

Play Sufficiency Duty – Briefing Paper

What is the Local Authority required to do?

Assess

Section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2012, Play Opportunities for children came into force in November 2012. This part of the duty requires Local Authorities to assess the sufficiency of play opportunities for children in their areas. Local Authorities received statutory guidance to support them in completing the Sufficiency Assessments. The first Play Sufficiency Assessment was submitted to Welsh Government in March 2013 along with an Action Plan. A summary document of the assessment was placed on the Local Authority website. The assessment will be completed every 3 years, an Action Plan is to be submitted to Welsh Government each year along with a yearly progress report.

*****This is a statutory requirement under section 11 (1), 11 (2), 11 (5), 11 (6) of the measure*****

Secure

The second part of the duty places a duty on the Local Authority to secure sufficient play opportunities for children, having regard for the assessment. This part of the duty was commenced on 1st July 2014.

Under the duty to secure sufficient play opportunities for children, the Local Authority should use all practical means available to them to maintain provision and services, and to increase and improve play opportunities for all children.

*****This is a statutory requirement under section 11 (3) *****

Publish

The Welsh Government also expects each Local Authority to develop a clearly identified play section on its website giving comprehensive information about:

- Parks, play grounds and other outdoor spaces providing play opportunities to children; indoor play provision; play activities and clubs
- Holiday Play schemes
- Events for children and families; wider community events where children can play

There is a requirement to ensure that the Local Authority keeps the above published information up to date.

This part of the duty was also commenced on 1st July 2014.

*****This is a statutory requirement under section 11 (4) *****

Timetable for assessing and securing sufficient play opportunities for the next 10 years

Submission Dates	Requirements
<p>March 2016</p> <p>March 2019</p> <p>March 2022</p> <p>March 2025</p>	<p>Local Authorities are required to complete and submit a copy of their Play Sufficiency Assessments; the Executive Summary of the Play Sufficiency Assessments; and the Play Action Plan for the following year to the Welsh Ministers.</p> <p>The Executive Summaries of the Play Sufficiency Assessments should be published on the Local Authorities websites. The published summaries must include outcomes of the Play Sufficiency Assessments and highlight the actions that the Local Authorities intend to take to achieve sufficient play opportunities.</p> <p>Play Action plans must be developed and submitted to Welsh Government each year.</p> <p>Local Authorities were required to contribute the results of the Play Sufficiency Assessments to the Single Integrated Plan.</p>

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