

Falkirk Local Development Plan 3
Evidence Report

Falkirk Play Sufficiency Assessment

September 2024



FALKIRK COUNCIL



Contents

1. Introduction	1
Purpose	1
Background	1
Structure of Falkirk PSA	2
2. Assessment Methodology.....	3
Introduction	3
Data Sources	3
Qualitative Audit of Open Space	3
Play Quality Audit	4
Reporting the Analysis.....	4
3. Settlement Area Assessment of Play Sufficiency.....	6
Bo’ness.....	6
Bonnybridge and Banknock	8
Denny	10
Falkirk.....	12
Grangemouth	14
Larbert and Stenhousemuir	16
Polmont Area	18
Rural North Villages (Airth, Letham, Dunmore, South Alloa, Torwood, Skinflats)20	
Rural South Villages (Avonbridge, Allandale, California, Greenhill, Muirhouses, Shieldhill, Standburn, Slamannan, The Loan).....	22
4. Council Wide Assessment of Play Sufficiency.....	24
5. Play Consultation	25
Introduction	25
Children’s Outdoor Play Survey	25
Grangemouth High School.....	28
Focus Group Discussions with Children and Young People From Other Communities	30
Parents and Carers Survey	31
Tell Us About Your Place’ Surveys and Events	33
6. Summary and Conclusions	37
Appendix 1: Play Sufficiency Statistics	
Appendix 2: Other Results From Parents and Carers Survey.....	

1. Introduction

Purpose

1. The Falkirk Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA) is accompanying evidence to the Falkirk Local Development Plan 3 (LDP3) Evidence Report. This report is an important stage in preparing the new plan, bringing together the evidence gathered so far for the plan and highlighting areas of agreement/dispute with the evidence among stakeholders. On 3 October 2024, Falkirk Council's Full Council agreed to the submission of [the Evidence Report](#) to Scottish Ministers for the Gatecheck Review. An independent reporter, appointed by Scottish Ministers, will determine whether or not the Evidence Report contains sufficient information to enable Falkirk Council to prepare LDP3.
2. The Falkirk PSA overviews the quality, quantity, and accessibility of our area's open spaces (such as parks, woodlands, grassy amenity spaces, equipped play areas and playing fields) for children and young people to play or hang out. It will help devise future strategies and proposals to improve opportunities for outdoor play in the area, and also inform decisions on relevant planning applications.

Background

Why play is important?

3. Playing or hanging out outdoors offers many benefits to children and young people, helping them develop their imagination, creativity, social skills, physical and emotional wellbeing and also their appreciation of risk and their community's environment and cultural heritage. Above all, playing or hanging out is a fun and cherished part of being a child or teenager. The right for children to relax, play and join in a wide range of activities is deemed so important that it is enshrined as a fundamental right under Article 31 of the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#). This internationally significant agreement has been ratified by 196 countries, including the United Kingdom in 1991, and was very recently transposed into Scots law by [the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child \(Incorporation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2024](#).

What strategies support outdoor play in Falkirk?

4. At the national level, [Scotland's Play Strategy](#) sets out a positive vision which values play as a life-enhancing daily experience for all our children and young people - in the home, in nurseries and schools and in the community. [National Planning Framework 4 \(NPF4\)](#) includes Policy 21 whose intent is to encourage, promote facilitate spaces for play, recreation and sport. The associated policy outcomes are:
 - natural and built environments are improved, with more equitable access to opportunities for play and recreation; and
 - physical and mental health are improved through provision of, and access to, outdoor recreation, play and sport facilities.
5. In the preceding paragraphs to the policy, NPF4 states local development plans should identify sites for sports, play and outdoor recreation for people of all ages. It goes on to say this should be based on an understanding of the needs and demand in the community and informed by the planning authority's play sufficiency assessment and open space strategy. It mentions these spaces can be incorporated as part of enhancing and expanding blue and green infrastructure, taking account of relevant agencies' plans or policy

1. Introduction

frameworks, such as flood risk and/or water management plans. Lastly, NPF4 states new provisions should be well-designed, high quality, accessible and inclusive.

6. The protection and enhancement of blue and green infrastructure is covered by several policies in the adopted [Falkirk Local Development Plan 2](#) notably Policies PE13-23. [Supplementary Guidance SG05 Green Infrastructure and New Development](#) provides guidance on how green infrastructure, including opportunities for outdoor play, should be integrated into development.
7. The Council's current [Open Space Strategy](#) was adopted in 2015. It sets out policies and quantitative, qualitative and accessibility standards for the different typologies of open space in the Council area. It also contains strategies and priority actions related to outdoor play in each of the settlement areas.

What are the legal requirements for preparing the Falkirk PSA?

8. The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 introduced a new duty that requires Falkirk Council, as the local planning authority, and while preparing an evidence report, to assess the sufficiency of play opportunities in the area for children and young people under the age of 18. [The Town and Country Planning \(Play Sufficiency Assessment\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023](#) set the statutory requirements as to the form, content, consultation and publication of the play sufficiency assessment. The regulations state the assessment must take the form of a written report including maps as required and statements as regards the overall quality, quantity, and accessibility of formal play spaces and informal play spaces by locality, and in the totality of, the planning authority's area. The regulations define formal play spaces as those (such as equipped play areas and sports pitches) that are specifically designed and maintained for purpose of play. Informal play spaces, on the other hand, are areas of open space (such as woodlands and parks) but are not specifically designed and maintained for playing. The Scottish Government published [the non-statutory guidance](#) for planning authorities in 2023, explaining and expanding the intention of the regulations.

Structure of Falkirk PSA

9. The remaining chapters of the Falkirk PSA has been structured as follows:
 - Chapter 2: Assessment Methodology describes Falkirk Council's approach to data gathering and the appraisal of the overall quality, quantity and accessibility of play opportunities in each settlement area and across the Council area.
 - Chapter 3: Settlement Area Assessment of Play Sufficiency gives a detailed overview of each settlement with respect to play sufficiency.
 - Chapter 4: Council Wide Assessment of Play Sufficiency draws general conclusions for play sufficiency at a Council-wide level.
 - Chapter 5: Play Consultation overviews the consultation carried out by the Council and others with regards to outdoor play in the area.
 - Chapter 6: Summary and Conclusions brings together the key points from Chapter 3,4 and 5 and outlines what the Council intends to do further to the play sufficiency assessment.

2. Assessment Methodology

Introduction

10. This section describes methodology for assessing the overall quality, quantity, and accessibility of the area's formal play spaces and informal play spaces.

Data Sources

11. Two primary data sources were used to inform the Falkirk Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA). The qualitative audit of open space, undertaken by Council officers in 2023; and the Play Quality Audit, also carried out by Council officers in 2023 and 2024.
12. Results from both of these data sources were then analysed using GIS network analysis to produce statistics relating to the number of households within each settlement area within defined walking distances of open spaces and equipped playspaces. For the purposes of reporting the same settlement groupings used elsewhere within the Local Development Plan have been used, this mirrors the groupings used within previous Local Development Plans and the Council's Open Space Strategy.

Qualitative Audit of Open Space

13. The audit took place at 553 open space sites across the Council area. The criteria used to assess the intrinsic qualities of each site, which are an iteration of the criteria used in the Council's previous open space audits originally developed using Green Flag criteria were:
- Accessibility and Inclusivity
 - Health and Wellbeing
 - Cleanliness and Maintenance
 - Biodiversity and Nature Conservation
 - Climate Change
 - Physical, Creative and Social Play
 - Climate Change
 - Cultural Heritage and Local History
 - Community Involvement and
 - Design and Aesthetic Qualities
14. Each criterion was scored on a scale of 1-5 with a 1 indicating poor quality and a 5 indicating excellent quality.
15. As well as assessing quality, the audit also recorded the multiple functions of each open space, including whether it contained a playspace, a sports area and numerous other functions.
16. The audit also noted the entrance points to each open space thereby enabling an analysis of: the number of households within defined walking distances of open spaces containing a playspace; and the number of households within defined walking distances of open spaces with good (3+) or better quality of physical, creative and social play.

2. Assessment Methodology

Play Quality Audit

17. The audit was conducted at 196 equipped playspaces across the Council area using a methodology developed through Play Scotland's ['Getting it Right for Play'](#) toolkit.
18. Each equipped playspace was assessed as to which age groups its play equipment was suitable for: Toddlers (0-5) Juniors (6-11) and teens (12-18).
19. For each age group opportunities for different types of physical (14 criteria), creative (9 criteria) and social play (3 criteria) were recorded.
20. Dependent on the age groups which the playspace served, each was given a percentage score based on the number of play opportunities available (Out of 26, 52 or 78).
21. Based on those percentage scored achieved across the Council area, the following percentage bandings were identified:
 - Excellent (60%+)
 - Very good (45% - 60%)
 - Good (30% - 45%)
 - Fair (15% - 30%)
 - Poor (<15%)
22. Each play area was captured in GIS as a polygon, with the centroid of each polygon used as the starting point for network analysis to identify the percentage of households within each settlement area which were in defined walking distances of equipped playspaces.

Reporting the Analysis

23. Appendix 1, Table 7 reports the following statistical information for each settlement area in Falkirk Council area:
 - Number of households
 - Number of open spaces containing a playspace
 - Percentage of open spaces containing a playspace with "good" or better play value
 - Percentage of households within:
 - open spaces containing a playspace per 1,000 households
 - 400m of an open space containing a play space
 - 800m of an open containing a play space
 - 800m of an open space containing a sports area
 - 1,200m of an open space containing a sports area
 - 400m of an open space with a play score of 3+
 - 800m of an open space with a play value score of 3+
24. The table, in the last row, also states figures for the Council area as a whole. It allows comparisons for the quality, quantity and accessibility of formal play spaces and informal play spaces to be made between settlement area to settlement area and also the Council area.
25. Appendix 1, Table 8 shows the number of play spaces that are intended for each age group (toddlers, juniors and teens) in each settlement area, and in the Council area. It shows the play value of play spaces at a settlement area level and also at a Council-wide level. In addition, it provides the average play values of Council maintained play spaces and private play spaces.

2. Assessment Methodology

26. Appendix 1, Table 9 shows the percentage of households within each settlement area, and the Council area, that are within 400m , 800m and 1,200 of a playspace and a playspace providing equipment for a specific age group (toddlers, juniors and teens).
27. Appendix 1, Table 10 shows the total number of playspaces per settlement area, and in the Council area, and the percentages of playspaces that are suitable for disabled children, and maintained by the Council. It also states the number of playspaces, toddler, juniors and teens playspaces per 1,000 households in each settlement area and at the Council area wide level.
28. In all the tables, the colour 'red' is used to illustrate where a settlement area is below the Council area average for a particular play quality, quantity or accessibility aspect. The colour 'green' is used to show where a settlement area is above the Council area average on a particular aspect. This provides a useful indication of how well a particular settlement area is doing with respect to play sufficiency.
29. Chapter 3 provides commentary on overall play sufficiency in each settlement area in respect to quality, quantity and accessibility. Hyperlinked maps are included to show the locations of open spaces, their play value and accessibility in each settlement. Chapter 4 draws general conclusions for play sufficiency at the Council wide level.

3. Settlement Area Assessment of Play Sufficiency

Bo'ness

30. Bo'ness scores below the Council wide average for almost every quantity, quality and accessibility statistic relating to play, with the only exception being the percentage of playspaces which are maintained by the Council, accessibility of open spaces containing a sports area, social play value of equipped playspaces, and average play value of privately owned equipped playspaces. In particular, the average play value of Council maintained playspaces and the distribution of equipped playspaces suitable for toddlers are areas which require attention.

Mapping

31. [Map 1](#) shows the location of equipped playspaces.
32. [Map 2](#) shows the location of open spaces with good or better play value representing the open spaces which provide the best opportunities for informal play.
33. [Map 3](#) shows walking distance isochrones from equipped playspace suitable for toddlers, juniors and teens.
34. [Map 4](#) shows the relative play value of equipped playspaces and walking distance isochrones from equipped playspaces with good or better (30% +) play value scores.

Quantity

35. There are 11 open spaces containing a play space within the Bo'ness area, approximately 1.5 per 1000 households which is below the Council wide average of 2.4 per 1000 households. (Map 1 – equipped playspaces in Bo'ness).
36. There are 12 individual equipped play areas within Bo'ness. 11 are suitable for toddlers, 9 are suitable for junior and 5 are suitable for teenagers.
37. 83% of the equipped play areas in Bo'ness are maintained by Falkirk Council which is above the Council wide average of 61%.
38. There are 1.53 equipped playspaces per 1000 households suitable for toddlers which is below the Council wide average of 2.51 per 1000 households.
39. There are 1.25 equipped playspaces per 1000 households suitable for juniors which is below the Council wide average of 2.02 per 1000 households.
40. There are 0.69 equipped playspaces per 1000 households suitable for teenagers which is below the Council wide average of 1.21 per 1000 households.

Quality

41. 54.5% of the 11 open spaces containing a play space in Bo'ness were scored with a play value of "good" or better which is below the Council wide average of 57.5%.
42. The open space audit identified 48 separate open spaces within Bo'ness, of these 7 (14.6%) were scored with play value of "good" or better. This is below the Council wide average of 28.9% (Map 2 – open spaces with good or better play value).

3. Settlement Area Assessment of Play Sufficiency

43. The average play value percentage score for equipped play areas in Bo'ness is 30.0% this is below the Council wide average of 33.1%.
44. On average, the physical (29.3%) and creative (6.3%) play values of equipped play areas in Bo'ness are below the Council wide average (physical - 32.4%, creative 9.3%). However, the average social play value (45.6%) is the same as the Council wide average.
45. The average play values of equipped play areas for toddlers (33.2%), juniors (34.2%) and teens (32.3%) are below the Council wide average (toddlers – 35.7%; juniors – 36.9%; teens 34.8%).
46. On average, the play value percentage score for Council maintained equipped play areas (28.9%) is below the Council wide average of 37.4%. However, the average play value percentage score for privately maintained equipped play areas (35.6%) is above the Council wide average of 26.5%.

Accessibility

47. 96.6% of households in Bo'ness are within an 800m walking distance of an open space containing a playspace, which is below the Council wide average of 97.3%.
48. 95.7% of households in Bo'ness are within a 1200m walking distance of an open space containing a sports area, which is above the Council wide average of 94.8%.
49. 92.1% of households in Bo'ness are within an 800m walking distance of an open space with a play value of "good" or better, which is above the Council wide average of 88.7%.
50. 92.4% of households in Bo'ness are within an 800m walking distance of an equipped play space which is below the Council wide average of 93.9%.
51. 36.4% of households in Bo'ness are within a 400m walking distance of an equipped play area which is suitable for toddlers, which is below the Council wider average of 54.6%.
52. 91.3% of households in Bo'ness are within an 800m walk of an equipped play area which is suitable for juniors, which is below the Council wider average of 92.3%.
53. 88.1% of households in Bo'ness are within a 1200m walk of an equipped play area which is suitable for teenagers, which is below the Council wider average of 95.6%.
54. 67% of the equipped play areas in the Bo'ness have at least 1 item of play equipment suitable for disabled children this is below the Council wide average of 71%.

3. Settlement Area Assessment of Play Sufficiency

Bonnybridge and Banknock

55. Bonnybridge and Banknock scores above the Council wide average for almost every quantity, quality and accessibility statistic relating to play, with the only exceptions being: number of play areas suitable for teenagers; average play value for physical and social play of equipped play areas; percentage of households within a 400m walk of an open space with good or better score for play; and percentage of households within an 800m walk of an equipped play area suitable for juniors (marginally below) and teens. Future investments should therefore focus on introducing new equipped play for teenagers, improving the informal play value of open spaces and improving the physical and social play value of equipped playspaces.

Mapping

56. [Map 1](#) shows the location of equipped playspaces.
57. [Map 2](#) shows the location of open spaces with good or better play value representing the open spaces which provide the best opportunities for informal play.
58. [Map 3](#) shows walking distance isochrones from equipped playspace suitable for toddlers, juniors and teens.
59. [Map 4](#) shows the relative play value of equipped playspaces and walking distance isochrones from equipped playspaces with good or better (30% +) play value scores.

Quantity

60. There are 18 open spaces containing a playspace within the Bonnybridge and Banknock area, approximately 3.4 per 1000 households which is above the Council wide average of 2.4 per 1000 households.
61. There are 21 individual equipped play areas within Bonnybridge and Banknock. 20 are suitable for toddlers, 15 are suitable for junior and 5 are suitable for teenagers.
62. 67% of the equipped play areas in Bonnybridge and Banknock are maintained by Falkirk Council which is above the Council wide average of 61%.
63. There are 3.76 equipped playspaces per 1000 households suitable for toddlers which is above the Council wide average of 2.51 per 1000 households.
64. There are 2.82 equipped playspaces per 1000 households suitable for juniors which is above the Council wide average of 2.02 per 1000 households.
65. There are 0.94 equipped playspaces per 1000 households suitable for teenagers which is below the Council wide average of 1.21 per 1000 households.

Quality

66. 44.4% of the 18 open spaces containing a playspace in Bonnybridge and Banknock were scored with a play value of "good" or better which is below the Council wide average of 57.5%.
67. The open space audit identified 82 separate open spaces within Bonnybridge and Banknock, of these 15 (18.3%) were scored with play value of "good" or better. This is below the Council wide average of 28.9% (Map 2 – open spaces with good or better play value).

3. Settlement Area Assessment of Play Sufficiency

68. The average play value percentage score for equipped play areas in Bonnybridge and Banknock is 37.6% this is above the Council wide average of 33.1%.
69. On average, the physical (31.2%) and social (36.7%) play values of equipped play areas in Bonnybridge and Banknock is below the Council wide average (physical - 32.4%, social 45.6%). However, the average creative play value (13.3%) is above the Council wide average (9.8%).
70. The average play values of equipped play areas for toddlers (38.7%), juniors (43.1%) and teens (40%) are above the Council wide average (toddlers – 35.7%; juniors – 36.9%; teens 34.8%).
71. On average, the play value percentage score for Council maintained equipped play areas (42.9%) is above the Council wide average of 37.4%. The average play value percentage score for privately maintained equipped play areas (26.9%) is also above the Council wide average of 26.5%.

Accessibility and Inclusion

72. 96.8% of households in Bonnybridge and Banknock are within an 800m walking distance of an open space containing a playspace, which is below the Council wide average of 97.3%.
73. 83.4% of households in Bonnybridge and Banknock are within a 1200m walking distance of an open space containing a sports area, which is below the Council wide average of 94.8%.
74. 88.1% of households in Bonnybridge and Banknock are within an 800m walking distance of an open space with a play value of “good” or better, which is below the Council wide average of 88.7%.
75. 98.4% of households in Bonnybridge and Banknock are within an 800m walking distance of an equipped play space which is above the Council wide average of 93.9%.
76. 68.1% of households in Bonnybridge and Banknock are within a 400m walking distance of an equipped play area which is suitable for toddlers, which is above the Council wide average of 54.6%.
77. 92.1% of households in Bonnybridge and Banknock are within an 800m walk of an equipped play area which is suitable for juniors, which is below the Council wider average of 92.3%.
78. 87.4% of households in Bonnybridge and Banknock are within a 1200m walk of an equipped play area which is suitable for teenagers, which is below the Council wider average of 95.6%.
79. 71% of the equipped play areas in the Bonnybridge and Banknock have at least 1 item of play equipment suitable for disabled children this is the same as the Council wide average.

3. Settlement Area Assessment of Play Sufficiency

Denny

80. Denny scores below the Council wide average against most measures of quantity relating to play with significant fewer play areas per household which are suitable for teenagers. On a more positive note, Denny scores above the Council average for almost every quality and accessibility statistic relating to play, with the only exceptions being: average play value for social play of equipped play areas; and percentage of households within a 1200m walk of an equipped play area suitable for teenagers (marginally below). Whilst the quantity of equipped play areas per household is below the Council average, their strategic distribution around the settlement means that the provision of new play areas is not a priority. Future investments should therefore focus on introducing new equipped play for teenagers and improving the social value of equipped playspaces.

Mapping

81. [Map 1](#) shows the location of equipped playspaces.
82. [Map 2](#) shows the location of open spaces with good or better play value representing the open spaces which provide the best opportunities for informal play.
83. [Map 3](#) shows walking distance isochrones from equipped playspace suitable for toddlers, juniors and teens.
84. [Map 4](#) shows the relative play value of equipped playspaces and walking distance isochrones from equipped playspaces with good or better (30% +) play value scores.

Quantity

85. There are 17 open spaces containing a playspace within the Denny area, approximately 2.6 per 1000 households which is above the Council wide average of 2.4 per 1000 households. (Map 1 – equipped playspaces in Denny).
86. There are 17 individual equipped play areas within Denny. 15 are suitable for toddlers, 14 are suitable for junior and 4 are suitable for teenagers.
87. 65% of the equipped play areas in Denny are maintained by Falkirk Council which is above the Council wide average of 61%.
88. There are 2.26 equipped playspaces per 1000 households suitable for toddlers which is below the Council wide average of 2.51 per 1000 households.
89. There are 2.11 equipped playspaces per 1000 households suitable for juniors which is below the Council wide average of 2.02 per 1000 households.
90. There are 0.6 equipped playspaces per 1000 households suitable for teenagers which is below the Council wide average of 1.21 per 1000 households.

3. Settlement Area Assessment of Play Sufficiency

Quality

91. 64.7% of the 17 open spaces containing a playspace in the Denny area were scored with a play value of “good” or better which is above the Council wide average of 57.5%.
92. The open space audit identified 51 separate open spaces within the Denny area, of these 21 (41.2%) were scored with play value of “good” or better. This is above the Council wider average of 28.9% (Map 2 – open spaces with good or better play value).
93. The average play value percentage score for equipped play areas in Denny is 41.5.0% this is above the Council wide average of 33.1%.
94. On average, the physical (38.3%) and creative (9.6%) play values of equipped play areas in Denny are above the Council wide average (physical - 32.4%, creative 9.3%). However, the average social play value (41.1%) is below the Council wide average of 45.6%.
95. The average play values of equipped play areas for toddlers (45.9%), juniors (42.6%) and teens (45.2%) area are above the Council wide average (toddlers – 35.7%; juniors – 36.9%; teens 34.8%).
96. On average, the play value percentage score for Council maintained equipped play areas (44.5%) is above the Council wide average of 37.4%. The average play value percentage score for privately maintained equipped play areas (36%) is also above the Council wide average of 26.5%.

Accessibility and Inclusion

97. 99.6% of households in Denny are within an 800m walking distance of an open space containing a playspace, which is above the Council wide average of 97.3%.
98. 95.7% of households in Denny are within a 1200m walking distance of an open space containing a sports area, which is above the Council wide average of 94.8%.
99. 98.2% of households in Denny are within an 800m walking distance of an open space with a play value of “good” or better, which is above the Council wide average of 88.7%.
100. 99.6% of households in Denny are within an 800m walking distance of an equipped play space which is above the Council wide average of 93.9%.
101. 61.2% of households in Denny are within a 400m walking distance of an equipped play area which is suitable for toddlers, which is above the Council wide average of 54.6%.
102. 99.6% of households in Denny are within an 800m walk of an equipped play area which is suitable for juniors, which is above the Council wider average of 92.3%.
103. 94.3% of households in Denny are within a 1200m walk of an equipped play area which is suitable for teenagers, which is below the Council wider average of 95.6%.
104. 65% of the equipped play areas in the Denny have at least 1 item of play equipment suitable for disabled children this is below the Council wide average of 71%.

3. Settlement Area Assessment of Play Sufficiency

Falkirk

105. Falkirk scores below the Council wide average for almost every quantity and accessibility statistic relating to play, with the only exceptions being the percentage of households within a 1200m walk of a sports area and an equipped play area suitable for teenagers. On a more positive note, Falkirk scores above the Council wide average for almost every quality statistic relating to play with the only exception being the play value of equipped playspaces suitable for teenagers (marginally below). Future investment in Falkirk should therefore focus on opportunities to improve the geographical distribution of equipped playspaces and improving the informal play value of open spaces.

Mapping

106. [Map 1](#) shows the location of equipped playspaces.
107. [Map 2](#) shows the location of open spaces with good or better play value representing the open spaces which provide the best opportunities for informal play.
108. [Map 3](#) shows walking distance isochrones from equipped playspace suitable for toddlers, juniors and teens.
109. [Map 4](#) shows the relative play value of equipped playspaces and walking distance isochrones from equipped playspaces with good or better (30% +) play value scores.

Quantity

110. There are 33 open spaces containing a playspace within the Falkirk area, approximately 1.7 per 1000 households which is below the Council wide average of 2.4 per 1000 households.
111. There are 37 individual equipped play areas within Falkirk. 35 are suitable for toddlers, 28 are suitable for juniors and 21 are suitable for teenagers.
112. 57% of the equipped play areas in Falkirk are maintained by Falkirk Council which is below the Council wide average of 61%.
113. There are 1.81 equipped playspaces per 1000 households suitable for toddlers which is below the Council wide average of 2.51 per 1000 households.
114. There are 1.45 equipped playspaces per 1000 households suitable for juniors which is below the Council wide average of 2.02 per 1000 households.
115. There are 1.08 equipped playspaces per 1000 households suitable for teenagers which is below the Council wide average of 1.21 per 1000 households.

3. Settlement Area Assessment of Play Sufficiency

Quality

116. 60.6% of the 33 open spaces containing a playspace in the Falkirk area were scored with a play value of “good” or better which is above the Council wide average of 57.5%.
117. The open space audit identified 124 separate open spaces within the Falkirk area, of these 46 (37.1%) were scored with play value of “good” or better. This is above the Council wide average of 28.9%.
118. The average play value percentage score for equipped play areas in Falkirk is 33.5% this is above the Council wide average of 33.1%.
119. On average, the physical (34.3%) creative (10.7%) and social (46.7%) play values of equipped play areas in Falkirk are above the Council wide average (physical - 32.4%,creative 9.3%, social 45.6%).
120. The average play values of equipped play areas for toddlers (37.7%) and juniors (37.5%) are above the Council wide average (toddlers – 35.7%; juniors – 36.9%). However, the average play value of equipped play areas for teens (33%) is below the Council wide average of 34.8%.
121. On average, the play value percentage score for Council maintained equipped play areas (38.5%) is above the Council wide average of 37.4%. The average play value percentage score for privately maintained equipped play areas (27%) is also above the Council wide average of 26.5%.

Accessibility and Inclusion

122. 97.1% of households in Falkirk are within an 800m walking distance of an open space containing a playspace, which is below the Council wide average of 97.3%.
123. 95.6% of households in Falkirk are within a 1200m walking distance of an open space containing a sports area, which is above the Council wide average of 94.8%.
124. 86% of households in Falkirk are within an 800m walking distance of an open space with a play value of “good” or better, which is below the Council wide average of 88.7%.
125. 90.2% of households in Falkirk are within an 800m walking distance of an equipped play space which is below the Council wide average of 93.9%.
126. 46.4% of households in Falkirk are within a 400m walking distance of an equipped play area which is suitable for toddlers, which is below the Council wider average of 54.6%.
127. 87.4% of households in Falkirk are within an 800m walk of an equipped play area which is suitable for juniors, which is below the Council wider average of 92.3%.
128. 99.1% of households in Falkirk are within a 1200m walk of an equipped play area which is suitable for teenagers, which is above the Council wider average of 95.6%.
129. 65% of the equipped play areas in Falkirk have at least 1 item of play equipment suitable for disabled children this is below the Council wide average of 71%.

3. Settlement Area Assessment of Play Sufficiency

Grangemouth

130. Grangemouth scores below the Council wide average for most quantity and accessibility statistics relating to play, with the only exceptions being: the percentage of households within a 1200m walk of a sports area; the percentage of households within an 800m walk of an open space with a good or better play value and the percentage of households within a 1200m walk of an equipped play area suitable for teenagers. On a more positive note, Grangemouth scores above the Council wide average for every quality statistic relating to play. Theoretically future investment in Grangemouth should therefore focus on opportunities to improve the geographical distribution of equipped playspaces suitable for toddlers and juniors, although with limited opportunities for new developments, this may be difficult to achieve.

Mapping

131. [Map 1](#) shows the location of equipped playspaces.
132. [Map 2](#) shows the location of open spaces with good or better play value representing the open spaces which provide the best opportunities for informal play.
133. [Map 3](#) shows walking distance isochrones from equipped playspace suitable for toddlers, juniors and teens
134. [Map 4](#) shows the relative play value of equipped playspaces and walking distance isochrones from equipped playspaces with good or better (30% +) play value scores.

Quantity

135. There are 10 open spaces containing a playspace within the Grangemouth area, approximately 1.1 per 1000 households which is below the Council wide average of 2.4 per 1000 households.
136. There are 10 individual equipped play areas within Grangemouth. 10 are suitable for toddlers, 10 are suitable for juniors and 7 are suitable for teenagers.
137. 90% of the equipped play areas in Bo'ness are maintained by Falkirk Council which is above the Council wide average of 61%.
138. There are 1.13 equipped playspaces per 1000 households suitable for toddlers which is below the Council wide average of 2.51 per 1000 households.
139. There are 1.13 equipped playspaces per 1000 households suitable for juniors which is below the Council wide average of 2.02 per 1000 households.
140. There are 0.79 equipped playspaces per 1000 households suitable for teenagers which is below the Council wide average of 1.21 per 1000 households.

3. Settlement Area Assessment of Play Sufficiency

Quality

141. 70.0% of the 10 open spaces containing a playspace in the Grangemouth area were scored with a play value of “good” or better which is above the Council wide average of 57.5%.
142. The open space audit identified 33 separate open spaces within the Grangemouth area, of these 10 (30.3%) were scored with play value of “good” or better. This is above the Council wider average of 28.9% (Map 2 – open spaces with good or better play value).
143. The average play value percentage score for equipped play areas in Grangemouth is 44.3% this is above the Council wide average of 33.1%.
144. On average, the physical (50.7%) creative (21.1%) and social (61.1%) play values of equipped play areas in Grangemouth are above the Council wide average (physical - 32.4%, creative 9.3%; social 45.6%).
145. The average play values of equipped play areas for toddlers (45.8%), juniors (48.1%) and teens (44.5%) are above the Council wide average (toddlers – 35.7%; juniors – 36.9%; teens 34.8%).
146. On average, the play value percentage score for Council maintained equipped play areas (46.2%) is above the Council wide average of 37.4%. The average play value percentage score for privately maintained equipped play areas (26.9%) is also above the Council wide average of 26.5%

Accessibility and Inclusion

147. 96.7% of households in the Grangemouth area are within an 800m walking distance of an open space containing a playspace, which is below the Council wide average of 97.3%.
148. 98.6% of households in Grangemouth are within a 1200m walking distance of an open space containing a sports area, which is above the Council wide average of 94.8%.
149. 96.7% of households in the Grangemouth area are within an 800m walking distance of an open space with a play value of “good” or better, which is above the Council wide average of 88.7%.
150. 87.3% of households in Grangemouth are within an 800m walking distance of an equipped play space which is below the Council wide average of 93.9%.
151. 41.3% of households in Grangemouth are within a 400m walking distance of an equipped play area which is suitable for toddlers, which is below the Council wider average of 54.6%.
152. 87.3% of households in Grangemouth are within an 800m walk of an equipped play area which is suitable for juniors, which is below the Council wide average of 92.3%.
153. 96.7% of households in Grangemouth are within a 1200m walk of an equipped play area which is suitable for teenagers, which is above the Council wide average of 95.6%.
154. 60% of the equipped play areas in Grangemouth have at least 1 item of play equipment suitable for disabled children this is below the Council wide average of 71%.

3. Settlement Area Assessment of Play Sufficiency

Larbert and Stenhousemuir

155. Larbert and Stenhousemuir scores below the Council wide average for every quality statistic relating to play. Larbert and Stenhousemuir scores above the Council wide average for almost every quantity statistic relating to play with the exception of the percentage of equipped play areas which are maintained by the Council. In summary it has more play areas than average, but those play areas are more likely to be privately maintained and of poorer play value than average. Larbert and Stenhousemuir scores above the Council wide average for almost every accessibility statistic relating to play with the exception of the percentage of households within an 800m walk of an open space with good quality play value. With quality of play value such a local issue focus should be on: improving the quality of informal play opportunities within open space; improving the overall quality of Council maintained equipped playspaces and ensuring the provision of high quality equipped play areas within new developments.

Mapping

156. [Map 1](#) shows the location of equipped playspaces.
157. [Map 2](#) shows the location of open spaces with good or better play value representing the open spaces which provide the best opportunities for informal play
158. [Map 3](#) shows walking distance isochrones from equipped playspace suitable for toddlers, juniors and teens
159. [Map 4](#) shows the relative play value of equipped playspaces and walking distance isochrones from equipped playspaces with good or better (30% +) play value scores

Quantity

160. There are 32 open spaces containing a playspace within the Larbert and Stenhousemuir area, approximately 2.7 per 1000 households which is above the Council wide average of 2.4 per 1000 households (Map 1 – equipped playspaces in Larbert and Stenhousemuir)/
161. There are 39 individual equipped play areas within Larbert and Stenhousemuir. 36 are suitable for toddlers, 25 are suitable for juniors and 16 are suitable for teenagers.
162. 36% of the equipped play areas in Larbert and Stenhousemuir are maintained by Falkirk Council which is below the Council wide average of 61%.
163. There are 3 equipped playspaces per 1000 households suitable for toddlers which is above the Council wide average of 2.51 per 1000 households.
164. There are 2.08 equipped playspaces per 1000 households suitable for juniors which is above the Council wide average of 2.02 per 1000 households.
165. There are 1.33 equipped playspaces per 1000 households suitable for teenagers which is above the Council wide average of 1.21 per 1000 households.

Quality

166. 53.1% of the 32 open spaces containing a playspace in the Larbert and Stenhousemuir area were scored with a play value of "good" or better which is below the Council wide average of 57.5%.

3. Settlement Area Assessment of Play Sufficiency

167. The open space audit identified 109 separate open spaces within the Larbert and Stenhousemuir area, of these 28 (25.7%) were scored with play value of “good” or better. This is below the Council wide average of 28.9%.
168. The average play value percentage score for equipped play areas in Larbert and Stenhousemuir is 29.0% this is below the Council wide average of 33.1%.
169. On average, the physical (26.0%) creative (5.2%) and social (42.2%) play values of equipped play areas in Larbert and Stenhousemuir are below the Council wide average (Physical - 32.4%, Creative 9.3%, Social 45.6%).
170. The average play values of equipped play areas for toddlers (31.5%), juniors (32.2%) and teens (29.3%) area below the Council wide average (Toddlers – 35.7%; Juniors – 36.9%; Teens 34.8%).
171. In average the play value percentage score for Council maintained equipped play areas (35.6%) is below the Council wide average of 37.4% The average play value percentage score for privately maintained equipped play areas (25.3%) is also below the Council wide average of 26.5%.

Accessibility and Inclusion

172. 98.6% of households in Larbert and Stenhousemuir are within an 800m walking distance of an open space containing a playspace, which is above the Council wide average of 97.3%.
173. 96.7% of households in Larbert and Stenhousemuir are within a 1200m walking distance of an open space containing a sports area, which is above the Council wide average of 94.8%.
174. 83.9% of households in Larbert and Stenhousemuir are within an 800m walking distance of an open space with a play value of “good” or better, which is below the Council wide average of 88.7%.
175. 97.8% of households in Larbert and Stenhousemuir are within an 800m walking distance of an equipped play space which is above the Council wide average of 93.9%.
176. 65.7% of households in Larbert and Stenhousemuir are within a 400m walking distance of an equipped play area which is suitable for toddlers, which is above the Council wider average of 54.6%.
177. 96.1% of households in Larbert and Stenhousemuir are within an 800m walk of an equipped play area which is suitable for juniors, which is above the Council wider average of 92.3%.
178. 99.1% of households in Larbert and Stenhousemuir are within a 1200m walk of an equipped play area which is suitable for teenagers, which is above the Council wider average of 95.6%.
179. 77% of the equipped play areas in Larbert and Stenhousemuir have at least 1 item of play equipment suitable for disabled children this is above the Council wide average of 71%.

3. Settlement Area Assessment of Play Sufficiency

Polmont Area

180. The Polmont Area scores below the Council wide average for every quality statistic relating to play. The Polmont Area scores above the Council wide average for almost every quantity statistic relating to play with the exception of the percentage of equipped play areas which are maintained by the Council. In summary it has more play areas than average, but those play areas are more likely to be privately maintained and of poorer play value than average. The Polmont Area scores above the Council wide average for almost every accessibility statistic relating to play with the exception of the percentage of households within an 800m walk of an open space containing a playspace and the percentage of households within a 1200m walk of an open space containing a sports area. With quality of play value such a local issue focus should be on: improving the overall quality of Council maintained equipped playspaces and ensuring the provision of high quality equipped play areas within new developments.

Mapping

181. [Map 1](#) shows the location of equipped playspaces.
182. [Map 2](#) shows the location of open spaces with good or better play value representing the open spaces which provide the best opportunities for informal play.
183. [Map 3](#) shows walking distance isochrones from equipped playspace suitable for toddlers, juniors and teens.
184. [Map 4](#) shows the relative play value of equipped playspaces and walking distance isochrones from equipped playspaces with good or better (30% +) play value scores.

Quantity

185. There are 34 open spaces containing a playspace within the Polmont area, approximately 3.3 per 1000 households which is above the Council wide average of 2.4 per 1000 households.
186. There are 39 individual equipped play areas within the Polmont area. 39 are suitable for toddlers, 32 are suitable for juniors and 18 are suitable for teenagers.
187. 56% of the equipped play areas in Polmont area are maintained by Falkirk Council which is below the Council wide average of 61%.
188. There are 3.72 equipped playspaces per 1000 households suitable for toddlers which is above the Council wide average of 2.51 per 1000 households.
189. There are 3.05 equipped playspaces per 1000 households suitable for juniors which is above the Council wide average of 2.02 per 1000 households.
190. There are 1.72 equipped playspaces per 1000 households suitable for teenagers which is above the Council wide average of 1.21 per 1000 households.

3. Settlement Area Assessment of Play Sufficiency

Quality

191. 58.8% of the 34 open spaces containing a playspace in the Polmont area were scored with a play value of “good” or better which is above the Council wide average of 57.5%.
192. The open space audit identified 97 separate open spaces within the Polmont area, of these 33 (34%) were scored with play value of “good” or better. This is above the Council wider average of 28.9% (Map 2 – open spaces with good or better play value)
193. The average play value percentage score for equipped play areas in the Polmont Area is 26.6% this is below the Council wide average of 33.1%.
194. On average, the physical (26.6%) creative (6.7%) and social (44.4%) play values of equipped play areas in the Polmont Area are below the Council wide average (physical - 32.4%, creative 9.3%, social 45.6%).
195. The average play values of equipped play areas for toddlers (29%), juniors (32.1%) and teens (28.7%) are below the Council wide average (toddlers – 35.7%; juniors – 36.9%; teens 34.8%).
196. On average, the play value percentage score for Council maintained equipped play areas (28.7%) is below the Council wide average of 37.4%. The average play value percentage score for privately maintained equipped play areas (23.9%) is also below the Council wide average of 26.5%.

Accessibility and Inclusion

197. 97.2% of households in the Polmont Area are within an 800m walking distance of an open space containing a playspace, which is below the Council wide average of 97.3%.
198. 92.4% of households in the Polmont Area are within a 1200m walking distance of an open space containing a sports area, which is below the Council wide average of 94.8%.
199. 97.1% of households in the Polmont Area are within an 800m walking distance of an open space with a play value of “good” or better, which is above the Council wide average of 88.7%.
200. 97.6% of households in the Polmont Area are within an 800m walking distance of an equipped play space which is below the Council wide average of 93.9%.
201. 67.0% of households in the Polmont Area are within a 400m walking distance of an equipped play area which is suitable for toddlers, which is above the Council wide average of 54.6%.
202. 97.6% of households in the Polmont Area are within an 800m walk of an equipped play area which is suitable for juniors, which is above the Council wide average of 92.3%.
203. 97.3% of households in the Polmont Area are within a 1200m walk of an equipped play area which is suitable for teenagers, which is below the Council wider average of 95.6%.
204. 64% of the equipped play areas in the Polmont Area have at least 1 item of play equipment suitable for disabled children this is below the Council wide average of 71%.

3. Settlement Area Assessment of Play Sufficiency

Rural North Villages (Airth, Letham, Dunmore, South Alloa, Torwood, Skinflats)

205. The Rural North Villages score above the Council wide average for every quantity statistic relating to play, however, they score below the Council average for almost every quality and accessibility statistic, with the exception of: the average value of equipped playspaces for creative and social play; the average play value of equipped playspaces suitable for toddlers; and the percentage of households within 400m of an equipped playspace suitable for toddlers. The focus of investment should be on improving the physical play value of equipped playspaces, the value of equipped playspaces for toddlers and teens and the informal play value of open spaces.

Mapping

206. [Map 1](#) shows the location of equipped playspaces.
207. [Map 2](#) shows the location of open spaces with good or better play value representing the open spaces which provide the best opportunities for informal play
208. [Map 3](#) shows walking distance isochrones from equipped playspace suitable for toddlers, juniors and teens.
209. [Map 4](#) shows the relative play value of equipped playspaces and walking distance isochrones from equipped playspaces with good or better (30% +) play value scores.

Quantity

210. There are 8 open spaces containing a playspace within the Rural North villages, approximately 7.0 per 1000 households which is above the Council wide average of 2.4 per 1000 households.
211. There are 9 individual equipped play areas within the Rural North villages. 8 are suitable for toddlers, 6 are suitable for junior and 4 are suitable for teenagers.
212. 78% of the equipped play areas in the Rural North villages are maintained by Falkirk Council which is above the Council wide average of 61%.
213. There are 7.00 equipped playspaces per 1000 households suitable for toddlers which is above the Council wide average of 2.51 per 1000 households.
214. There are 5.45 equipped playspaces per 1000 households suitable for juniors which is above the Council wide average of 2.02 per 1000 households.
215. There are 3.5 equipped playspaces per 1000 households suitable for teenagers which is above the Council wide average of 1.21 per 1000 households.
216. In reality, these statistics will fluctuate from village to village as they are geographically separate from each other. The Falkirk Play Sufficiency Assessment does not attempt to go into that level of detail of analysis.

3. Settlement Area Assessment of Play Sufficiency

Quality

217. 50.0% of the 8 open spaces containing a playspace in the Rural North villages were scored with a play value of “good” or better which is below the Council wide average of 57.5%.
218. The open space audit identified 21 separate open spaces within the Rural North villages, of these 5 (23.8%) were scored with play value of “good” or better. This is below the Council wide average of 28.9%.
219. The average play value percentage score for equipped play areas in the Rural North villages is 29.3%. This is below the Council wide average of 33.1%.
220. On average, the physical (29.3%) play value of equipped play areas in the Rural North villages is below the Council wide average of 32.4%. However, the average creative play value (10.4%) and social (48.9%) play value are above the Council wide average (creative 9.3% and social 45.6%).
221. The average play values of equipped play areas for toddlers (37.5%) and teens (33.7%) area below the Council wide average (toddlers – 35.7%; teens 34.8%). However, the average play value of equipped play areas for juniors (40.4%) is above the Council wide average of 36.9%.
222. On average the play value percentage score for Council maintained equipped play areas (35.6%) is below the Council wide average of 37.4%. The average play value percentage score for privately maintained equipped play areas (15.4%) is also below the Council wide average of 26.5%.

Accessibility and Inclusion

223. 86.7% of households in the Rural North villages are within an 800m walking distance of an open space containing a playspace, which is below the Council wide average of 97.3%.
224. 79.2% of households in the Rural North villages are within a 1200m walking distance of an open space containing a sports area, which is below the Council wide average of 94.8%.
225. 49.0% of households in the Rural North villages are within an 800m walking distance of an open space with a play value of “good” or better, which is below the Council wide average of 88.7%.
226. 86.0% of households in the Rural North villages are within an 800m walking distance of an equipped play space which is below the Council wide average of 93.9%.
227. 73.9% of households in the Rural North villages are within a 400m walking distance of an equipped play area which is suitable for toddlers, which is above the Council wider average of 54.6%.
228. 82.4% of households in the Rural North villages are within an 800m walk of an equipped play area which is suitable for juniors, which is below the Council wider average of 92.3%.
229. 80.8% of households in the Rural North villages are within a 1200m walk of an equipped play area which is suitable for teenagers, which is below the Council wider average of 95.6%.
230. 89% of the equipped play areas in the Rural North Villages have at least 1 item of play equipment suitable for disabled children, this is above the Council wide average of 71%.

3. Settlement Area Assessment of Play Sufficiency

Rural South Villages (Avonbridge, Allandale, California, Greenhill, Muirhouses, Shieldhill, Standburn, Slamannan, The Loan)

231. The Rural South Villages score above the Council wide average for every quality statistic relating to play. They also score above the Council wide average for almost every quantity and accessibility statistic relating to play with the exception of: percentage of households within an 800m walk of an open space containing a playspace (marginally below); percentage of households within a 400m walk of an open space of good or better play value and percentage of households within a 1200m walk of a playspace for teens. The focus of investment should be on improving the informal play value of open spaces.

Mapping

232. [Map 1](#) shows the location of equipped playspaces.
233. [Map 2](#) shows the location of open spaces with good or better play value representing the open spaces which provide the best opportunities for informal play
234. [Map 3](#) shows walking distance isochrones from equipped playspace suitable for toddlers, juniors and teens.
235. [Map 4](#) shows the relative play value of equipped playspaces and walking distance isochrones from equipped playspaces with good or better (30% +) play value scores.

Quantity

236. There are 16 open spaces containing a playspace within the Rural South villages, approximately 5.2 per 1000 households which is above the Council wide average of 2.4 per 1000 households. (Map 1 – equipped playspaces in the Rural South Villages).
237. There are 12 individual equipped play areas within the Rural South villages. 12 are suitable for toddlers, 11 are suitable for juniors and 10 are suitable for teenagers.
238. 92% of the equipped play areas in the Rural South villages are maintained by Falkirk Council which is above the Council wide average of 61%.
239. There are 3.86 equipped playspaces per 1000 households suitable for toddlers which is above the Council wide average of 2.51 per 1000 households.
240. There are 3.54 equipped playspaces per 1000 households suitable for juniors which is below the Council wide average of 2.02 per 1000 households.
241. There are 3.22 equipped playspaces per 1000 households suitable for teenagers which is below the Council wide average of 1.21 per 1000 households/
242. In reality, these statistics will fluctuate from village to village as they are geographically separate from each other. The Play Sufficiency Assessment does not attempt to go into that level of detail of analysis.

3. Settlement Area Assessment of Play Sufficiency

Quality

243. 56.3% of the 16 open spaces containing a playspace in the Rural South villages were scored with a play value of “good” or better which is below the Council wide average of 57.5%.
244. The open space audit identified 61 separate open spaces within the Rural South villages, of these 16 (26.3%) were scored with play value of “good” or better. This is below the Council wide average of 28.9% (Map 2 – open spaces with good or better play value).
245. The average play value percentage score for equipped play areas in the Rural South villages is 41.9% this is above the Council wide average of 33.1%.
246. On average, the physical (50.7%) creative (10.4%) and social (64.4%) play values of equipped play areas in the Rural South villages are above the Council wide average (physical - 32.4%, creative - 9.3%, social - 45.6%).
247. The average play values of equipped play areas for toddlers (40.7%), juniors (44.1%) and teens (40.8%) are above the Council wide average (toddlers – 35.7%; juniors – 36.9%; teens 34.8%).
248. On average, the play value percentage score for Council maintained equipped play areas (42.2%) is above the Council wide average of 37.4%. The average play value percentage score for privately maintained equipped play areas (38.5%) is also above the Council wide average of 26.5%.

Accessibility and Inclusion

249. 96.9% of households in the Rural South Villages are within an 800m walking distance of an open space containing a playspace, which is below the Council wide average of 97.3%.
250. 95.1% of households in the Rural South Villages are within a 1200m walking distance of an open space containing a sports area, which is above the Council wide average of 94.8%.
251. 73.2% of households in the Rural South Villages are within an 800m walking distance of an open space with a play value of “good” or better, which is below the Council wide average of 88.7%.
252. 95.2% of households in the Rural South Villages are within an 800m walking distance of an equipped play space which is above the Council wide average of 93.9%.
253. 55.7% of households in the Rural South Villages are within a 400m walking distance of an equipped play area which is suitable for toddlers, which is above the Council wider average of 54.6%.
254. 95.2% of households in the Rural South Villages are within an 800m walk of an equipped play area which is suitable for juniors, which is above the Council wider average of 92.3%.
255. 90.6% of households in the Rural South Villages are within a 1200m walk of an equipped play area which is suitable for teenagers, which is below the Council wider average of 95.6%.
256. 100% of the equipped play areas in the Rural South Villages have at least 1 item of play equipment suitable for disabled children this is above the Council wide average of 71%.

4. Council Wide Assessment of Play Sufficiency

257. Assessing whether opportunities for play are “sufficient” across the Council area is a value judgment which this document does not attempt to make. It may be that once a national picture emerges out of the suite of 1st generation play sufficiency assessments which accompany the Evidence Reports of Local Development Plans, then some benchmarking can take place and a view as to whether the opportunities for play are sufficient in the Council area can be formed.

258. Notwithstanding the above, some general conclusions can be drawn about the quantity, quality, accessibility and inclusion of opportunities for play in the Council area.

Quantity - formal versus informal

259. There are considerably more places where children and teenagers play than there are formal equipped play areas. Around 29% of surveyed open spaces scored ‘good’ or better for quality of play meaning that there is significant potential for the quality of informal play opportunities to be improved across the Council area. This is perhaps corroborated by the survey of young people which identified that there is a lack of natural things such as sand, rocks, trees, logs and water for children and young people to play with in communities.

Quality - A lack of opportunity to be creative

260. Equipped play areas Council wide are significantly better places to play physically (32.4% average) or socially (45.6% average) than they are to play creatively (9.3% average). The design of new play areas or projects to renew existing play areas should therefore redouble their focus on providing opportunities for creative play.

Quality - Public versus private

261. The average play value score of publicly maintained playspaces is significantly higher than that of privately maintained playspaces. This suggests that more attention should be given to the quality of design of and maintenance arrangement for play areas associated with new development.

Inclusion

262. Although the percentage of equipped play areas with at least one item of equipment suitable for disabled children is relatively high at 71%, that benchmark is not particularly high and demonstrates that there is an inequality of play opportunity dependent on ability within the Council area. The creation of new playspaces, and the renewal of existing playspaces, provide opportunities to improve inclusive play for children.

5. Play Consultation

Introduction

263. Regulation 4 of [The Town and Country Planning \(Play Sufficiency Assessment\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023](#) requires the planning authority, when preparing a play sufficiency assessment (PSA), to consult children and young people under the age of 18 years old; parents and carers; community councils in their area; other community bodies or persons whom the planning authority consider should be consulted; and the public. This section of the PSA describes how Falkirk Council, as the planning authority for the area, obtained the views of these stakeholders and what they said.

Children's Outdoor Play Survey

264. In Autumn 2023, primary school age children across were invited to complete a short, online and anonymous survey (see below images) to gather and understand their views. The survey was designed by the Planning and Environment Unit in conjunction with Children's Services and was widely publicised to headteachers, parents and carers via a regular newsletter that is circulated to all of Falkirk's schools. To incentivise schools to take part, a special prize of play equipment was offered to the school with the most survey responses. Of the 437 children responded to the survey, 326 (74.5%) were from Kinnaird Primary, 103 (23.5%) were from Bantaskin Primary and 8 (or 1.8 %) were from Easter Carmuir's Primary. Falkirk Council wishes to take this opportunity to thank all the children for their valuable feedback, and congratulate Kinnaird Primary on winning the prize.

Falkirk Council

A survey about playing outdoors

Hello! Falkirk Council would like to find out what you think about the outdoor places you play or hang-out. Please take part by Tuesday 28 November 2023. There is a special prize for the primary school with the most children taking part. The prize is play equipment for the school or local play park.

1. What primary school do you go to? *

Enter your answer

2. Where do you play outside? You can pick more than one answer. *

- In a garden
- In the streets
- In a grassy place
- In a play park with swings, slides and other things
- In the woods
- On a path or track

3. What kind of play do you like? You can pick more than one answer. *

- Playing games like football, rounders, netball, basketball, rugby or tennis
- Bike or scooter riding, skateboarding or roller skating
- Building or making things like dens or sandcastles
- Pretend play or acting
- Being with friends
- Playground games like tag or tag, skipping, hide and seek and hopscotch
- Running, skipping, climbing and being active
- Singing or dancing
- Exploring
- Playing with water

5. Play Consultation

Where do children play outside?

265. When asked 'where do you play outside?', a list of places was given and the children were asked to pick as many places as they wished. Play parks, gardens and grassy places were stated as the most popular places for children to play or hang out in. In the woods, in the streets and on a path or track, however, were the least stated places to play or hang out in (Table 1). This suggests that the natural and built environment broadly limits play to places purposely intended for recreation such as play parks, private gardens, playing fields, amenity areas etc. and that kids are less likely to play outwith these spaces. There will be various reasons for this such as societal, disadvantage, safety, perception and some children finding their nearest wooded area or path network inaccessible.

Table 1: Breakdown of children's responses by type of place to play

Type of place to play	Number of children selected place	Percentage based on total number of responses (437)
In a play park with swings, slides and other things	274	62.7%
In a garden	260	59.5%
In a grassy place	217	49.7%
In the streets	172	39.4%
In the woods	138	31.6%
On a path or track	110	25.1%

What types of outdoor play do children like?

266. Children were asked to select from a list the outdoor play activity or activities they like doing (see Table 2). The vast majority of children (70.3%) stated they enjoy spending time with friends, acknowledging socialising remains the key motivator for many kids to go and play outside. Physical forms of play were frequently stated, and many children enjoy playing ball games such as football, basketball, rounders etc., riding their bike, scooter or skateboard, and/or running, skipping and climbing. 49.7% of children enjoy exploring places. More imaginative forms of play such as building or making things, playing with water, dancing, pretend play or acting or singing, however, were the least stated. This may reflect limited, or a perceived lack of, opportunities in the natural and built environment for fun and imaginary play.

5. Play Consultation

Table 2: Breakdown of children's responses by type of outdoor play activity

Type of outdoor play	Number of children selected type of outdoor play	Percentage based on total number of responses (437)
Being with friends	307	70.3%
Running, skipping, climbing and being active	234	53.4%
Playing ball games like football, rounders, netball, basketball, rugby or tennis	231	52.9%
Bike or scooter riding, skateboarding or rollerskating	231	52.9%
Exploring	217	49.7%
Building or making things like dens or sandcastles	199	45.5%
Playground games like tig or tag, rope skipping, hide and seek and hopscotch	164	37.5%
Pretend play or acting	124	33.3%
Playing with water	144	33.3%
Singing or dancing	115	26.3%

How do children feel about the outdoor places they play in?

267. The last question of survey asked children how they generally feel about their outdoor places with the aim of understanding perceptions around quality, quantity and accessibility of play provision. Most children (64.7%) stated that they love where they play while 31.8% said their play places are ok. 31.8% of children said they wish they had more play places. A good number of children (30.7%) stated they wish the play space equipment was better and 28.3% said they wish their play places were clean and tidy. Only 8.2% of kids said their play places are boring. A small number said they don't have any places to play (1.8%) or that they can't use play places. (1.1%) The survey results are shown in Table 3, below.

Table 3: Breakdown of children's opinions about their outdoor play places

Opinion of outdoor play places	Number of children agreed with option	Percentage based on total number of responses (437)
I love where I play	280	64.7%
My play places are ok	139	31.8%
I wish I had more play places	139	31.8%
I wish the play park equipment was better	134	30.7%
I wish my play places were clean and tidy	124	28.3%
My play places are boring	36	8.2%
I don't have any places to play	8	1.8%
I can't use my play places	5	1.1%

Grangemouth High School

268. S1, S2, S4, S5 and additional support needs (ASN) pupils from Grangemouth High School took part in seven focus group discussions framed around a number of questions to yield insights from young people. Falkirk Council wishes to thank the pupils for their honest comments and feedback, and to Mrs Mhairi Brown, Principal Teacher of Pastoral Support, for her help in organising the discussions.

Question 1: Think of the outdoor places in the area where you play or meet up with friends. What kind of outdoor spaces (either types or specific) do you use regularly? What do you do there?

269. Young people mentioned a wide range of places that they regularly use to meet friends, relax or participate in physical forms of play or exercise such as football, BMXing, climbing, cycling or skateboarding. Some use outdoor gyms and many mentioned they enjoy outdoor water activities such as fishing, wild swimming or canoeing. A good number of young people said they also enjoy woodland strolls, hillwalking and visiting wild spaces, suggesting young people have a strong interest in seeing and experiencing nature. Very few, however, indicated that they visit play parks. The Helix, Zetland Park, Grangemouth Stadium, Rannoch Park were specifically mentioned as places to play and hang out in Grangemouth.

Question 2: What is good about the outdoor places you play and hang out?

270. Good things mentioned included being well-lit; easy to get to; feel safe; inexpensive; quiet; natural; open; good social spaces; and there's plenty to see and do (such as walking, cycle, jogging, play ball games). The following is a list of quotation from young people, mentioning what is good about the outdoor places in Grangemouth:

"There are spaces to be with friends; and they feel safe during the day."

"Well-lit paths, bike tracks for older kids."

"Zetland Park is nearby. It has nice social areas and people keep it well-maintained"

"Places to chill, do homework and talk about stuff."

"There are lots of different things to in parks and most of them are in walking distance."

"It's quiet and calm. Plus the scenery is...alright."

Question 3: Now think about an outdoor place that you don't like. Why don't you like it?

271. Bad things stated included not much to do for young people; too busy during peak times; litter; vandalism; strange adults loitering during the day and after dark; lack of or poorly maintained public toilets; play parks seem to be only intended for younger kids; broken equipment; poorly lit; and lack of shelter from the rain. The following is actual quotations from young people acknowledging the bad things about outdoor places in Grangemouth:

"Broken glass on paths, non-lit areas, broke equipment and not a lot for older kids."

"Not enough sheltered places so bad weather affects a lot and not enough lights."

"Too much litter (broken bottles, vapes and dog poo...bins overflowing.)"

5. Play Consultation

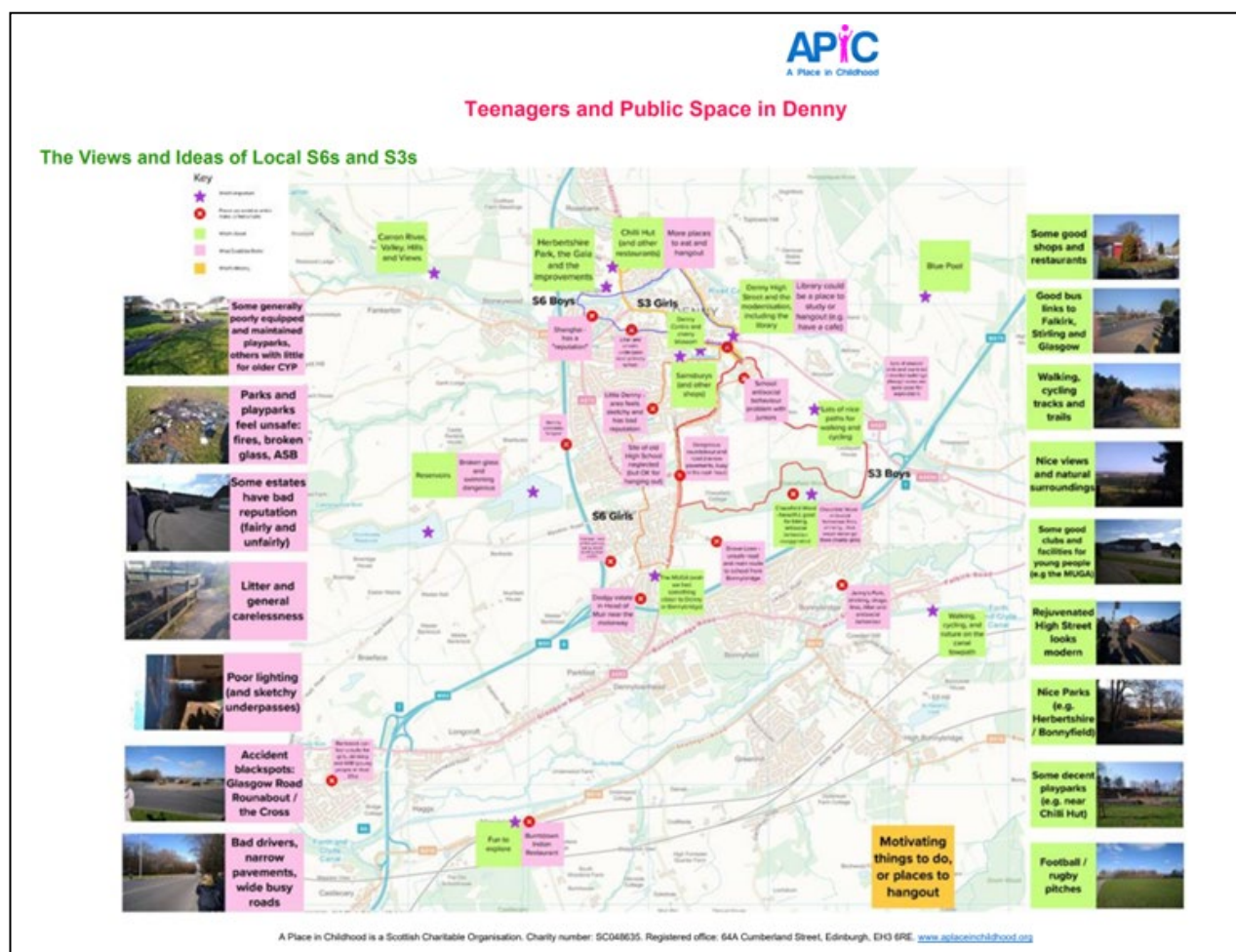
Question 4: How would you make the outdoor places better?

272. Suggestions included but not limited to:
- More inclusive play equipment for disabled children
 - More play equipment specifically for older children and young people
 - More lighting in open spaces
 - A café for teens
 - More nature trails
 - Free public wi-fi
 - More organised events
 - More bins
 - More frequent litter picking
 - Bigger sheltered areas with seating and phone chargers
 - Create an enclosed area for walking dogs
 - Improvements to football pitches and changing facilities
 - Better maintenance
 - Create designated areas for wild swimming

5. Play Consultation

Focus Group Discussions with Children and Young People From Other Communities

273. Two pieces of in-depth work with children and young people have been undertaken by 'A Place in Childhood' (APiC) in local areas in partnership with the Council and other agencies. These have provided valuable insights into how children and local people experience the places where they live.
274. The APiC work in Bainsford and Langlees received funding from [Paths for All's 'Smarter Choices, Smart Places' programme](#) and has been match funded by Falkirk Council to create a children and teenagers 20-minute neighbourhood plan. Five local authorities providing differing neighbourhood contexts participated across Scotland.
275. The APiC work in Denny was commissioned by Sustrans, to inform their work on engaging teenagers more constructively, and to feed into the local transport infrastructure project led by Falkirk Council and funded through Sustrans' Places for Everyone infrastructure scheme.
276. The core findings of these projects can be found in the following:
- The Bainsford and Langlees Children and Teenagers Neighbourhood Plan (APiC)
 - Teenagers and Public Space in Denny, Bonnybridge, Dunipace, Banknock and Head of Muir
 - Teenagers Map and Priorities in Denny (also below)



5. Play Consultation

Parents and Carers Survey

277. Parents, carers, community councils and groups and the general public were all invited to complete an online survey on the Council's [new participate plus platform](#). The survey was publicised through a combination of methods including social media, the Council's website and intranet and an electronic mailing to all those on the Development Plan contact database. Of the 82 stakeholders who responded to the survey, 78% identified as a parent or carer, 13% as a member of the public, 4% as a community council and 5% as other community interest group or organisation. Community councils or groups that responded included Friends of Kinneil, Polmont Community Council, Reddingmuirhead and Wallacestone Community Council, Safer Communities Youth Action Project and Westfield Park Community Centre. Respondents provided their full postcodes which ranged across various areas within the Council area including FK1 and FK2 (Falkirk), FK3 (Grangemouth), FK4 (Bonnybridge), FK5 (Larbert) and FK6 (Denny) and one EH51 (Bo'ness).



Where do children and young people play outside in your local community?

278. Respondents were asked to select from a list the outdoor places where children and young people play or hang out in their local community. The results are shown in Table 4 and interestingly repeat the findings of the children's outdoor play survey with in the garden, in a grassy place and in a play park being the most frequently stated places and in the streets, in the woods and on a path or track being the least stated places.

Table 4: Breakdown of responses by type of place to play.

Type of place to play	Number of adults selected place	Percentage based on total number of responses (82)
In the garden	53	64.6%
In a grassy place like a park or playing field	52	63.4%
In a play park with swings, slides or other play equipment to play on	52	63.4%
In the streets	48	58.5%
In the woods	34	41.5%
On a path or track	22	26.8%

279. Respondents were also asked to name other outdoor places where children and young people play or hang out. The most frequently mentioned places included shopping centres and school playgrounds. Specific places mentioned included Bainsford Park, Princes Parks, Westquarter Valley Park, and multi-use games areas. A few responses indicated that children and young people play or hang out in less conventional places such as behind garages, in car parks and the canal towpath.

5. Play Consultation

Does your local community have enough open spaces for children and young people to play and hang-out?

280. Table 5 shows the breakdown of responses to this question. There is roughly an equal split of those who think more open spaces are needed and those who think the amount of open spaces is about right. No respondents indicated fewer open spaces are needed in their local community.

Table 5: Breakdown of responses to quantity question

Option	Number of adults selected option	Percentage based on total number of responses (82)
More open spaces are needed	42	51.2%
The amount of open space is about right	40	48.8%
Fewer open spaces are needed	0	0%

What barriers do children and young people experience playing or hanging out outdoors?

281. The responses to this question revealed several barriers that children and young people face when playing or hanging out outdoors in their local communities. The most frequently mentioned issues included litter, poor maintenance and cleanliness of equipped play areas, outdated and broken play equipment and outdoor places that are unusable for play after a period of wet weather. Issues with anti-social behaviour were highlighted including dog fouling, vandalism, and loitering. Accessibility was stated as another barrier, with some mentioning the high cost of activities, busy roads to cross, lack of lighting, and lack of suitable areas for different age groups, particularly toddlers and older children. One respondent mentioned open spaces and play parks in a private housing estate create the perception that they are exclusively available to the children and young people of that estate. Some areas are reported to have no local equipped play areas at all. Respondents also expressed a desire for more varied and inspiring play equipment as well as more outdoor places that are inclusive for disabled children and young people.

How do you rate the accessibility and quality of the open spaces in your local community for children and young people to play and hang out?

282. Respondents rated various aspects of their open space 1 to 5 in their local community for playing and hanging out in. The results are shown in Appendix 2, Figures 1 to 11.
283. The key findings from the ratings are:
- Most respondents felt children and young people can access their outdoor play spaces by walking and wheeling;
 - The general view is that seating is not good enough in open spaces for children and young people to relax and interact;
 - Generally, the area's open spaces feel safe to play and hang-out in.
 - There is a perceived or actual lack of natural things such as sand, rocks, trees, logs and water for children and young people to play with in communities;
 - Play equipment in all groups could be improved. 63% of respondents said play equipment is very poor for young people aged 12 and over, recognising a general lack of provision for this age group in most parts of the council area; and

5. Play Consultation

- Most respondents said children and young people with a disability or neurodiverse condition experience difficulty playing on play equipment either all the time (43.9%) or often (24.4%). Only a small number of respondents (8.5%) said children and young people with a disability or neurodiverse condition rarely experience difficulty playing on play equipment.

Tell Us About Your Place' Surveys and Events

Surveys

284. The main focus of the Council's early public engagement for the Falkirk Local Development Plan 3 was the 'Tell Us About Your Place' online survey which was open for four months between February and June 2023. People who lived or worked in the area were asked to complete a 'Place Standard' survey to tell us about their places and how they function. One of the key themes in the survey was 'play and recreation'. There were three versions of the survey – one for the general public, one for young people and one for children. Participants were asked to assess various aspects of their places and say what was good about them, and what could be improved. The main purpose being to find out how people feel about their places, their perceptions as well as factual information.
285. The public survey specifically generated a wealth of valuable evidence about respondents' places including local parks, play spaces, active travel routes, sports pitches and other outdoor places that are used by children and young people to play and hang out. [A Consultation Feedback Report](#) was produced, which summarises all comments by both topic and settlement area. Paragraphs 287 to 307 of this chapter summarise the public survey responses for 'play and recreation'. Generally, responses were detailed and insightful across the Council area. The number of responses to the surveys are highlighted in Table 6 below. The Public Survey received in the region of 4,700 discrete comments.

Table 6: Number of responses by survey type

Survey Type	Number of Responses
Public	353 (includes 3 under 16's and 13 in 16-25 category)
Young People	32
Children	4

Events

286. In addition to the surveys, during the early engagement campaign we participated in two key events to boost awareness and gain further insight from younger people and children:
- Know Your Eco Event: The Development Plan Team took a stall at this MSYP organised event Friday 3rd March 2023 having contacted the MYSP's for the Falkirk area. We used a quick place standard themed 5/8 question survey for children and young people which they could quickly plot on the diagram. We also asked them to name one thing that could improve their area and one thing they liked about their area. 66 participants completed the surveys. The full survey results can be found in Chapter 9 of the Consultation Feedback Report.
 - STEM@The Helix: The Development Plan Team also attended Falkirk Science Festival on Saturday 18th May 2023. The event was run and organised by Falkirk Community Trust. 45 participants completed the surveys, with the majority from Primary schools. The full survey results can be found in Chapter 10 of the Consultation Feedback Report.

5. Play Consultation

Summary of Public Survey Responses for Play and Recreation

Bo'ness

287. Positive features mentioned included good parks and greenspace, paths including the John Muir Way allowing access to surrounding countryside, the foreshore, Kinneil Estate and the recreation centre.
288. Improvements mentioned included improved and better maintained play facilities, e.g. at the Drum, developing the potential of Kinneil Estate so it becomes more of an attraction, and keeping the recreation centre with improved amenities. Levels of investment were compared unfavourably with Falkirk, and general concerns about Council cuts in park investment and maintenance were expressed.
289. The average Bo'ness rating for play and recreation given by local residents was 3.4 out of 7 (with 1 being the lowest score and 7 the highest score). This rating is just below the Council area average rating of 3.5 based on all responses from across the Council area.

Banknock and Bonnybridge

290. Jenny's Park, the Forth and Clyde Canal and Memorial Gardens were mentioned as good places to play or relax in the area. Respondents said they like the amount of open space in Bonnybridge while Banknock, Dennyloanhead, Haggs and Longcroft were cited as lacking good sized and quality areas of open space for play and recreation.
291. Improvements suggested included new and better maintained equipped play facilities (e.g. at Coneypark, Ash Park and Bog Park), more community growing spaces, repairs to park paths, additional seating and improved drainage of football pitches.
292. The average Banknock and Bonnybridge rating for play and recreation given by local residents was 2.8 out of 7 (with 1 being the lowest score and 7 the highest score). This rating is just below the Council area average rating of 3.5.

Urban Braes and Rural South

293. In Urban Braes, Maddiston residents highlighted that Valley Park is harder for residents of the north end of Maddiston to access, but several respondents mentioned that the quality of the park had improved. Suggestions included major upgrading of play equipment at George V playing fields in Redding, and Laurie Park was highlighted as needing investment.
294. In Rural South, Standburn community park was highlighted as an asset, and Muiravonside appears to be a popular place to visit within the Braes as a whole. It was noted by several residents that while Upper Braes is well serviced by countryside and path networks, some of the open spaces within villages require improvement.
295. Across the area, residents highlighted the need for improvements of facilities within the parks alongside play equipment including public toilets, seating areas and general maintenance including litter picking.
296. The average Urban Braes rating for play and recreation given by local residents was 3.4 out of 7 (with 1 being the lowest score and 7 the highest score). This rating is just below the Council area average rating of 3.5. However, the average Rural South was above the Council area average with a score of 3.8.

5. Play Consultation

Denny

297. Residents said open spaces are generally plentiful, accessible and good quality. Play provision was particularly cited as being good overall, and positive mention was made of the recently upgraded play area in Gala (or Herbertshire Castle) Park.
298. Local parks generally lack play facilities and activities aimed at teens and disabled children. Issues were also raised about anti-social behaviour, litter and dog waste, poor maintenance and children's safety.
299. Improvements suggested for play and recreation included additional bins, more picnic tables and better and more maintained play spaces. It was suggested vacant and derelict land (such as the former Denny High School site) could be put to better use as community allotments or a new public park.
300. The average Denny rating for play and recreation given by local residents was 3.0, below the Council area average rating of 3.5.

Falkirk

301. Parks are seen generally as good, and are generally well maintained, with particular mention of Callendar and Dollar Park, the Helix and the recently upgraded Policy Bing. There are good opportunities for walks, particularly along the canals. Residents made many suggestions on how parks could be improved including more facilities for disabled children, issues around vandalism and maintenance, more opportunities for imaginative play and sport, more seating, improved lighting, more provision for older children, and more events.
302. The average Falkirk rating for play and recreation given by local residents was 3.4, below the Council area average rating of 3.5.

Grangemouth

303. Zetland Park, Inchyra Park and the indoor/outdoor sports facilities are excellent. Volunteers do a great job maintaining parks. Improvements needed in the accessibility of facilities and more events, keeping open facilities, enclosed areas for dogs, address flooding without the loss of trees.
304. The average Grangemouth rating for play and recreation given by local residents was 4.7, significantly above the Council area average rating of 3.5.

Larbert and Stenhousemuir

305. In general parks and recreation areas were considered good. Facilities for teenagers were stated as needing to be improved.
306. The average Grangemouth rating for play and recreation given by local residents was 3.7, slightly above the Council area average rating of 3.5.

5. Play Consultation

Rural North

307. Plenty of open space and parks in Airth. Countryside walks available locally at Dunmore woods, the Forth Foreshore and Dunmore Pineapple. Letham is a good countryside location with a football pitch and paths for walking. and a small playpark. No particular issues were highlighted.
308. The average Rural North rating for play and recreation was 4.0, which is well above the Council area rating of 3.5.

6. Summary and Conclusions

309. Roughly half of the respondents to the parents and carers survey indicated that they did not feel there were enough open spaces for children and young people to play and hang out in. The standard for walking distance to an open space containing a play space as set out in the Open Space Strategy is 800m. Council wide, 97.3% of households are within this distance of an open space containing play area. This suggests that the corresponding standard in the Open Space Strategy perhaps doesn't represent public expectations. 61.6% of households Council wide are within a 400m walk of an open space with good or better play quality, this is perhaps a closer reflection of the survey findings. The Council's next review of its Open Space Strategy should investigate this further.
310. 63% of respondents to the parents and carers survey said that play equipment for older children was very poor. Council wide the average play value of equipped play areas suitable for teens was found to be marginally poorer than that for toddlers (0.9 percentage points poorer) and juniors (2.1 percentage points poorer). Further research is needed to examine why there is such a difference between public perception of quality of play provision for teens and play quality assessment results. It may be that the play quality assessment methodology for teen play needs further refinement.
311. The parents and carers survey identified significant shortcomings in the play experience for children and young people with a disability or neurodiverse condition at our equipped play areas. The only measure looked at through the play quality audit was the percentage of equipped play spaces with equipment suitable for disabled children and Council wide the percentage was relatively high at 71%. This suggests that more work is needed to understand how to measure the suitability and quality of play areas for children and young people with a disability or neurodiverse condition.
312. There are considerably more places where children and teenagers play than there are formal equipped play areas. Around 29% of surveyed open spaces scored "good" or better for quality of play meaning that there is significant potential for the quality of informal play opportunities to be improved across the Council area. This is backed up by the survey of young people which identified that there is a lack of natural things such as sand, rocks, trees, logs and water for children and young people to play with in communities.

Next steps

313. The data from the Open Space Audit and the Play Quality Audit, together with the information gathered through the various facets of the play consultation and the findings of the Play Sufficiency Assessment will be used to inform a forthcoming review of the Council's Open Space Strategy.
314. The findings of the Falkirk Play Sufficiency Assessment will also be used to inform the Council's programme of investment into its play facilities and wider open spaces, helping to identify the locations where investment should be made as well as the design of improvements to existing play areas and of new play areas.

Appendix 1: Play Sufficiency Statistics

Appendix 1: Play Sufficiency Statistics

Table 7: Figures for quantity and quality, accessibility of open spaces with respect to play

Settlement area	No. of Households	Open Spaces containing a play space	% of open spaces containing a play space with "good" or better play value	% of open spaces with "good" or better play value.	Open Spaces containing a play space per 1000 people	% of households within 400m of an open space containing a play space	% of households within 800m of an open space containing a play space	% of households within 800m of an open space containing a sports area	% of households within 1200m of an open space containing sports area	% of households within 400m of an open space with a play value score of 3+	% of households within 800m of an open space with a play value score of 3+
Bo'ness	7,191	11	54.5%%	14.6%	1.5	71.2%	96.6%	78.2%	95.7%	55.5%	92.1%
Bonnybridge and Banknock	5,323	18	44.4%	18.3%	3.4	76.9%	96.8%	64.3%	83.4%	56.2%	88.1%
Denny	6,634	17	64.7%	41.2%	2.6	79.4%	99.6%	92.1%	98.2%	69.7%	98.9%
Falkirk	19,365	33	60.6%	37.1%	1.7	70.7%	97.1%	82.9%	95.6%	59.8%	86.0%
Grangemouth	8,846	10	70.0%	30.3%	1.1	72.5%	96.7%	90.3%	98.6%	70.5%	96.7%
Larbert and Stenhousemuir	12,016	32	53.1%	25.7%	2.7	84.9%	98.6%	84.2%	96.7%	56.2%	83.9%
Polmont Area	1,0476	34	58.8%	34.0%	3.3	83.6%	97.2%	73.6%	92.4%	74.3%	97.1%
Rural North	1,143	8	50.0%	23.8%	7.0	71.0%	86.7%	53.2%	79.2%	36.1%	49.0%
Rural South	3,106	16	56.3%	26.3%	5.2	69.7%	96.9%	88.5%	95.1%	50.3%	73.2%
Falkirk Council area (within settlements)	74,100	179	57.5%	28.9%	2.4	76.3%	97.3%	81.5%	94.8%	61.6%	88.7%

Appendix 1: Play Sufficiency Statistics

Table 8: Figures for play value of play spaces

Settlement area	No. of play spaces in Play Quality Audit	No. of play spaces with toddler provision	No. of play spaces with junior provision	No. of play spaces with teen provision	Average play quality percentage score	Average % score for physical Play	Average% score creative score	Average % score social score	Average play value score for toddler provision	Average play value score for junior provision	Average play value Score for teen provision	Average Play value score for Council maintained	Average Play value score for privately maintained
Bo'ness	12	11	9	5	30%	29.3%	6.3%	45.6%	33.2%	34.2%	32.3%	28.9%	35.6%
Bonnybridge and Banknock	21	20	15	5	37.6%	31.2%	13.3%	36.7%	38.7%	43.1%	40%	42.9%	26.9%
Denny	17	15	14	4	41.5%	38.3%	9.6%	41.1%	45.9%	42.6%	45.2%	44.5%	36%
Falkirk	37	35	28	21	33.5%	34.3%	10.7%	46.7%	37.7%	37.5%	33%	38.5%	27%
Grangemouth	10	10	10	7	44.3%	50.7%	21.1%	61.1%	45.8%	48.1%	44.5%	46.2%	26.9%
Larbert and Stenhousemuir	39	36	25	16	29%	26.0%	5.2%	42.2%	31.5%	32.2%	29.3%	35.6%	25.3%
Polmont Area	39	39	32	18	26.6%	27.6%	6.7%	44.4%	28.4%	29%	32.1%	28.7%	23.9%
Rural North	9	8	6	4	31.1%	29.3%	10.4%	48.9%	37.5%	40.4%	33.7%	35.6%	15.4%
Rural South	12	12	11	10	41.9%	50.7%	10.4%	64.4%	40.7%	44.1%	40.8%	42.2%	38.5%
Falkirk Council area (within settlements)	196	186	150	90	33.1%	32.4%	9.3%	45.6%	35.7%	36.9%	34.8%	37.4%	26.5%

Appendix 1: Play Sufficiency Statistics

Table 9: Figures for accessibility of play spaces

Settlement area	No. of Households	% of households within 400m of a play space	% of households within 800m of a play space	% of households within 1200m of play space	% of households within 400m of a playspace for toddlers	% of households within 800m of a playspace for juniors	% of households within 1200m of a play space for teens
Bo'ness	7,191	37.5%	92.4%	98.3%	36.4%	91.3%	88.1%
Bonnybridge and Banknock	5,323	71.5%	98.4%	99.2%	68.1%	92.1%	87.4%
Denny	6,634	68.7%	99.6%	99.6%	61.2%	99.6%	94.3%
Falkirk	19,365	48.8%	90.2%	99.1%	46.4%	87.4%	99.1%
Grangemouth	8,846	41.3%	87.3%	96.7%	41.3%	87.3%	96.7%
Larbert and Stenhousemuir	12,016	69.8%	97.8%	99.1%	65.7%	96.1%	99.1%
Polmont Area	10,476	67.0%	97.6%	98.6%	67.0%	97.6%	97.3%
Rural North	1,143	74.7%	86.0%	88.9%	73.9%	82.4%	80.8%
Rural South	3,106	55.7%	95.2%	98.1%	55.7%	95.2%	90.6%
Falkirk Council area (within settlements)	74,100	56.9%	93.9%	98.5%	54.6%	92.3%	95.6%

Appendix 1: Play Sufficiency Statistics

Table 10: Figures for inclusivity of play spaces

Settlement area	No. of households	No. of equipped play spaces	% of equipped play spaces with play equipment suitable for disabled children	% of play spaces which are Council maintained.	Play spaces per 1,000 household	Toddler play areas per 1,000 households	Junior play areas per 1,000 households	Teen play areas per 1,000 households.
Bo'ness	7,191	12	67%	83%	1.67	1.53	1.25	0.69
Bonnybridge and Banknock	5,323	21	71%	67%	3.95	3.76	2.82	0.94
Denny	6,634	17	65%	65%	2.56	2.26	2.11	0.60
Falkirk	19,365	37	65%	57%	1.91	1.81	1.45	1.08
Grangemouth	8,846	10	60%	90%	1.13	1.13	1.13	0.79
Larbert and Stenhousemuir	12,016	39	77%	36%	3.25	3.00	2.08	1.33
Polmont Area	10,476	39	64%	56%	3.72	3.72	3.05	1.72
Rural North	1,143	9	89%	78%	7.87	7.00	5.24	3.50
Rural South	3,106	12	100%	92%	3.86	3.86	3.54	3.22
Falkirk Council area (within settlements)	74, 100	196	71%	61%	2.64	2.51	2.02	1.12

Appendix 2: Other Results From Parents and Carers Survey

Appendix 2: Other Results From Parents and Carers Survey

Figure 1: Respondents' ratings of local open spaces for children's and young people's accessibility

Think of the route walking or wheeling to the open spaces in your local community. How easy or difficult is it for children and young people to get to these open spaces?

81/82 - Linear scale - optional

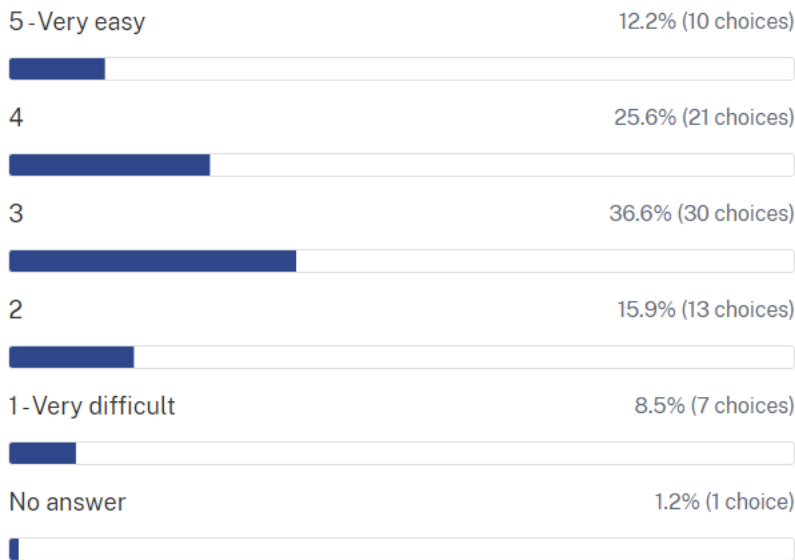
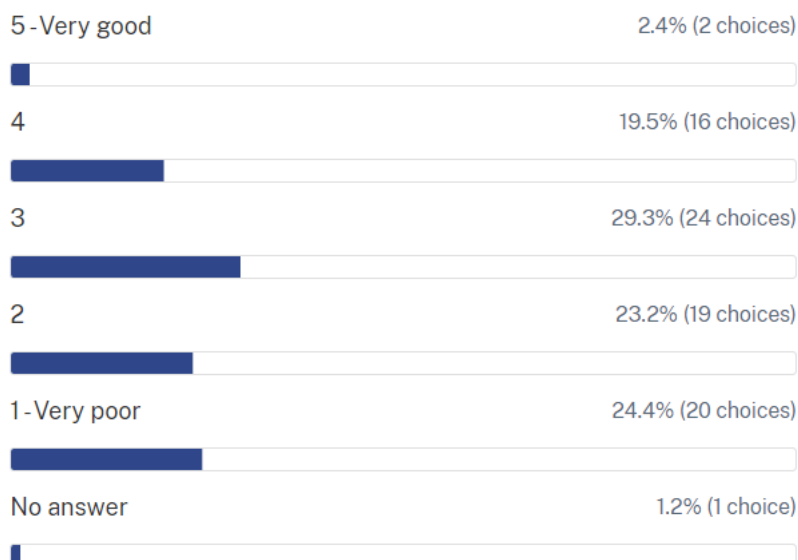


Figure 2: Respondents' ratings of local open spaces to play ball games

How do you rate the open spaces in your local community to play ball games such as football, rugby, rounders or netball?

81/82 - Linear scale - optional



Appendix 2: Other Results From Parents and Carers Survey

Figure 3: Respondents' ratings of local open spaces for cleanliness and maintenance

How do you rate the cleanliness and maintenance of the open spaces that children and young people play or hang-out in?

81/82 - Linear scale - optional

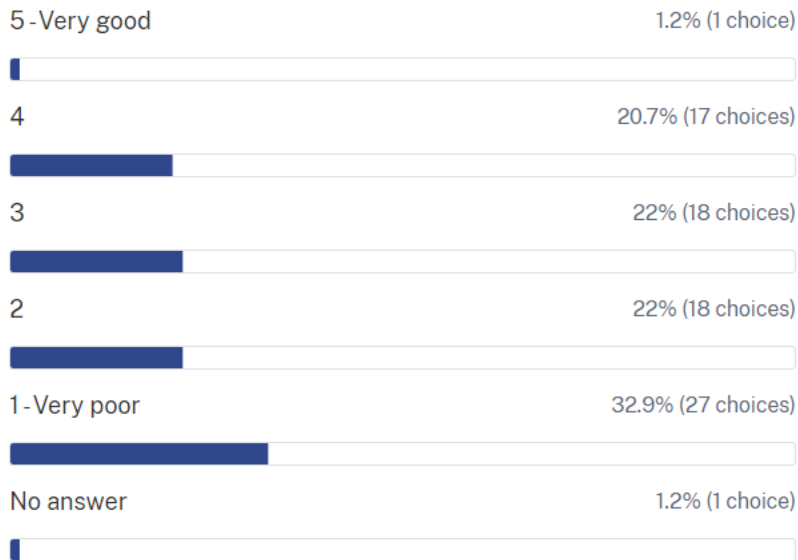
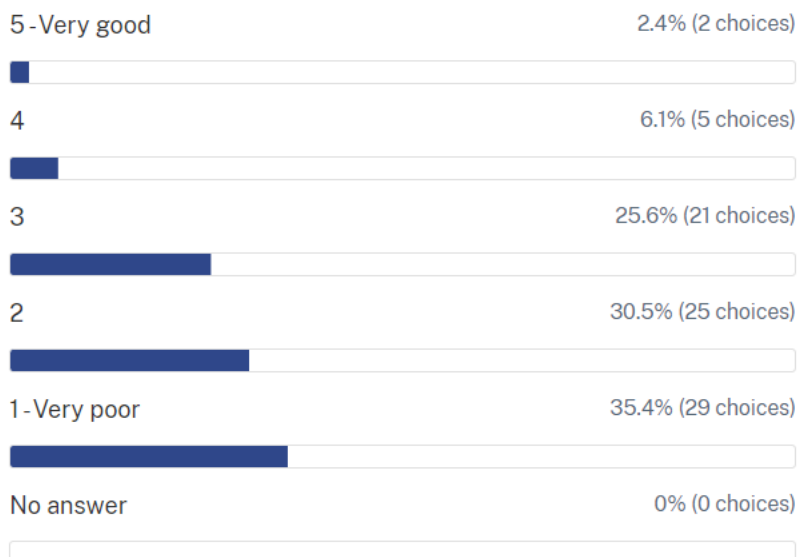


Figure 4: Respondents' ratings of local open spaces for children and young people to sit and hang-out in

How do you rate the open spaces in your local community for children and young people to sit and hang-out in?

82/82 - Linear scale - optional



Appendix 2: Other Results From Parents and Carers Survey

Figure 5: Respondents' ratings of local open spaces to play with natural things

How do you rate the open spaces in your local community for playing with natural things such as sand, rocks, water, trees and logs?

82/82 - Linear scale - optional

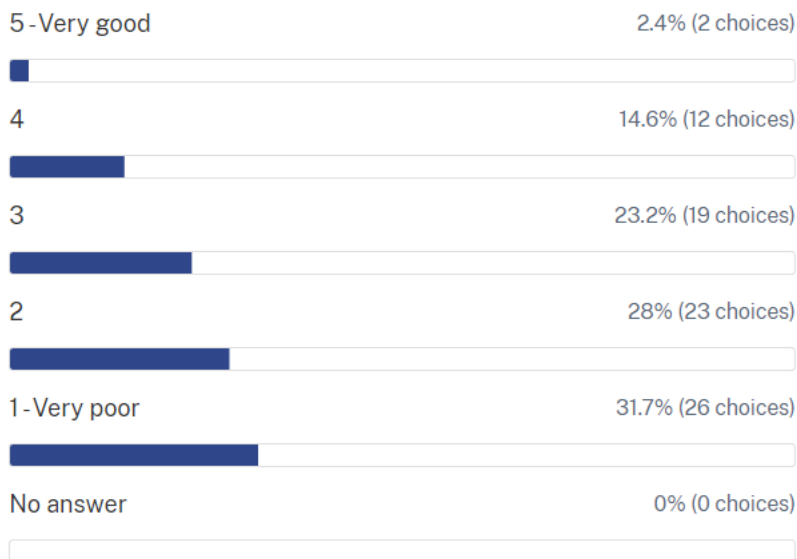
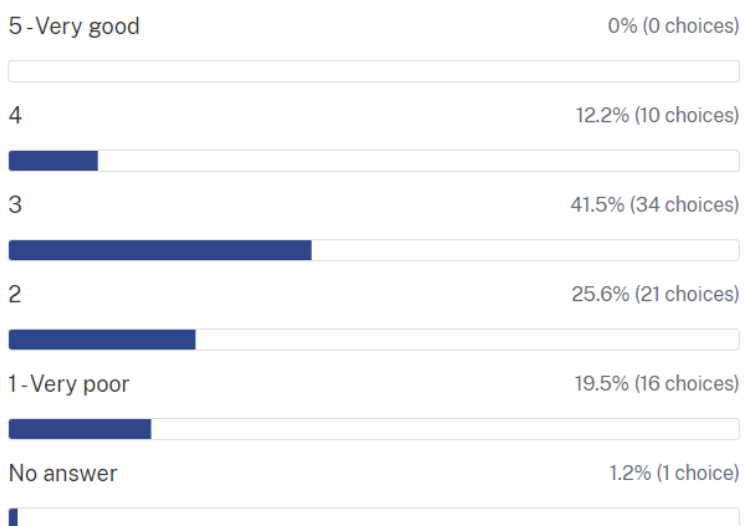


Figure 6: Respondents' ratings of the safety of local open spaces for children and young people to play or hang-out

How safe do you rate the open spaces in your local community for children and young people to play or hang-out in?

81/82 - Linear scale - optional



Appendix 2: Other Results From Parents and Carers Survey

Figure 7: Respondents' ratings of play space play equipment for children aged 5 or under

How do you rate the playground equipment for children aged 5 or under in your local community?

82/82 - Linear scale - optional

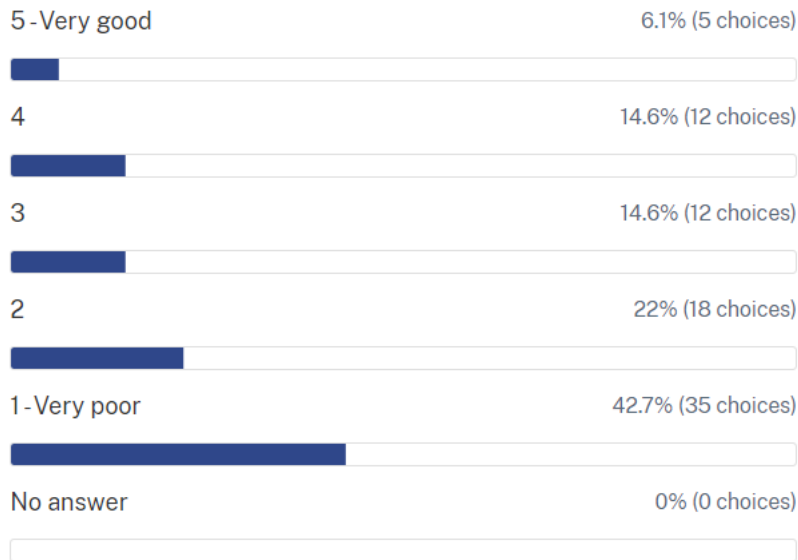
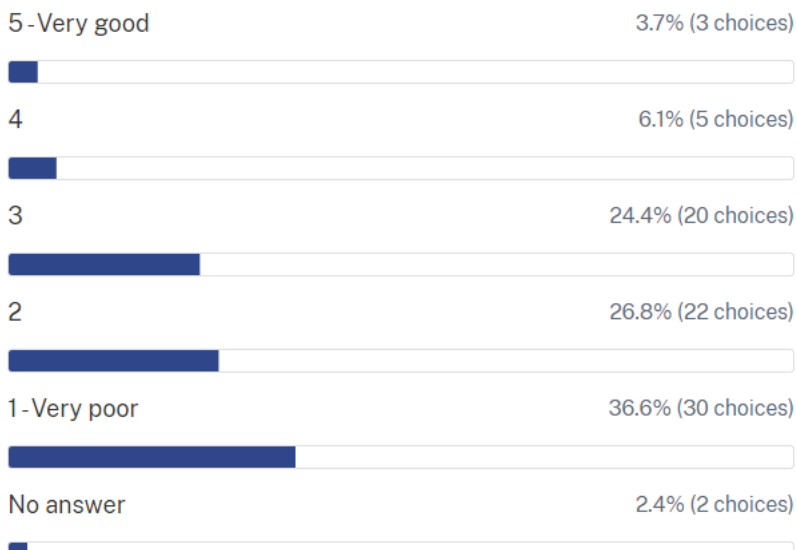


Figure 8: Respondents' ratings of play space play equipment for children aged 6 to 11

How do you rate the playground equipment for children aged 6 to 11 in your local community?

80/82 - Linear scale - optional



Appendix 2: Other Results From Parents and Carers Survey

Figure 9: Respondents' ratings of play space play equipment for young people aged 12 and over

How do you rate the playground equipment for young people aged 12 or over in your local community?

80/82 - Linear scale - optional

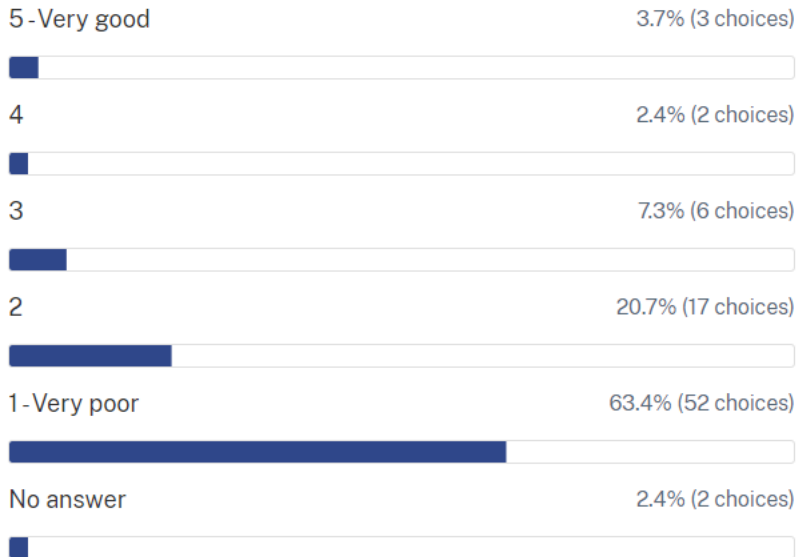
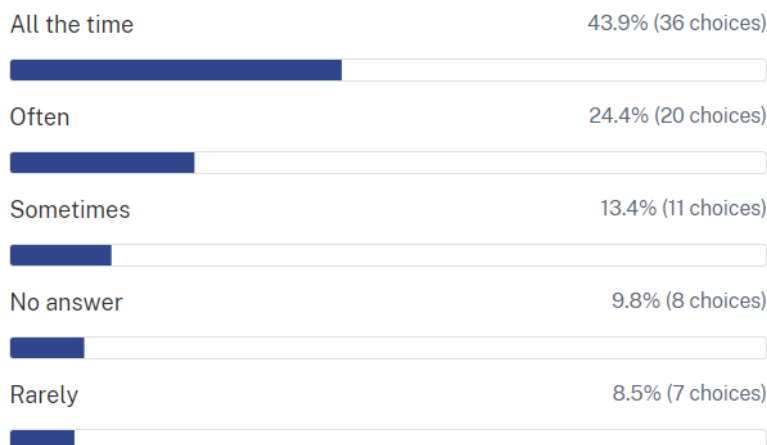


Figure 10: Respondents' ratings of difficulty for children or young people with a disability or neurodiverse condition to play on play space play equipment

Do children or young people with a disability or neurodiverse condition have difficulty playing on the playground equipment in your local community?

74/82 - Multiple choice - choose many - optional

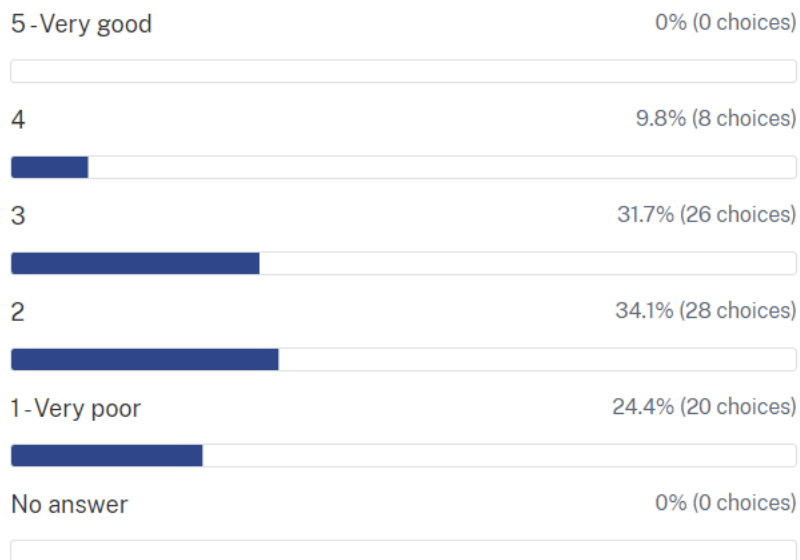


Appendix 2: Other Results From Parents and Carers Survey

Figure 11: Respondents' overall rating of local open space for children and young people to play and hang-out

Overall, how do you rate the open spaces in your local community to play and hang-out?

82/82 - Linear scale - required



Falkirk Play Sufficiency Assessment

Falkirk LDP3 Evidence Report
September 2024

FALKIRK COUNCIL

