

SSA EQUALITY IMPACT AND NEEDS ANALYSIS

Directorate	Children's Services
Service Area	Policy / Place & Partnerships
Service/policy/function being assessed	Play in Wandsworth
Which borough (s) does the service/policy apply to	Wandsworth
Staff involved in developing this EINA	Katie McElligott Robert Neville
Date approved by Directorate Equality Group (if applicable)	
Date approved by Policy and Review Manager All EINAs must be signed off by the Policy and Review Manager	22/08/2024
Date submitted to Directors' Board	27/08/2024

1. Summary

Please summarise the key findings of the EINA.

Play is crucial for both children and adults in healthy development, well-being, and relationship building. Through play, children can explore their surroundings, develop problem-solving skills and enhance their creativity. Play means children can have fun, be themselves, learn, develop, and make friends. Play also strengthens the bonds between both families and communities.

In recent years, the opportunities for play have diminished. The pandemic caused children and families to lose access to spaces and opportunities for play and socialising for extended periods of time. The cost-of-living crisis has also had a major impact, with many families unable to afford travel and/or costly activities.

We want to put play at the top of everyone's agenda. We want Wandsworth to be the best place to grow up, a place where everyone values play as a life-enriching experience for all our children and young people. We want to raise awareness about its importance, working with our partners to ensure every child in the borough has access to exciting and inclusive play opportunities in their local area. We will make 2025 the year of play.

We will focus on three key areas to ensure that Wandsworth is the best place for play: People at Play, Communities at Play and Environments for Play. As part of this, we will invest in our play spaces, expand our free and low-cost play provision, and drive forward ambitious schemes such as 'baby boxes' for young and care experienced parents.

The data below shows that there is a high proportion of people in Wandsworth from Black, Asian, or Minority Ethnic backgrounds (34.1%) compared to England (25.3%), though this is lower than London (48.7%). In addition, 11.4% of residents are disabled under the Equality Act, and out of 42,292 pupils in Wandsworth schools, 4,492 are recorded as having SEN support, with 3,009 active EHCPs. In terms of deprivation, an estimated 35,526 people experience income deprivation in Wandsworth, which includes an estimated 8,544 children. Roehampton ward is the most deprived for both residents and children, as well as having the highest number of disabled residents.

In terms of health, 58.8% of children and young people are estimated to be physically active, compared to 45.7% in London and 47% in England. The data also shows that children are more likely to become overweight as they get older – 19.2% of Wandsworth children in Reception are overweight, compared to 34.8% in Year 6. For adults, 49.5% of Wandsworth residents are classified as overweight or obese, whereas 79% are estimated to be physically active.

This EINA has shown that no significant adverse impacts have been identified for individuals and groups with protected characteristics. Instead, the new play approach will strengthen play opportunities, particularly focussing on free and low-cost provision, as well as improving play spaces to include more age-specific and inclusive facilities.

2. Evidence gathering and engagement

a. What evidence has been used for this assessment? For example, national data, local data via DataRich or DataWand

Evidence	Source
Population Data	ONS, Census 2021 via DataWand
Pupil Data	Schools Census Data
SEND data	Local resident data
Births Data	Hospital Episode Statistics (HES)
Low-income data	DWP
Carers data	Adult Social Care Outcome Framework
Obesity data	Sports England; NCMP

b. Who have you engaged and consulted with as part of your assessment?

Individuals/Groups	Consultation/Engagement results	Date	What changed as a result of the consultation
Wandsworth children, young people and families via online survey.	95% respondents said they visited parks and play spaces regularly. Key themes include safety concerns and a desire for more age-specific and inclusive facilities.	Mar – Apr 24	Concerns about specific play spaces were collated and addressed by relevant teams. Key themes have been incorporated into the paper and future vision and will be considered in future investment decisions.
Wandsworth children, young people and families via focus groups – including family hubs, children's centres, local schools and Youth Council.	Similar themes as above, as well as concerns about the cost of activities and the trend of opportunities diminishing for older children.	Mar – Jul 24	As above.

3. Analysis of need

Protected group	Findings	
Age	Our new approach to play is aimed at all Wandsworth residents, though children, young people, and families will be most impacted.	
	In the ONS Census (2021), the under 19s population was 64,371, i.e. 19.7% of all residents compared to 23.7% in London and 23.1% in England. By ward, the most populated areas for this age group are Roehampton (5,187), Furzedown (4,371), and West Hill (3,899).	

	<p>DfE Data (2023) breaking down SEN Support by education settings is set out below.</p> <table><tr><th>Education Setting</th><th colspan="3">% of pupils receiving SEN support (2023 – DfE)</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>Wandsworth</th><th>London</th><th>England</th></tr><tr><td>Nursery School</td><td>21.7</td><td>20.1</td><td>17.0</td></tr><tr><td>Primary School</td><td>13.9</td><td>12.6</td><td>13.5</td></tr><tr><td>Secondary School</td><td>12.9</td><td>11.1</td><td>12.4</td></tr><tr><td>Special School</td><td>0.7</td><td>2.1</td><td>1.0</td></tr></table> <p>This data shows that Wandsworth has a higher proportion of pupils receiving SEN Support compared to London and England in each setting (excluding special schools). The largest cohort receiving SEN support is at nursery school (21.7% compared to 20.1% in London and 17% in England).</p>	Education Setting	% of pupils receiving SEN support (2023 – DfE)				Wandsworth	London	England	Nursery School	21.7	20.1	17.0	Primary School	13.9	12.6	13.5	Secondary School	12.9	11.1	12.4	Special School	0.7	2.1	1.0
Education Setting	% of pupils receiving SEN support (2023 – DfE)																								
	Wandsworth	London	England																						
Nursery School	21.7	20.1	17.0																						
Primary School	13.9	12.6	13.5																						
Secondary School	12.9	11.1	12.4																						
Special School	0.7	2.1	1.0																						
Sex	<p>The ONS Census (2021) showed that 172,253 residents were female (52.6%) and 155,253 were male (47.4%).</p> <p>For children and young people, 32,662 were male (50.7%) and 31,709 (49.3%) were female.</p>																								
Gender reassignment	<p>The ONS Census (2021) showed that 92.9% of residents identified as the same gender as their sex as registered at birth. This question was only asked of respondents over 16.</p> <table><tr><th>Gender Identity</th><th>% of population</th></tr><tr><td>Same as sex registered at birth</td><td>92.9</td></tr><tr><td>Not answered</td><td>6.5</td></tr><tr><td>Different from birth (unspecified)</td><td>0.3</td></tr><tr><td>Trans women</td><td>0.1</td></tr><tr><td>Trans man</td><td>0.1</td></tr><tr><td>All other gender identities</td><td>0.1</td></tr></table>	Gender Identity	% of population	Same as sex registered at birth	92.9	Not answered	6.5	Different from birth (unspecified)	0.3	Trans women	0.1	Trans man	0.1	All other gender identities	0.1										
Gender Identity	% of population																								
Same as sex registered at birth	92.9																								
Not answered	6.5																								
Different from birth (unspecified)	0.3																								
Trans women	0.1																								
Trans man	0.1																								
All other gender identities	0.1																								
Marriage and civil partnership	<p>The ONS Census (2021) showed that 55.8% of residents had never been married or in a civil partnership, and 33.0% were married or in a civil partnership.</p> <table><tr><th>Marital Status</th><th>% of population</th></tr><tr><td>Never married / never registered a civil partnership</td><td>55.8</td></tr><tr><td>Married or registered in a civil partnership</td><td>33.0</td></tr><tr><td>Divorced or civil partnership dissolved</td><td>6.4</td></tr><tr><td>Widowed or surviving civil partnership dissolved</td><td>3.0</td></tr><tr><td>Separated, but still legally married / in a civil partnership</td><td>1.8</td></tr></table>	Marital Status	% of population	Never married / never registered a civil partnership	55.8	Married or registered in a civil partnership	33.0	Divorced or civil partnership dissolved	6.4	Widowed or surviving civil partnership dissolved	3.0	Separated, but still legally married / in a civil partnership	1.8												
Marital Status	% of population																								
Never married / never registered a civil partnership	55.8																								
Married or registered in a civil partnership	33.0																								
Divorced or civil partnership dissolved	6.4																								
Widowed or surviving civil partnership dissolved	3.0																								
Separated, but still legally married / in a civil partnership	1.8																								

Pregnancy and maternity	<p>The ONS Census (2021) data showed that the birth rate was 44.5 per 1,000 females aged 15 to 44 years, compared to 54.3 per 1,000 females in England. This equates to roughly 4,000 live births in Wandsworth a year. This figure has been declining steadily over the past decade – in 2012, the birth rate was 59.8 in Wandsworth and 64.9 in England.</p> <p>The census data also showed that the rate of multiple births was 16.9 per 1,000. In addition, HES data shows the percentage of deliveries to mothers from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Groups in 2022/23 was 34.1% compared to 48.7% in London, and 25.3% in England.</p>																																																																			
Race/ethnicity	<p>The ONS Census (2021) data showed that 32.2% of all residents were from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic background, compared to 46.2% in London and 19% in England.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Race / Ethnicity</th><th colspan="2">Wandsworth</th><th colspan="2">London</th><th colspan="2">England</th></tr> <tr> <th>No. of residents</th><th>% of population</th><th>No. of residents</th><th>% of population</th><th>No. of residents</th><th>% of population</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Asian¹</td><td>38,314</td><td>11.7</td><td>1,817,640</td><td>20.7</td><td>5,426,392</td><td>9.6</td></tr> <tr> <td>Black²</td><td>33,062</td><td>10.1</td><td>1,188,370</td><td>13.5</td><td>2,381,724</td><td>4.2</td></tr> <tr> <td>Mixed³</td><td>20,598</td><td>6.3</td><td>505,775</td><td>5.7</td><td>1,669,378</td><td>3.0</td></tr> <tr> <td>White</td><td>222,090</td><td>67.8</td><td>4,731,172</td><td>53.8</td><td>45,783,401</td><td>81.0</td></tr> <tr> <td>Other Ethnic Group</td><td>13,442</td><td>4.1</td><td>556,768</td><td>6.3</td><td>1,229,153</td><td>2.2</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total</td><td>327,507</td><td>-</td><td>8,799,725</td><td>-</td><td>56,490,048</td><td>-</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>In particular, there is a high proportion of Black African residents (5.3% compared to 2.6% in England) and Black Caribbean residents (3.5% compared to 1.1% in England).</p> <p>The Wandsworth under 17 population is more diverse than the general borough population, with 14.3% from a Mixed ethnic background, 13.7% Black, 12.8% Asian, and 4.3% from another ethnic background.</p>						Race / Ethnicity	Wandsworth		London		England		No. of residents	% of population	No. of residents	% of population	No. of residents	% of population	Asian ¹	38,314	11.7	1,817,640	20.7	5,426,392	9.6	Black ²	33,062	10.1	1,188,370	13.5	2,381,724	4.2	Mixed ³	20,598	6.3	505,775	5.7	1,669,378	3.0	White	222,090	67.8	4,731,172	53.8	45,783,401	81.0	Other Ethnic Group	13,442	4.1	556,768	6.3	1,229,153	2.2	Total	327,507	-	8,799,725	-	56,490,048	-							
Race / Ethnicity	Wandsworth		London		England																																																															
	No. of residents	% of population	No. of residents	% of population	No. of residents	% of population																																																														
Asian ¹	38,314	11.7	1,817,640	20.7	5,426,392	9.6																																																														
Black ²	33,062	10.1	1,188,370	13.5	2,381,724	4.2																																																														
Mixed ³	20,598	6.3	505,775	5.7	1,669,378	3.0																																																														
White	222,090	67.8	4,731,172	53.8	45,783,401	81.0																																																														
Other Ethnic Group	13,442	4.1	556,768	6.3	1,229,153	2.2																																																														
Total	327,507	-	8,799,725	-	56,490,048	-																																																														
Religion and belief, including non belief	<p>42.6% of Wandsworth residents are Christian, while 36.2% identify as having no religion and 9.9% of residents are Muslim (ONS Census Data, 2021)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Religion</th><th colspan="2">Wandsworth</th><th colspan="2">London</th><th colspan="2">England</th></tr> <tr> <th>No. of residents</th><th>% of population</th><th>No. of residents</th><th>% of population</th><th>No. of residents</th><th>% of population</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Christian</td><td>139,656</td><td>42.6</td><td>3,577,681</td><td>40.7</td><td>26,167,899</td><td>46.3</td></tr> <tr> <td>Buddhist</td><td>2,275</td><td>0.7</td><td>77,425</td><td>0.9</td><td>262,433</td><td>0.5</td></tr> <tr> <td>Hindu</td><td>6,419</td><td>2.0</td><td>453,034</td><td>5.1</td><td>1,020,533</td><td>1.8</td></tr> <tr> <td>Jewish</td><td>1,756</td><td>0.5</td><td>145,466</td><td>1.7</td><td>269,283</td><td>0.5</td></tr> <tr> <td>Muslim</td><td>32,519</td><td>9.9</td><td>1,318,754</td><td>15.0</td><td>3,801,186</td><td>6.7</td></tr> <tr> <td>Sikh</td><td>967</td><td>0.3</td><td>144,543</td><td>1.6</td><td>520,092</td><td>0.9</td></tr> <tr> <td>Other religion</td><td>1,871</td><td>0.6</td><td>86,759</td><td>1.0</td><td>332,410</td><td>0.6</td></tr> </tbody> </table>						Religion	Wandsworth		London		England		No. of residents	% of population	No. of residents	% of population	No. of residents	% of population	Christian	139,656	42.6	3,577,681	40.7	26,167,899	46.3	Buddhist	2,275	0.7	77,425	0.9	262,433	0.5	Hindu	6,419	2.0	453,034	5.1	1,020,533	1.8	Jewish	1,756	0.5	145,466	1.7	269,283	0.5	Muslim	32,519	9.9	1,318,754	15.0	3,801,186	6.7	Sikh	967	0.3	144,543	1.6	520,092	0.9	Other religion	1,871	0.6	86,759	1.0	332,410	0.6
Religion	Wandsworth		London		England																																																															
	No. of residents	% of population	No. of residents	% of population	No. of residents	% of population																																																														
Christian	139,656	42.6	3,577,681	40.7	26,167,899	46.3																																																														
Buddhist	2,275	0.7	77,425	0.9	262,433	0.5																																																														
Hindu	6,419	2.0	453,034	5.1	1,020,533	1.8																																																														
Jewish	1,756	0.5	145,466	1.7	269,283	0.5																																																														
Muslim	32,519	9.9	1,318,754	15.0	3,801,186	6.7																																																														
Sikh	967	0.3	144,543	1.6	520,092	0.9																																																														
Other religion	1,871	0.6	86,759	1.0	332,410	0.6																																																														

¹ Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh

² Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African

³ Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups

Sexual orientation	The ONS Census (2021) data shows that 86.5% of Wandsworth residents identified as Straight or Heterosexual, and 5.2% identified as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Other. This question was only asked of respondents over 16.												
Socio-economic status (to be treated as a protected characteristic under Section 1 of the Equality Act 2010) Include the following groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deprivation (measured by the 2019 English Indices of Deprivation)• Low-income groups & employment• Carers• Care experienced people• Single parents• Health inequalities• Refugee status	<p><u>Deprivation</u></p> <p>On the ONS’s deprivation measures, Wandsworth is the 3rd least deprived borough in London.</p> <p>Using the 2019 Indices of Deprivation and the ONS Census 2021 data, an estimated 35,526 people experience income deprivation across Wandsworth. The most income-deprived wards are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roehampton (estimated 3,567 residents living in deprivation)• Battersea Park (estimated 2,639 residents living in deprivation)• Furzedown (estimated 2,428 residents living in deprivation). <p>An estimated 8,544 children are living in deprivation, with the most deprived wards for children being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roehampton (estimated 1,131 children living in deprivation)• Battersea Park (estimated 648 children living in deprivation)• Falconbrook (estimated 643 children living in deprivation) <p><u>Low-income Groups & Employment</u></p> <p>DWP data (2021/22) shows us that the percentages of children under 16 living in families with Absolute or Relative Low Income in Wandsworth are both below London and England figures:</p> <table><tr><th></th><th>Wandsworth</th><th>London</th><th>England</th></tr><tr><td>% of children Living in families with Absolute Low Income</td><td>8.5%</td><td>12.0%</td><td>14.7%</td></tr><tr><td>% of children Living in families with Relative Low Income</td><td>10.7%</td><td>15.0%</td><td>19.2%</td></tr></table> <p>In December 2023, 83.9% Wandsworth residents were employed compared to 74.6% in London and 76% in England. Data shows that in July 2024, 3.9% of Wandsworth residents were claiming out-of-work benefits compared to 5.9% in London and 4.3% in England.</p> <p><u>Carers</u></p> <p>An estimated 5.8% of Wandsworth residents are unpaid carers. The Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF) showed that in 2021/22, only 32.1% of adult carers felt they had as much social contact as they would like.</p> <p>Only 0.1% of the Wandsworth school population are known to be young carers, compared to 0.3% in London and 0.6% nationally.</p>		Wandsworth	London	England	% of children Living in families with Absolute Low Income	8.5%	12.0%	14.7%	% of children Living in families with Relative Low Income	10.7%	15.0%	19.2%
	Wandsworth	London	England										
% of children Living in families with Absolute Low Income	8.5%	12.0%	14.7%										
% of children Living in families with Relative Low Income	10.7%	15.0%	19.2%										

	<p><u>Care Experienced People</u></p> <p>We currently have 233 children looked after, which is a slight increase from March 2024, when 218 were looked after, but the figure has still been generally decreasing over the past 8 years. The cohort is generally older, with 74% aged between 10 and 17, and 54% teenagers. In terms of ethnicity, 31% are from a Mixed Ethnic background, 30% are from a Black / Black British background, and 25% from a White / White British background.</p> <p>We have 328 people who have left care, 71% of which are aged between 18 and 21. 42% are from a Black / Black British background, and 25% are from a White / White British background.</p> <p><u>Single Parents</u></p> <p>6% of households in Wandsworth are lone parent households with dependent children, however this is lower than regional and national averages.</p> <p><u>Health Inequalities</u></p> <p>From Census 2021 data, the percentage of children not in good health is 2.2%, compared to 2.8% at a national level. This is broken down by cluster as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Battersea – 2.4% • Roehampton – 2.2% • Tooting – 2.1% <p>In 2022/23, Sports England reported that 58.8% of children and young people in Wandsworth are estimated to be physically active, compared to 45.7% in London and 47% in England. In this case, physically active means at least 60 minutes of moderate-vigorous intensity activity per day across the week.</p> <p>NCMP data from 2022/23 shows that 19.2% of Wandsworth children in Reception are overweight, compared to 20% in London and 21.3% in England. This rises to 34.8% in Year 6 for Wandsworth children, compared to 38.8% in London and 36.6% in England.</p> <p>For adults, Sports England data in 2022/23 shows that 49.5% Wandsworth residents are classified as overweight or obese, compared to 57.2% in London and 64% in England. 79% of Wandsworth adults are estimated to be physically active.</p> <p><u>Refugee Status</u></p> <p>In March 2023, 11% of the looked after children population are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (26 individuals) and the majority of looked after children are 10+ years (69%) which is linked to a particularly high level of need for this age group (Department for Education, 2023).</p>
<p>Across groups i.e older LGBT service users or Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic young men.</p>	<p>Where possible, we have included data across groups above.</p>

4. Impact

Protected group	Positive	Negative
Age	The new play approach aims to positively impact on all Wandsworth residents, specifically expanding play provision for children and young people. A strong theme from consultation was the desire from parents and young people for more age-specific facilities, as well as supervised group sessions for older young people. We plan to address this through investment into our play spaces and expansion of our play provision.	There may be a risk that any changes arising from the new plans for play are perceived as negative during implementation. There may also be a risk that any lengthy timescales associated with improvements to play spaces are perceived as inaction. This will be addressed through careful stakeholder engagement.
Disability	The new play approach aims to positively impact on all Wandsworth residents, specifically expanding play provision for children and young people. A strong theme from consultation was the desire from parents and young people for more inclusive facilities. We plan to address this through investment into our play spaces and expansion of our play provision, in addition to the investment already approved for Lady Allen. We are also closely aligning our work with the current Short Breaks Review and development of the new SEND Strategy.	Some play provision may not be accessible for all – however, our inclusive play provision will be expanded from the current provision, with a special focus on accessibility based on feedback in the consultation.
Sex	<p>The new play approach aims to positively impact on all Wandsworth residents, specifically expanding play provision for children and young people. A strong theme from consultation was concern around safety, particularly for young and teen girls. We are working with the Community Safety team to see how this can be addressed.</p> <p>We will also be supporting parents to play at home and access more play opportunities across the borough. This will likely impact more women as they are more likely to have caring responsibilities.</p>	As above.
Gender reassignment	No specific impact identified.	As above.
Marriage and civil partnership	No specific impact identified.	As above.
Pregnancy and maternity	A strong part of our play offer is our newly launched 'baby boxes' which offer much needed essentials, including toys, to expecting	As above.

	young and care experienced parents. We will also guide them through Early Years via our Family Hub Connectors, introducing them to new baby / parent sessions at our hubs.	
Race/ethnicity	The new play approach aims to positively impact on all Wandsworth residents, specifically expanding play provision for children and young people, regardless of race or ethnicity.	As above.
Religion and belief, including non belief	The new play approach aims to positively impact on all Wandsworth residents, specifically expanding play provision for children and young people, regardless of religion or belief.	As above.
Sexual orientation	No specific impact identified.	As above.
Socio-economic status (to be treated as a protected characteristic under Section 1 of the Equality Act 2010) Include the following groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deprivation (measured by the 2019 English Indices of Deprivation) • Low-income groups & employment • Carers • Care experienced people • Single parents • Health inequalities • Refugee status 	<p>The new play approach aims to positively impact on all Wandsworth residents, specifically expanding <i>free and low-cost</i> play provision for children and young people, as part of our commitment to ‘access for all’.</p> <p>For our disadvantaged and/or care experienced young people, a strong part of our offer is our newly launched baby boxes, which contain much-needed essentials, as well as toys and books. Our Family Hub Connectors will also guide them through early years, connecting them with sessions such as ‘Future Tots’ (a stay and play session) and other key areas of support.</p> <p>Our new approach to play will also champion physical play, closely aligned to the new leisure strategy, which will contribute to improving health inequalities. It will also promote social interaction, which will help reduce isolation and loneliness, as well as contribute to healthy child development and mental health.</p>	Deprivation may mean that some families will not be able to access provision due to transport / location or cost. Our aim is to expand free and low-cost provision across the borough, in addition to existing schemes such as the free sports, swim and gym offer, the 250 free tickets for Tooting Lido released to eligible families during Lido season, our wider HAF programme, and our free, dedicated play events for local families.

5. Actions to advance equality, diversity and inclusion

Action	Lead Officer	Deadline
Further consultation will be carried out as and when appropriate, particularly when significant changes are made to play spaces.	TBC depending on project, overseen by Children’s Strategy & Policy team.	As needed.