital cost of £150,000 including fees etc. but would remove revenue costs associated with staffing of £70,000. The maintenance in respect of the development would need to be met through the current playground repair budget.



## **Equalities Impact Assessment**

36. The Equalities Impact Assessment in respect of York Gardens identified similar concerns to those of Kimber Road, with respondents voicing concerns about York Gardens as an unstaffed site with reference to both drugs and gangs. However this concern could possibly be mitigated if the York Gardens One O'clock and Children's Centre were to relocate part of its provision to that part of the building currently occupied by the Adventure Play provision. This would mean the playground would be overlooked by the Children's Centre and the outside playground area could be used by the Children's Centre during its hours of operation.

## **Staffing Issues**

37. The resultant provision at York Gardens Adventure Playground would not need to be staffed. As a result five posts (3.99 FTE) would be deleted with effect from 30th September 2012 and the staff in post identified for redundancy. Every effort would however be made to identify alternative employment within the Council. Details of the affected posts are given in table 4 below.

**table 4:** York Gardens posts identified for deletion

Post Number	Title	FTE	Status
L5400	Manager	1.0	0.73 FTE Occupied
L5402	Senior Playworker	1.0	Vacant
L5406/L5406WB (split post)	Playworker	0.99 (1 x 0.5 FTE, 1 x 0.49 FTE)	Vacant
LS223	Playworker	1.0	Vacant

## ***York Gardens Adventure Playground Building***

38. It is likely that the York Gardens One O'clock Children's Centre would make use of that part of the premises vacated by the Adventure Play team. If this proves not to be possible then this part of the building would not be required and other uses would need to be sought for it.

## **PROCUREMENT ISSUES AND TIMESCALES**

39. If the developments recommended in this report are progressed it is proposed that both Kimber Road and York Gardens Adventure Playground re-developments do not commence until October 2012, to enable the provisions to remain open during the summer holiday periods.
40. Both projects are estimated to cost no more than £150,000 works value. In accordance with the Council's Code of Practice for the Procurement of Services, Supplies and Works, the management of schemes with a works value below £150,000, is to be allocated to the Council's Design Service to be carried out in accordance with the Construction Related Services term contract.
41. Tenders would be invited no later than July 2012 which would mean that both sites are closed for a minimum period of time and construction of the new facilities could commence in October 2012.

## **CONSULTATION**

42. Staff Side have been consulted via the normal procedures. The staff affected will have been informed about these proposals. Any comments received from Staff Side on this report will be reported to the General Purposes Committee on 1st March 2012.

## **DIRECTOR OF FINANCE COMMENTS**

43. If approved, the proposals in this paper would lead to negative revenue budget variations of £73,500 in 2012/13 and £147,000 in 2013/13 and a full year. This is equivalent to an annual reduction of £1.15 on Band D Council Tax. Any costs of redundancy and redeployment will be met from within existing budgets.
44. In addition, capital budget variations budgets variation totalling £300,000 in 2012/13 are required. This would also result in a revenue budget variation of £3,420 in 2012/13 and a full year to reflect the loss of interest incurred on capital balances, equivalent to £0.03 on annual Band D Council Tax.

## **HEAD OF PROPERTY AUDIT COMMENTS**

45. The initial feasibility studies indicate that the proposals for Kimber Rd. Adventure Playground will indeed cost in the region of £150,000 but that a scheme at York Gardens could be achieved for around £125,000. However, both schemes will be subject to detailed design and consultation. If alternative uses need to be found for the buildings it is recommended that they should be referred to the Children's Services Property Review Team of officers in the first instance and then to the Corporate Property Review Team to consider the options.

## **HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES COMMENTS**

46. The proposals in this paper would result in the deletion of 10 posts (7.99 FTE) from the department's authorised establishment, of which 4 are currently occupied. Details of all of the posts affected are set out in the tables shown in paragraphs 30 (table 2) and 37 (table 4). Staff whose posts have been identified to be deleted will be counselled in accordance with the Council's Redundancy & Redeployment Agreement and every effort will be made to identify suitable alternative employment within the Council.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

47. Providing capital investment to develop a at Kimber Road Adventure Playground would deliver an enhanced service to children and young people in Wandsworth whilst at the same time securing ongoing cost reduction by removal of the need for a staff team
48. Pursuing a similar approach at York Gardens Adventure Playground through extension of the current conventional playground to deliver an all age play space would secure provision for children and young people whilst reducing costs to the Council.

The Town Hall,  
Wandsworth,  
SW18 2PU

PAUL ROBINSON  
Director of Children's  
Services

14th February 2012

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report: -

All reports to Overview and Scrutiny Committees, regulatory and other committees, the Executive and the full Council can be viewed on the Council's website

([www.wandsworth.gov.uk/moderngov](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/moderngov)) unless the report was published before May 2001, in which case the committee secretary (Rachel Williamson on 020 8871 7857) can supply it if required.

## Information and questionnaire for users of York Gardens One O'clock Children's Centre



### Options to secure a children and young people's play facility at York Gardens Adventure Playground

The spending squeeze affecting all public services means that the council will have £30 million less to spend next year and must make some difficult decisions on savings in all service areas. The council wants to maintain a facility for children's play at York Gardens Adventure Playground and is considering alternatives that will cost less to run.

As you are a user of York Gardens One O'clock Children's Centre we would like your opinion on one of the options being considered. We would be grateful if you could complete this short questionnaire and hand to a member of staff or return using the Freepost envelope by 31st December 2011.

1 How often do you use the One O'clock Children's Centre (please tick one)?

☐ Everyday

☐ Once a week

☐ Once a month

☐ Rarely

2 How many children do you bring to the centre?

### Future options

We are considering a playground development that could extend the recently opened playground for older children. This could mean the current adventure playground structures would be removed and replaced with new equipment. The new playground would not be staffed.

3 If we develop a replacement playground should we:

Install additional challenging playground equipment aimed at children over 8 years, similar to what's already in the playground next door?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Install play equipment suitable for all ages including children under 5 and children aged 5-8, so that families can use the playground together?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Provide more grass area for play and sports

☐ Yes

☐ No

4 Do you have any other ideas you want to be considered?

---

---

---

CS9806101.119

---

**About you**

5 Are you Male ☐ or Female ☐ ?

6 How would you describe your ethnic origin?

Choose one of the sections A to E and then tick the appropriate box.

**A. White**

- ☐ English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British ☐ Irish  
☐ Gypsy or Irish Traveller ☐ Any other white background (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Mixed/multiple ethnic groups**

- ☐ White and Black Caribbean ☐ White and Black African ☐ White and Asian  
☐ Any other mixed/multiple ethnic background (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Asian/Asian British**

- ☐ Indian ☐ Pakistani ☐ Bangladeshi  
☐ Chinese ☐ Any other Asian background (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

**D. Black African/Caribbean/Black British**

- ☐ African ☐ Caribbean  
☐ Any other Black/African/Caribbean background (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

**E. Other ethnic group**

- ☐ Arab ☐ Any other ethnic group (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

7 Do you consider yourself to have a disability? ☐ Yes ☐ No

8 If yes, how would you describe your disability?

- ☐ Hearing impairment ☐ Speech impairment ☐ Visual impairment  
☐ Physical disability ☐ Learning disability ☐ Multiple disability  
☐ Other disability (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

9 What is your religion?

- ☐ No religion  
☐ Christian  
(including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)  
☐ Buddhist ☐ Hindu ☐ Jewish  
☐ Muslim ☐ Sikh  
☐ Any other religion (please state) \_\_\_\_\_



## Information and questionnaire

---

### **Options to secure a children and young people's play facility at York Gardens Adventure Playground**

The spending squeeze affecting all public services means that the council will have £30 million less to spend next year and must make some difficult decisions on savings in all service areas. The council wants to maintain a facility for children and young play at York Gardens Adventure Playground and is considering alternatives that will cost less to run.

If you are a user of York Gardens Adventure Playground or other play and leisure facilities nearby we would like your opinion on one of the options we are considering. To help us do this we would be grateful if you could complete this short questionnaire and hand to a member of staff by 31st December 2011.

- 1 Are you a parent/carer ☐ or a child ☐ ?

If you are a child, how old are you?

- 2 Do you live in Wandsworth?

☐ Yes ☐ No

- 3 What is your postcode?

- 4 How often do you visit the adventure playground?

☐ Daily ☐ 2-3 times a week ☐ Once a week ☐ Not very often/never

If you do visit the adventure playground please answer questions 5-7.

- 5 When do you normally visit?

☐ After school ☐ School holidays ☐ Weekends

- 6 How do you travel to the adventure playground?

☐ Walk ☐ Cycle ☐ Car ☐ Public transport

- 7 Who do you go to the adventure playground with?

☐ On my own ☐ With friends ☐ With older siblings ☐ With an adult

---

### **Future Options**

We are considering a playground development that could extend the recently opened playground for older children. This could mean the current adventure playground structures would be removed and replaced with new equipment. The new playground would not be staffed.

8 If we develop a replacement playground should we:

Install additional challenging playground equipment aimed at children over 8 years, similar to what's already in the playground next door?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Install play equipment suitable for all ages including children under 5 and children aged 5-8, so that families can use the playground together?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Provide more grass area for play and sports

☐ Yes ☐ No

9 Do you have any other ideas you want to be considered?

---

---

---

---

10 Where else do you spend your leisure time (tick as many as apply)?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local playground                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Local park              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth/sport centre                | <input type="checkbox"/> After school activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please give details) _____ |  |

## ***Kimber Road and York Gardens Adventure Playground Options***

### **About you**

11 Are you Male ☐ or Female ☐ ?

12 How would you describe your ethnic origin?

Choose one of the sections A to E and then tick the appropriate box.

#### **A. White**

- ☐ English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British ☐ Irish  
☐ Gypsy or Irish Traveller ☐ Any other white background (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

#### **B. Mixed/multiple ethnic groups**

- ☐ White and Black Caribbean ☐ White and Black African ☐ White and Asian  
☐ Any other mixed/multiple ethnic background (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

#### **C. Asian/Asian British**

- ☐ Indian ☐ Pakistani ☐ Bangladeshi  
☐ Chinese ☐ Any other Asian background (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

#### **D. Black African/Caribbean/Black British**

- ☐ African ☐ Caribbean  
☐ Any other Black/African/Caribbean background (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

#### **E. Other ethnic group**

- ☐ Arab ☐ Any other ethnic group (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

13 Do you consider yourself to have a disability? ☐ Yes ☐ No

14 If yes, how would you describe your disability?

- ☐ Hearing impairment ☐ Speech impairment ☐ Visual impairment  
☐ Physical disability ☐ Learning disability ☐ Multiple disability  
☐ Other disability (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

15 What is your religion?

- ☐ No religion  
☐ Christian  
(including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)  
☐ Buddhist ☐ Hindu ☐ Jewish  
☐ Muslim ☐ Sikh  
☐ Any other religion (please state) \_\_\_\_\_



## Information and questionnaire



### Options for the future of Kimber Road Adventure Playground

The spending squeeze affecting all public services means that the council will have £30 million less to spend next year and must make some difficult decisions on savings in all service areas. The council wants to maintain a facility for children and young people at Kimber Road Adventure Playground and is considering alternatives that will cost less to run.

If you are a user of Kimber Road Adventure Playground or other play and leisure facilities nearby we would like your opinion on one of the options we are considering. To help us do this we would be grateful if you could complete this short questionnaire and hand to a member of staff by 9 January 2012.

- 1 Are you a parent/carer ☐ or a child ☐ ?

If you are a child, how old are you?

- 2 Do you live in Wandsworth?

☐ Yes

☐ No

- 3 What is your postcode?

- 4 How often do you visit the adventure playground?

☐ Daily

☐ 2-3 times a week

☐ Once a week

☐ Not very often/never

If you do visit the adventure playground please answer questions 5-7.

- 5 When do you normally visit?

☐ After school

☐ School holidays

☐ Weekends

- 6 How do you travel to the adventure playground?

☐ Walk

☐ Cycle

☐ Car

☐ Public transport

- 7 Who do you go to the adventure playground with?

☐ On my own

☐ With friends

☐ With older siblings

☐ With an adult

---

### **Future Option**

We are considering developing the skate park further as the small skating/BMX area that already exists within the adventure playground is very popular and was built following local demand. This development would mean the current adventure playground structures would be removed and the new facility, once installed, would not be staffed.

**8** Would you be in favour of a new skate park?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If you answered yes, please give details of the sorts of things you would want included.

---

---

---

---

---

---

If you answered no, do you have any other ideas you would like us to consider?

---

---

---

---

---

---

**9** Where else do you spend your leisure time (tick as many as apply)?

☐ Another playground nearby

☐ Local park

☐ Youth/sport centre

☐ After school activities

☐ Aspire Centre

☐ Other (please give details) \_\_\_\_\_

---

**About you**

11 Are you Male ☐ or Female ☐ ?

12 How would you describe your ethnic origin?

Choose one of the sections A to E and then tick the appropriate box.

**A. White**

- ☐ English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British ☐ Irish  
☐ Gypsy or Irish Traveller ☐ Any other white background (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Mixed/multiple ethnic groups**

- ☐ White and Black Caribbean ☐ White and Black African ☐ White and Asian  
☐ Any other mixed/multiple ethnic background (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Asian/Asian British**

- ☐ Indian ☐ Pakistani ☐ Bangladeshi  
☐ Chinese ☐ Any other Asian background (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

**D. Black African/Caribbean/Black British**

- ☐ African ☐ Caribbean  
☐ Any other Black/African/Caribbean background (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

**E. Other ethnic group**

- ☐ Arab ☐ Any other ethnic group (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

13 Do you consider yourself to have a disability? ☐ Yes ☐ No

14 If yes, how would you describe your disability?

- ☐ Hearing impairment ☐ Speech impairment ☐ Visual impairment  
☐ Physical disability ☐ Learning disability ☐ Multiple disability  
☐ Other disability (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

15 What is your religion?

- ☐ No religion  
☐ Christian  
(including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)  
☐ Buddhist ☐ Hindu ☐ Jewish  
☐ Muslim ☐ Sikh  
☐ Any other religion (please state) \_\_\_\_\_
-

# Options for the future of Kimber Road Adventure Playground

Analysis of responses to the questionnaire

January 2012  
**Introduction**

The spending squeeze affecting all public services means that the council will have £30 million less to spend next year and must make some difficult decisions on savings in all service areas. The council wants to maintain a facility for children and young people at Kimber Road Adventure Playground and is considering alternatives that will cost less to run.

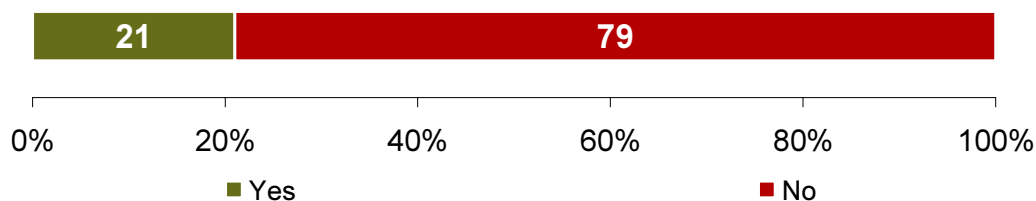
The purpose of this report is to provide an analysis of the responses to the survey of the children and young people using Kimber Road Adventure Playground. The questionnaire asked users of the Playground about their views on the possibility of developing the skate park further. This development would mean the current adventure playground structures would be removed and the new facility, once installed, would not be staffed.

In December 2011, a self-completion questionnaire was distributed at Kimber Road Adventure Playground and local schools. As of 12 January 2012, 127 responses from parents/carers, children and young people had been received. It is not possible to follow up the people who have not responded.

## Main findings

- Of the 127 responses, 19 were from parents/carers and 108 were from children and young people.
- Of the 108 children and young people that returned the questionnaire, only around one in five were in favour of a new skate park (see figure 1).

**Figure 1:** Would you be in favour of a new skate park?  
(percentage of children and young people who responded)



Source: Kimber Road Adventure Playground December 2011 Questionnaire

- Of the 19 parents/carers that returned the questionnaire, 11 were in favour of a new skate park.
- The main sorts of things that children and young people said they wanted included in a skate park were: concrete bowl; grind box; long rails; ramps; volcano; foam pit; and half/quarter pipes. A number of the children also asked for trained staff to remain at the park. This is illustrated in the following comments from two young people.

■ "Bowl, Rail, Full pipe, quarter pipe, foam pit, stair set. And staff that can do BMXing, skate boarding etc."

■ "First of all, I'd like to mention the fantastic BMX and skate community that Kimber has, the kids and staff all play a part of the great scene here. A deep bowl area would be an amazing addition to kimber, as well as a street/flatbank area with rails and ledge."

### ***Kimber Road and York Gardens Adventure Playground Options***

Of the 21 children that wanted a new skate park, five indicated that they already used other skate parks.

- The three main sorts of things that the 11 parents/carers said they wanted included in a skate park were: a bowl; bigger ramps; and bigger half pipes. A number of parents/carers also asked for trained staff. This is demonstrated in the views of the following parents/carers.

■ "Seating for adults and café and DVDs on skateboarding etc, some equipment. Also you could offer holiday camps and after school or weekend clubs or lessons".

■ "I would like the park to be staffed."

- The majority of the children and young people said they wanted Kimber Road Adventure Playground to 'remain the same'. The four main aspects of the Playground that children named as sources of satisfaction/improvement were: more choice in computer console equipment; the addition of a football pitch; more activities; and the inside building to remain the same or be made bigger. In the words four young people:

■ "I enjoy the swing and sitting down and going on computer. I like it the way it is."

■ "I like the hut because I feel safe."

■ "I prefer the company of staff and friends and being able to come inside."

■ "(My son) said he liked the climbing frame and he likes the slide. (My son) likes playing games on the computer. (My son) said he loves the tuck shop."

- Eight of the parents/carers did not want a new skate park. In the words of one parent:

■ "The adventure playground is great. My Kids love to skate and for a break play on the swings. Sometimes the younger kids love the big swings while their siblings are baking or skating. I also don't approve of the facility being unsupervised. The local gangs would take over to push out the local kids."

## **Background**

Caution is required when interpreting these data. This is due to two reasons.

Firstly, there may be bias within the sample frame. The questionnaires were distributed to users at the Adventure Playground. It is possible that some users of the Playground did not pick up a questionnaire or did not attend the Playground during the reporting period.

Secondly, there may be response bias within the findings. As the questionnaire is anonymous, it is not possible to follow up users of the Playground who did not respond. Therefore we cannot be certain that the respondents are representative of all users of the Playground. For example, there may be some users of the Playground with limited literacy skills who found completing the questionnaire difficult.

## About the respondents

- Of the 127 responses, 19 were from parents/carers and 108 were from children and young people (see table 1).
- Of responses received, 49 indicated they lived in Wandsworth and 77 indicated they did not live in Wandsworth. Caution is required when interpreting this figures, this is because some of the respondents may have answered no to this question because they live in Southfields (see table 2).
- When asked how often they used the Playground, 12 indicated they used the it daily, 48 used the it 2/3 times a week, 40 used it once a week and 26 indicated they it not very often (see table 3).
- When asked when they normally visit the Playground, 41 indicated they used the it after school, 30 used the it at weekends, 3 used it during school holidays and 52 indicated they used it either after school, at weekends or school holidays (see table 4).
- The majority of users walked to the Playground (see table 5).
- The majority of users went to the Playground with a friend (see table 6).
- Caution is required when interpreting the demographic information from the respondents. This is because children and young people can sometimes provide unreliable information (see figures 7, 8 and 9).

## Annex: Tables

**Table 1:** Are you a parent/carer?

	Number of respondents
Parents/carers	19
Children and young people	108
Total	127

Source: Kimber Road Adventure Playground 2011 questionnaire

**Table 2:** Do you live in Wandsworth?

(number of respondents)

	Number of respondents
Yes	49
No	77
Total	126

Source: Kimber Road Adventure Playground 2011 questionnaire



**Table 3:** How often do you visit the adventure playground?

(number of respondents)

	Number of respondents
Daily	12
2-3 times a week	48
Once a week	40
Not very often/never	26
Total	126

Source: Kimber Road Adventure Playground 2011 questionnaire

**Table 4:** When do you normally visit?

(number of respondents)

	Number of respondents
After school	41
Weekends	30
School holidays	3
Any combination of the above	52
Total	126

Source: Kimber Road Adventure Playground 2011 questionnaire

**Table 5:** How do you travel to the adventure playground?

(number of respondents)

	Number of respondents
Walk	74
Cycle	15
Car	12
Public transport	19
Any combination of the above	7
Total	127

Source: Kimber Road Adventure Playground 2011 questionnaire

**Table 6:** Who do you go to the adventure playground with?

(number of respondents)

	Number of respondents
On my own	9
With friends	86
With older siblings	4
With an adult	17
With my children	11
Total	127

Source: Kimber Road Adventure Playground 2011 questionnaire

**Table 7: Are you male or female?**

(number of respondents)

	Number of respondents
Male	100
Female	25

Source: Kimber Road Adventure Playground 2011 questionnaire

**Table 8: How would you describe your ethnic origin?**

(number of respondents)

	Number of respondents
English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	47
Irish	2
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0
Any other white background	3
White and black Caribbean	14
White and black African	2
White and Asian	1
Any other mixed/multiple background (please state)	2
Indian	0
Pakistani	2
Bangladeshi	0
Chinese	0
Any other Asian background (please state)	0
African	15
Caribbean	19
Any other black/African/Caribbean background (please state)	7
Arab	0
Any other ethnic group (please state)	5
No response	7

Source: Kimber Road Adventure Playground 2011 questionnaire

**Table 9: What is your religion?**

(number of respondents)

	Number of respondents
No religion	40
Christian	55
Buddhist	0
Hindu	0
Jewish	0
Muslim	17
Sikh	0
Any other religion (please state)	7
No response	8

Source: Kimber Road Adventure Playground 2011 questionnaire

# **Options to secure a children and young people's play facility at York Gardens Adventure Playground**

Analysis of responses to the questionnaire

11 January 2012

## Introduction

The spending squeeze affecting all public services means that the council will have £30 million less to spend next year and must make some difficult decisions on savings in all service areas. The council wants to maintain a facility for children's play at York Gardens Adventure Playground and is considering alternatives that will cost less to run. This development would mean the current adventure playground structures would be removed and the new facility, once installed, would not be staffed. There are currently three options:

Option 1: Install additional challenging playground equipment aimed at children over 8 years, similar to what's already in the playground next door.

Option 2: Install play equipment suitable for all ages including children under 5 and children aged 5-8, so that families can use the playground together.

Option 3: Provide more grass for play and sports.

The purpose of this report is to provide an analysis of the responses to the self-completion questionnaire sent out in December 2011. The questionnaire was sent to parents/carers and children and young people using York Gardens Adventure Playground. A similar questionnaire was distributed to parents/carers using York Gardens One O'clock Children's Centre. The questionnaire asked respondents about their views on the possibility of developing the facilities.

As of 12 January 2012, 83 responses from parents/carers, children and young people had been received. It is not possible to follow up the people who have not responded.

## Main findings

- Of the 83 responses, 34 were from parents/carers of the One O'clock Children's Centre, 17 were from parents/carers who use the Adventure Playground and 32 were from children and young people who use the Adventure Playground.
- Around three quarters of respondents said yes to the option 2, to install play equipment suitable for children of all ages. This option was clearly the most popular amongst users of the Children's Centre.
- Over two thirds of respondents said yes to the option 3, to provide more grass area for play and sports. This option was also the most popular amongst users of Children's Centre. It was least popular amongst the parents/carers who used the Adventure Playground.
- Around half of the respondents said yes to the option 1, to install additional challenging playground equipment aimed at older children. This option was the most popular amongst children and young people who currently use the Adventure Playground. It was least popular amongst the parents/carers who used the Adventure Playground.

**Table 1:** Preferences to the three options on a children and young people's play facility at York Gardens Adventure Playground  
(number of respondents)

	Total	Yes	No	No response
<b>Option 1</b>				
One O'clock Children's Centre Users	34	15	16	3
Adventure Playground (Parent/Carers)	17	6	8	3
Adventure Playground (Children)	32	20	10	2
<b>All respondents</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Option 2</b>				
One O'clock Children's Centre Users	34	31	1	2
Adventure Playground (Parent/Carers)	17	10	5	2
Adventure Playground (Children)	32	23	8	1
<b>All respondents</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Option 3</b>				
One O'clock Children's Centre Users	34	27	5	2
Adventure Playground (Parent/Carers)	17	8	7	2
Adventure Playground (Children)	32	22	8	2
<b>All respondents</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>6</b>

Source: York Gardens December 2011 Questionnaire

- The main issues raised by the 34 parents/carers who used the One O'clock Children's Centre included; the importance of play equipment for under 5's and older children; the importance of the flora; and safety within the park. This is illustrated in the following comments from three parents/carers.

■ "Maybe it could be turned into a secret garden, with hidden play equipment (suitable for all ages) sand area and water features (safe for all) with different plants and grass types educating kids about flora and fauna, maybe a veg patch and lunch area."

■ "Grass area should not allow dogs and should be kept clean. Playground equipment should aim for under 5's and an area for over 8's."

■ "My idea that I think children would love is a shipwrecked ship climbing from a sand pit. And most importantly more CCTV!"

### ***Kimber Road and York Gardens Adventure Playground Options***

- The three main sorts of things that the 32 children and young people said they wanted were: the Adventure Playground to remain the same with the staff; the addition of a long tunnel slide; and more equipment. This is demonstrated in the views of the following three children and young people.

■ "I would like to keep the staff at adventure who are here already but change it a little to have more equipment inside and outside."

■ "Keep adventure how it is, with staff to help, also with more equipment."

■ "I would like more equipment and better food, better video games also more rooms."

- The two main issues raised by the 17 parents/carers who used the Adventure Playground was around the importance of maintaining staffing for safety and keeping the adventure playground as it is. In the words three parents/carers:

■ "Please can you consider the idea of having an indoor staff area. The children can take part in activities like cooking, arts and crafts and group games."

■ "I wouldn't want a playground for older children unstaffed. They could use the area for bad things (gangs, drugs, etc...)."

■ "To remain staffed to reduce other problems occurring, such as violence, crime and basic safety."

## **Background**

Caution is required when interpreting these data, because of the small number of responses. There is also potential bias within the sample and responses.

Firstly, there may be bias within the sample frame. The questionnaires were distributed to users at the Adventure Playground, One O'clock Centre and local schools. It is possible that some users did not receive a questionnaire or did not attend the Playground during the reporting period.

Secondly, there may be response bias within the findings. As the questionnaire is anonymous, it is not possible to follow up users of the Playground who did not respond. Therefore we cannot be certain that the respondents are representative of all users of the Playground. For example, there may be some users of the Playground with limited literacy skills who found completing the questionnaire difficult.

## Annex: Tables

**Table 2:** How often do you use the One O'clock Children's Centre?

(number of respondents from the One O'clock Children's Centre questionnaire )	Number of respondents
Everyday	16
Once a week	11
Once a month	3
Rarely	4
Total	34

Source: York Gardens December 2011 Questionnaire

**Table 3:** Are you a parent/carer?

(number of respondents from the Adventure Playground questionnaire )	Number of respondents
Parents/carers	17
Children and young people	32
Total	49

Source: York Gardens December 2011 Questionnaire

**Table 4:** Do you live in Wandsworth?

(number of respondents)	Number of respondents
(number of respondents from the Adventure Playground questionnaire )	
Yes	47
No	2
Total	49

Source: York Gardens December 2011 Questionnaire

**Table 5:** How often do you visit the adventure playground?

(number of respondents)	Number of respondents
(number of respondents from the Adventure Playground questionnaire )	
Daily	18
2-3 times a week	10
Once a week	8
Not very often/never	12
No response	1
Total	49

Source: York Gardens December 2011 Questionnaire

**Table 6:** When do you normally visit?

(number of respondents)	Number of respondents
(number of respondents from the Adventure Playground questionnaire )	
After school	8
Weekends	6
School holidays	11
Any combination of the above	21
Total	46



Source: York Gardens December 2011 Questionnaire

**Table 7: How do you travel to the adventure playground?**

(number of respondents)

(number of respondents from the Adventure Playground questionnaire )	Number of respondents
Walk	37
Cycle	1
Car	1
Public transport	6
Any combination of the above	1
Total	46

Source: York Gardens December 2011 Questionnaire

**Table 8: Who do you go to the adventure playground with?**

(number of respondents)

(number of respondents from the Adventure Playground questionnaire )	Number of respondents
On my own	1
With friends	28
With older siblings	1
With an adult	2
With my children	15
Total	48

Source: York Gardens December 2011 Questionnaire

**Table 9: Are you male or female?**

(number of respondents)

	Adventure Playground Questionnaire	One O clock Children s Centre Questionnaire
Male	15	0
Female	33	33

Source: York Gardens Adventure Playground 2011 questionnaire

## ***Kimber Road and York Gardens Adventure Playground Options***

**Table 10:** How would you describe your ethnic origin?  
(number of respondents)

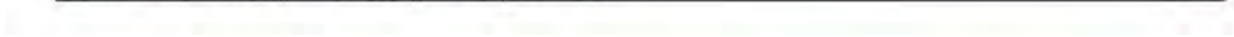
	<b>Adventure Playground Questionnaire</b>	<b>One O clock Children s Centre Questionnaire</b>
English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	13	13
Irish	0	0
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0	0
Any other white background	4	6
White and black Caribbean	7	1
White and black African	0	0
White and Asian	0	0
Any other mixed/multiple background (please state)	1	0
Indian	0	0
Pakistani	0	2
Bangladeshi	0	1
Chinese	0	1
Any other Asian background (please state)	0	0
African	6	4
Caribbean	17	2
Any other black/African/Caribbean background (please state)	0	0
Arab	0	0
Any other ethnic group (please state)	0	1
No response	1	3

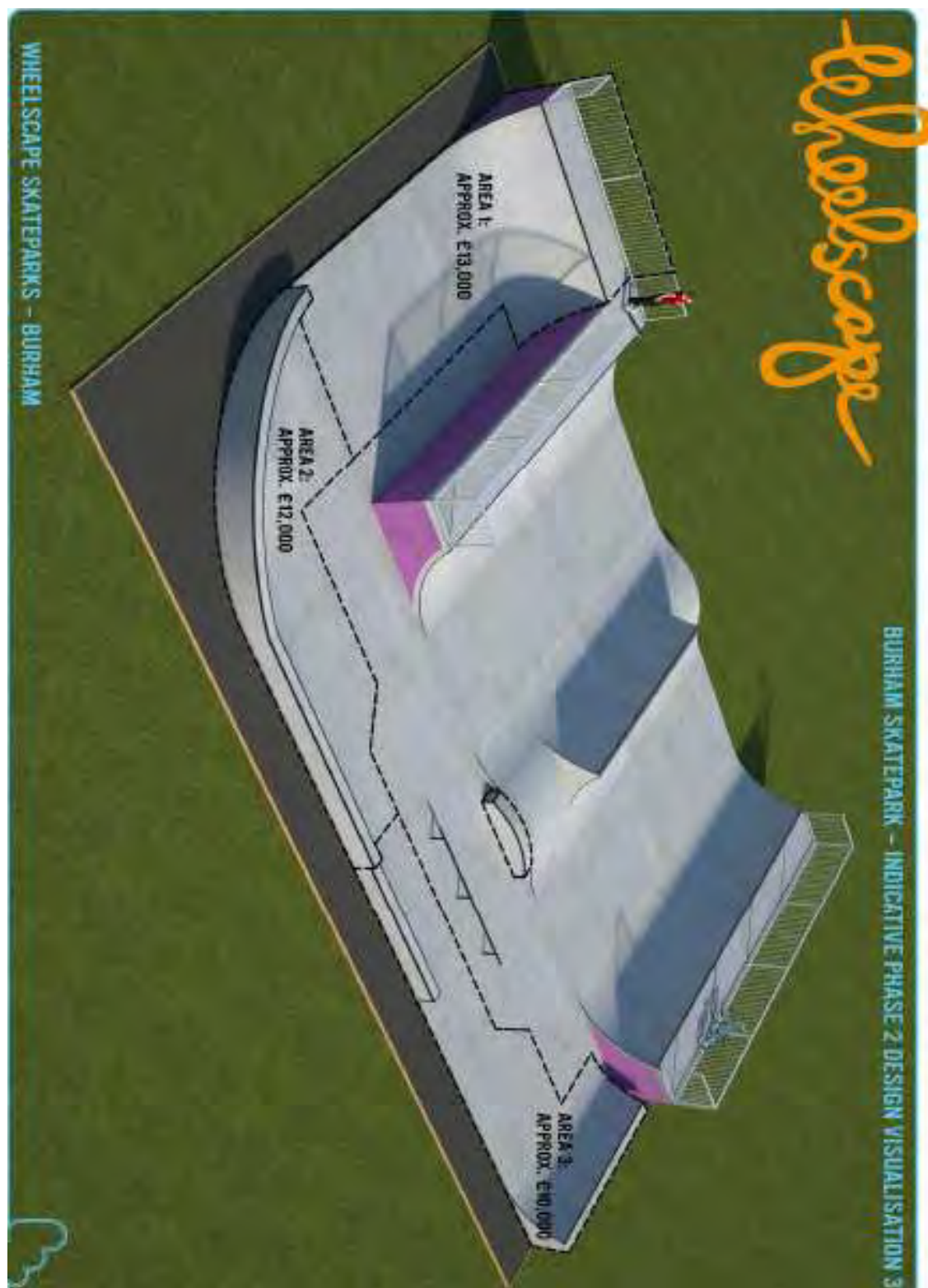
Source: York Gardens December 2011 Questionnaire

**Table 11:** What is your religion?  
(number of respondents)

	<b>Adventure Playground Questionnaire</b>	<b>One O clock Children s Centre Questionnaire</b>
No religion	9	8
Christian	31	15
Buddhist	0	0
Hindu	0	0
Jewish	0	0
Muslim	0	6
Sikh	0	0
Any other religion (please state)	6	0
No response	3	5

Source: York Gardens December 2011 Questionnaire





## APPENDIX 5

### Equality Impact Assessment – Service Change

Department	Children's Services, Policy and Development Division, Play and Extended Services
Service	<b>York Gardens Adventure Playground</b>
People involved	Head of Service and Service Managers, Centre Staff, Service Users (children and young people)

#### 1. What are the aims of the service and what changes are being proposed?

The Play and Extended Services Section provides a range of services that aim to support or secure better outcomes for children and young people as defined and articulated within the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP)

York Gardens Adventure playground is 1 of 3 directly delivered Adventure Playgrounds services that offer children and young people aged 5-16 years adventurous, indoor and outdoor play opportunities. These are offered after school, at weekends and during school holidays. The service is currently free of charge at point of access.

The change being proposed involves removing the staffing element of the provision, decommissioning Adventure play structures and extending the recently refurbished children's playground adjacent to the site. This will create an all range playground.

A survey was conducted in December 2012 to gain service user views on the proposed changes.

#### 2. What is the rationale behind these changes?

The Council faces a reduction in budget of £70 million by 2014. Each Department has scrutinised its services to ascertain if they can be delivered in different more cost effective ways and to see if they are still required.

The Adventure Playground service at York Gardens is a fully staffed provision. Staff costs are the majority costs of delivering this service. Some staffing reductions have already been implemented

#### 3. What information do you have on the service and the potential impact of your service change in relation to the following?

	List information you have. Do not put what the information shows you
Race	<p>Service user snapshot June 2011</p> <p>Total number of service users 131 visiting 338 times.</p> <p>Ethnicity</p> <p>Black British: 21</p> <p>Caribbean: 14</p> <p>African: 3</p> <p>White/Asian</p>

***Kimber Road and York Gardens Adventure Playground Options***

	<p>White/Black African</p> <p>White/Black Caribbean: 4</p> <p>Any other mixed ethnicity: 4</p> <p>White British: 10</p> <p>Other White Ethnicity: 1</p> <p>Other ethnic group: 1</p> <p>Unknown: 74</p> <p>Percentage of BME from data provided by the young people: 81%. This is significantly above the borough average</p> <p>Results of survey – Of the 83 respondents stating their ethnicity 43 (51%) were from BME groups. Given the small number of responses, analysis by ethnicity is not statistically robust enough to draw conclusions from.</p>
Gender	<p>Service user snapshot June 2011</p> <p>Male: 71 (54.2)</p> <p>Female: 54 (41.2)</p> <p>Unknown: 6 (4.6)</p> <p>Results of survey. Of the 81 respondents stating gender 66 (81%) were female and 15 (18.5%) were male. The One O'clock Children Centres provided 33 of the females respondents and no male respondents.</p>
Disability	<p>Service user snapshot June 2011</p> <p>Disability: 1</p> <p>No Disability: 52</p> <p>Unknown: 78</p> <p>Results of survey. No disabilities declared</p>
Age	<p>Service user snapshot June 2011</p> <p>5-8: 20 (27%)</p> <p>9-12: 45 (62%)</p> <p>13-16: 8 (11%)</p> <p>Results of survey.</p> <p>Main issues raised:</p> <p>Comments made by parents and carer respondents to the survey suggest a perception that an unstaffed provision will be less safe with specific reference made to local gangs taking over and pushing out local kids. Whilst not explicitly stated this could suggest that parents may prevent younger children from using unstaffed provision</p>
Faith	Not currently collected
Sexual Orientation	Not currently collected

Additional information	The data shows that the majority of service users live locally in Battersea with no non resident service users
------------------------	--

**4. Thinking about each group below please list the impact that the service change will have.**

	<u>Positive</u> impacts of service change	Possible <u>negative</u> impacts of service change
Race	<p>An open access service will enable the current users to continue to access a service.</p> <p>Whilst continued staffing was suggested a majority of respondents to the survey supported the installation of commercial equipment as an alternative to self-build equipment.</p> <p>The adjacent open access playground generally engages children aged 5-12 years after school most of which are accompanied by parents/carers and/or older siblings. It is therefore likely that parents will accompany their children to the proposed unsupervised facility.</p>	<p>Available data shows that service users are 81% BME compared to a borough population average of 22.05%.</p> <p>At 81% this figure is also above the ward population average (Latchmere) of 36.19%. However the figure is closer to Housing Department records for local estates which evidence 71% BME. Any changes which impact usage levels will therefore have an impact on BME young people.</p> <p>Actual users of the service could decline in winter months as there will be no indoor facility.</p> <p>The survey highlighted that younger children aged 5-11 years may not continue to attend as parents/carers may rely on staff supervision being available to enable their children to attend safely. However it should be noted that currently on average only 4/5 parents/carers currently accompany their children regularly, meaning the majority attend unaccompanied.</p>
Gender	<p>The data shows that usage by male and female children does not demonstrate wide variance when considered against the borough population averages for males (50%) and females (50%) aged 5-14 years or that of Latchmere ward; males (51%) and females (49%).</p> <p>An open access service will enable the current users to continue to access a service</p>	<p>Use of new provision by female children and young people may decline as the survey suggests that parents/carers rely on staff supervision to enable their children to attend and this is particularly the case for females and younger children aged 5-11 years. However, it should also be noted that currently on average only 4/5 parents/carers currently accompany their children regularly, meaning the majority attend unaccompanied</p> <p>Whilst not formally childcare, parents may view the playground as a safe place to leave their children and use it as informal childcare provision.</p> <p>Removal of staff may have an impact</p>

## *Kimber Road and York Gardens Adventure Playground Options*

		on these parents  The open access playground service user spot checks demonstrated that both males and females use the playground equally.
Disability	An open access service will enable the current users to continue to access a service  Very low prevalence of service users with a disability.	Accessibility of equipment will be considered when selecting equipment to install
Age	The service is provided for young people aged 5-16 years but predominately provides for 9-12 year olds.  It should also be noted that the spot checks demonstrated that the majority of children using the open access playground adjacent to the current facility were accompanied by parents/carers. It is therefore likely that parents will accompany their children to the proposed unsupervised facility	The survey highlighted that younger children aged 5-11 years may not continue to attend as parents/carers may rely on staff supervision being available to enable their children to attend safely. However it should be noted that currently on average only 4/5 parents/carers currently accompany their children regularly, meaning the majority attend unaccompanied.
Faith	No data collected	
Sexual orientation	No data collected	

**5. Is a full EIA required?** Initial EIA conducted. Survey of service users and carers subsequently conducted in order to provide additional information and convert initial into full EIA.

- Is the service a frontline service? Yes
- Is it clear what impact the service change will have on all the equality groups? Yes
- Overall will the change have a negative impact on any of the equality groups? Yes, it may impact on the BME population, female and younger children.

**6. Through the EIA have you identified any actions that needed to be implemented to improve access to the service or monitoring of the service? (please list)**

As the York Gardens Premises will still be available for use, consideration will be given to its use during school holidays as a venue for Catch 22 (Vol Sector provider) activity. This has the potential to provide some service but not at the current level



Accommodating the One O'Clock Children's Centre provision in the part of the building that overlooks the playground could possibly alleviate some parental concerns about safety.

Signed

Date

Approved by: Clare O'Connor

### **Equality Impact Assessment – Service Change**

Department	Children's Services, Policy and Development Division, Play and Extended Services
Service	<b>Kimber Road Adventure Playground</b>
People involved	Head of Service and Service Managers, Centre Staff, Service Users (children and young people)

#### **1. What are the aims of the service and what changes are being proposed?**

The Play and Extended Services Section provides a range of services that aim to support or secure better outcomes for children and young people as defined and articulated within the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP)

Kimber Road Adventure playground is 1 of 3 directly delivered Adventure Playgrounds services that offer children and young people aged 5-16 years adventurous, indoor and outdoor play opportunities. These are offered after school, at weekends and during school holidays. The service is currently free of charge at point of access

The change being proposed involves removing the staffing element of the provision, decommissioning the adventure play structures and extending the current skateboard facility to provide an open access unstaffed facility.

A survey was conducted in December 2012 to gain service user views on the proposed changes.

#### **2. What is the rationale behind these changes?**

The Council faces a reduction in budget of 70 million by 2014. Each Department has scrutinised its services to ascertain if they can be delivered in different more cost effective ways and to see if they are still required.

The Adventure Playground service at Kimber Road is currently a fully staffed provision. Staffing costs are the majority of the costs of operation.

#### **3. What information do you have on the service and the potential impact of your service change in relation to the following?**

	<b>List information you have. Do not put what the information shows you</b>  Information includes number of people using the service, customer satisfaction, feedback on service, results of
--	--

***Kimber Road and York Gardens Adventure Playground Options***

	consultation undertaken during December 2011.
Race	<p>Service user snapshot 1<sup>st</sup> May – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2011</p> <p>Total number of service users 829 visiting 2159 times.</p> <p>Ethnicity</p> <p>Black British: 11%</p> <p>Caribbean: 11%</p> <p>African: 2%</p> <p>White/Asian: 2%</p> <p>White/Black African: 2%</p> <p>White/Black Caribbean: 15%</p> <p>Any other mixed ethnicity: 6%</p> <p>White British: 35%</p> <p>Other White Ethnicity: 12%</p> <p>Other ethnic group: 5%</p> <p>Total BME: 53%</p> <p>Results of survey 70 (56%) of the respondents answering this question were from BME groups.</p>
Gender	<p>Service user snapshot 1<sup>st</sup> May – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2011 based on 826 respondents.</p> <p>Male: 560 (68%)</p> <p>Female: 266 (32%)</p> <p>Survey results. Of the 125 respondents stating their gender 100 (80%) were male and 25 (20%) female</p>
Disability	<p>Service user snapshot 1<sup>st</sup> May – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2011</p> <p>No service users with a known or declared disability.</p> <p>Results of survey. No disability declared</p>
Age	<p>Service user snapshot 1<sup>st</sup> May – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2011</p> <p>5-8: 184 (28%)</p> <p>9-12: 286 (43%)</p> <p>13-16: 192 (29%)</p> <p>Survey results. Comments made by parents and carer respondents to the survey suggest a perception that an unstaffed provision will be less safe with specific reference made to violence, crime, gangs and drugs and linking this to older children. Whilst not specifically stated this could suggest that parents may prevent younger children from using unstaffed provision</p>

Faith	Not currently collected
Sexual Orientation	Not currently collected
Additional information	The May –July 2011 user snapshot showed that 35% of the users live locally, the December 2011 survey showed 39%. Many of the users of the site, particularly during term time weekdays are pupils of Southfields Community college, whose intake is sourced from a South London area wider than Wandsworth.

**4. Thinking about each group below please list the impact that the service change will have.**

	<u>Positive</u> impacts of service change	Possible <u>negative</u> impacts of service change
Race	<p>An open access service will enable the current users to continue to access a service.</p> <p>The service currently only provides for 35% of children and young people that live locally in SW18, with another 30% being Wandsworth residents with 35% being non-residents. This is probably largely due to the close proximity of Southfields Community College the pupils of which make use of the site during term time after school.</p>	<p>The data shows that 35% of those that attend the site live locally to the centre the alternative is currently 2.1 miles away at York Gardens Adventure Playground, which is subject to changes covered in a separate EIA.</p> <p>Service users are 53% BME compared to the Borough average of 22.05%. However, this figure will include residents from other boroughs (Southfields' pupils) where the BME population maybe higher than Wandsworth.</p> <p>53% BME is also it is above the Southfields ward average of 17.97%. It should be noted therefore that any changes which impact of the usage of the service will impact on BME young people (although not all will be residents of Wandsworth)</p> <p>Actual users of the service could decline in winter months as there will be no indoor facility.</p> <p>Younger children aged 8 -11 years may not continue to attend as parents/carers perceive staff supervision as safeguard against bad behaviour etc... However it should be noted that on average only 6 parents/carers currently accompany their children regularly. The majority regularly attend unaccompanied.</p> <p>Service usage spot checks for the existing open access play area in King Georges Park demonstrate that on a sunny day on average 30-35 children</p>

***Kimber Road and York Gardens Adventure Playground Options***

	<u>Positive</u> impacts of service change	Possible <u>negative</u> impacts of service change
		attend, the majority are 5 to 10 years old and are accompanied and 18% are BME. This also suggests that parents would be prepared to attend an unsupervised site, however the low percentage of BME parents should be noted.
Gender	<p>The data shows that usage by male and female children is not dissimilar when considered against the borough population average; males (50%) and females (50%) 5-14 years and Southfields ward averages males (54%) and females (46%). Although the data shows there are more males than females using the service, this is not however, an unusual pattern for children aged 9-12 years.</p> <p>An open access service will enable the current users to continue to access a service</p>	<p>The majority of skate park usage is by young males which could mean minority usage by females</p> <p>Parents/carers may rely on staff supervision to enable their children to attend, however as noted above only 6 parents regularly attend with their children.</p> <p>Whilst not formally childcare, it is clear that parents view the playground as a safe place to leave their children and may use it as informal childcare provision. Removal of staff may have an impact on these parents and younger children aged 5-11 years. An unstaffed</p> <p>The open access playground, in King Georges Park, user spot checks demonstrate that the average percentage of male and female usage is comparable to the Borough and Ward averages.</p>
Disability	<p>Consideration will need to be taken in providing skate park facilities that are fully accessible for any children and young people with disabilities.</p>	
Age	<p>An open access service will enable the current users to continue to access a service</p> <p>The service is provided for young people aged 5-16 years but is predominately used by 9-12 year olds, with 9-16 yrs olds making up 72%</p>	<p>Younger children may not continue to use an open access provision that is not staffed. Comments by parents/carers within the December survey suggest that they perceive staff supervision as a safeguard for these children. However, usage data shows that the majority of children attend unaccompanied.</p>

	<u>Positive</u> impacts of service change	Possible <u>negative</u> impacts of service change
	of the total service users.	
Faith	No data collected	
Sexual orientation	No data collected	

**5. Is a full EIA required?** Initial EIA conducted. Survey of service users and carers subsequently conducted in order to provide additional information and convert initial into full EIA.

- Is the service a frontline service? Yes
- Is it clear what impact the service change will have on all the equality groups? Yes
- Overall will the change have a negative impact on any of the equality groups? Yes, it may impact on the BME population, female and younger children.

**6. Through the EIA have you identified any actions that needed to be implemented to improve access to the service or monitoring of the service? (please list)**

The data shows that there is a higher than average volume of the BME population using the service unaccompanied by their parents/carers. Comparing service usage with the adjacent unsupervised open access playground in King Georges Park usage it is highly probable that the change could potentially impact negatively on the BME population, those with physical disabilities and younger children aged 5-11 years old.

To mitigate this impact some outreach work through the integrated Youth Service or by Catch 22, or other targeted and preventative service could possibly provide some staff presence on an occasional basis, which may allay concerns of parents and therefore ensure younger children and BME children continue to use the facilities at the same levels as currently.

Signed

Date

Approved by: Clare O'Connor

This page is intentionally left blank