



PLAY AREAS & PLAY EQUIPMENT SAFETY POLICY



Play Areas and Play Equipment Safety Policy			
Last Reviewed	March 2023	Next Review	April 2026
Responsible Officer	Director of Operations		

Policy Statement: Freebridge Community Housing (FCH) aims to demonstrate adherence to a safety-first culture, maintaining high standards of health and safety for residents who live in our homes or use our buildings, as well as employees and contractors who work for us. We strive constantly to achieve 100% compliance with all regulatory and statutory requirements. We will take all reasonably practicable steps to minimise risk and ensure compliance with the law.

Detailed procedures (Management Plans) are in place for each health and safety compliance function, including Play Areas and Play Equipment. The Play Areas and Play Equipment (Management Plan) is available separately to this policy.

We commit to continuously review changes in legislation and will ensure we continue to provide a full and appropriate response. This policy will be amended accordingly as changes occur.

We will ensure that only suitably qualified and competent individuals and contractors are employed to manage the Play Areas and Play Equipment within its buildings and outside spaces.

Policy Detail:

Roles and Responsibilities

Overall responsibility for Customer Safety lies with the Chief Executive and Leadership Team.

Authority to amend can only be undertaken by the Policy owner with the relevant Delegated approvals.

For information on interpretations and instructions staff should contact the Subject Matter expert or Policy owner and consult the management plan. Under no circumstances should any deviation be permitted without prior approval as above.

Performance Controls and Business Risk: Compliance with this policy is monitored by the Compliance Team.

Performance in the delivery of the service is assessed by the Head of Asset Management through a monthly review of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). These KPIs are provided to Leadership Team to ensure strong governance and oversight.

This Policy will be made available to all internal stakeholders of Freebridge Community Housing.

A fundamental review of this policy will be carried out every three years, or sooner subject to legal and regulatory changes, or if internal changes require it.

Appendix 1: Related legislation and regulatory instruments
(Please note that the below is not intended to be exhaustive)

- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- Definition of Disability under the Equality Act 2010
- RSH Consumer Standards - Homes: 1.1; 1.2; 2.2.1
- BS1176-7– Playground Equipment Standard
- BS14974 – Skate Park Safety Requirements and test methods
- BS EN 1177:2018 – Impact Attenuating Playground Surfacing
- BS EN 16899 – Sports and recreational equipment
- BS EN 15312 – Free Access to Multiple Sports Equipment
- BS 16630 – Permanently Installed Outdoor Fitness Equipment
- Occupiers Liability Act 1954