

## Accessible Playgrounds Consultation – January 2023

Leeds City Council, Parks and Countryside Service manage 170 playgrounds on sites ranging from large, city parks like Temple Newsam, Roundhay park and Middleton Park to smaller, local community parks and recreation grounds such as Springhead, Yeadon Tarn, Cross Flatts and Horsforth Hall parks.

We are keen that all our playgrounds can be enjoyed by all children and in January 2023 sought feedback on playgrounds in Leeds and ideas to make them more accessible in future from families with special educational needs and disabilities.

### Who took part?

38 people took part in the consultation.

- 30 were from Leeds (78.9%)
- 5 were from Huddersfield (13.2%)
- 3 were from Wakefield (7.9%)

Sixteen Special Educational Needs and Disabilities were identified from the consultation. The greatest number of children included in the survey had autism spectrum disorder (ASD) (11), Cerebral Palsy (9) and Downs Syndrome (8).

### What you told us

#### Favourite playgrounds

The two favourite playgrounds to come out of the consultation were Roundhay – Lakeside (11 votes) and Temple Newsam (10 votes). Middleton Park received 2 votes and there was one vote each for 18 other sites in Leeds. One vote was for a playground in Ilkley.

#### Least favourite playgrounds

Roundhay Park was also chosen as the least favourite playground in the consultation with 5 votes. Temple Newsam, Rodley and Bramley Fall received 2 votes and a further 15 sites received one vote each.

#### Equipment and facilities would like in playgrounds

When asked 'What play equipment and/or other visitor facilities would you like to see more of in Leeds playgrounds?', the need for more accessible swings was by far the most popular request, received 24 votes. The inclusion of more SEN equipment (visual, touch and sound sensory) had 11 votes followed by roundabouts with 10 votes. Natural play provision and toilets both received 8 votes closely followed by climbing frames and slides with 7 votes.

#### Challenges and barriers to visiting Leeds parks

There was a wide range of responses to the question – 'What challenges / barriers do you / your family face when visiting parks in Leeds?' The lack of equipment for SEN needs and young children received the most votes (10) but disability awareness/understanding, a lack of suitable parking and access to the park/playground were also highlighted with 6 votes each. In terms of facilities provided, a lack of wheelchair accessible equipment, Changing Places toilets and inclusive play equipment were also identified.

### Next Steps

The information we have gathered from this survey will be used by the Parks and Countryside Service to inform the design of new play facilities to help ensure we fulfil our aim to provide 'something for everyone' across the city. The email addresses of the respondents who said they would be willing to be comment again on access in Leeds parks and green spaces will kept on file (in line with data protection) and those respondents may be consulted about proposed developments at our sites in future.