

35430 Play Sufficiency and Childcare Sufficiency Reporting

According to the Scottish Parliament there is a statutory duty for local authorities, in accordance to the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, LAs are required to undertake Play Sufficiency Assessments as part of their strategic planning and for children to be consulted on local place plans.

According to the Scottish Parliament there is a statutory guidance for education authorities, in accordance to the Scotland's Schools act 2000, which empowers Scottish ministers to issue guidance to education authorities on the exercise of their functions in relation to the delivery of early learning and childcare.

Therefore, I would like to request your most recent evidence of this reporting, and where parents are able to access this.

Please provide the LA's latest Play Sufficiency and Childcare Sufficiency Assessments, along with timings for when these assessments will next be undertaken and published.

The statutory requirement for Local Planning Authorities to produce Play Sufficiency Assessments (PSAs) has been set out in primary legislation through Section 16D of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019. Although this legislation set out the fact that Planning Authorities will need to produce PSAs and take these into account in relation to Local Development Plan, Section 16D(2) of that act notes that Scottish Ministers will make further regulations about how Planning Authorities will need to produce PSAs. Draft secondary legislation has now just been produced called 'The Town and Country Planning (Play Sufficiency Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2022. The Scottish Government is presently consulting upon this. You may be interested in reviewing this and submitting comments to Scottish Government with your views as this is an opportune time to make them as this legislation will set the framework that all Councils will have to follow.

Although the legislative framework for producing PSAs has not been finalised, the City of Edinburgh Council has been undertaking its own form of PSAs (called Play Access Standard) as part of its wider audit and strategy for open spaces (known as the Open Space Strategy and associated Open Space Audit). This has been to understand play provision and inform decision-making. The most recent strategy and audit (including audit of playspace and assessment of Play Access Standard) was produced in 2016. You can find these documents at:

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/download/12910/open-space-strategy-and-audit>.

Pages 20 to 30 of the audit assess play facilities, with pages 28 to 35 of the strategy providing analysis of play facility provision and access to this as well as detailing proposals which will improve communities access to quality playspace.

The Council is presently awaiting the final form of the draft legislation before completing its new PSA, however as soon as this legislation is finalised then the Council will proceed in undertaking the PSA (alongside the OSA) as the legal requirements that the Council will have to follow will then be known (for example there will be minimum legal requirements for consultation that the Council needs to follow as well as details on how to audit and consider different types of play space).

All Early Years reports to The Education, Children and Families Committee can be found at:

<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=143&Year=0>

Parents can access information on Early Years provision on the council website at:

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/nurseries-childcare/find-early-learning-childcare>