

POST TITLE	PLAY & OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN
DIRECTORATE	PLACE/ NEIGHBOURHOOD ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
SERVICE	PARKS, OPEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT AND VISITOR SERVICES
RESPONSIBLE TO	PLAY AND OPEN SPACE INFRASTRUCTURE TEAM LEADER
NUMBER OF POST HOLDERS	6
ACTING UP/ SECONDMENT	NO

PURPOSE OF JOB

Reporting to the Play and Openspace Infrastructure Team Leader, the post holder will be part of a small, specialist team that provides the inspection and maintenance service for play and outdoor equipment, which includes equipment associated with outdoor leisure spaces such as outdoor gym equipment and park benches.

THE WHAT

- To carry out a full maintenance and repair service for the Council's play and outdoor equipment, in accordance with appropriate guidance such as ROSPA Play Safety.
- Carry out planned inspections of play areas and other equipment in accordance with industry standards and manufacturer's recommendations, recording the outcomes of inspections and repairs and bringing any non-routine issues to the attention of the Senior Play &Outdoor Equipment Technician.
- Carry out emergency inspections of damaged and unsafe playground equipment and make the facility safe and secure until parts can be provided for the repair of the equipment, furniture fencing and safer surfacing.
- Carry out minor defect rectification to equipment, fencing, furniture and safer surfacing.
- Install small items of play equipment, furniture in accordance with site plans and manufacturer's installation details, making safe any major defects and reporting for appropriate action.
- Duties will include the safe use of a range of associated hand tools and powered equipment.
- Routine maintenance and cleaning of equipment, including daily checks and timely reporting of faults.
- Operatives will be required to demonstrate a strong customer focus whilst undertaking their duties, and to report matters affecting the appearance of the built environment to supervisory staff in a proactive manner.
- Proactively identify and suggest changes to improve service delivery and represent and promote the interests of the Council.

THE HOW

- NVQ Level 3, Advanced Award in Playground Operation, Inspection & Maintenance or relevant experience.
- This will be a lone operation where the individual is assigned a list of sites to attend and inspect and carry out necessary repairs on a daily basis. The individual will be presented with a list of tasks issued by the Play and Openspace Infrastructure Team Leader but the individual will decide on the approach of the tasks unless specified.
- Some work will be reactive for example if resident reports a major safety concern with equipment therefore daily planning of tasks will be subject to change.

- Ability to use complex plant or equipment.
- Trained in the use of a number of handheld powertools.
- Full clean UK driving licence to cover use of LGV/ HGV vehicles.
- Good communication skills (written and oral).
- Ability to use initiative when working unsupervised or in a team.
- Register of Play Inspectors International – quarterly inspection certificate.
- Experience of modern IT technology and use of asset management system for example, Confirm.

Supervision

The postholder may supervise apprentices when working as part of a team.

ENVIRONMENT

- Deadline orientated, as the work is a blend of reactive and planned work and the postholder must be able to manage both.
- Role is predominantly mobile and predominantly outdoors in all weather, traveling to various locations across the city on a daily basis for site visits and inspections. The percentage of office time will be minimal (10%).
- Exposure to noise from machinery will be a feature of the work for a minimum of 30% of the day. There will also be exposure to vibration from the use of power-tools for a minimum of 30% of the day. At the same time, there will be exposure to dust and debris from power-tools, as a by-product of the work they do (30%)
- The post will feature intense physical activity, such as loading and unloading tools and machinery to and from transport vehicles; handling heavy items such as gratings, gates and railings; operating and moving the equipment needed to carry out repairs; as well as the physical demands of carrying out repairs and maintenance. Again, this would amount to at least 30% of the day.
- Given the nature of the job, at least 80% of the working day will be in difficult surroundings, effecting repairs outdoors in all weather, and will involve having to get into awkward positions in order to get the repairs done.
- The post will require the postholder to take care in relation to the working environment, in terms of them working outdoors in public with heavy equipment and power-tools. In addition, they will be dealing with the general public who may be quite challenging, given this role will be making changes to public spaces which members of the public may be unhappy about.

RESOURCES

The postholder will be jointly responsible for the vehicles used to get to sites and the equipment contained in the vehicle including an inventory of spare parts, hand tools and machinery. This will be in the region of £45k in terms of overall value.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Protecting the health and safety and welfare of our employees, and our third parties including members of the public, contractors, service users and pupils, is the starting point for a forward-thinking Council.

All employees are responsible for:

- Taking care of their own health and safety and welfare, and that of others who may be affected by their actions or omissions;
- Co-operating with management and following instructions, safe systems and procedures;
- Reporting any hazards, damage or defects immediately to their line manager; and
- Reporting any personal injury and work related ill health, and accident or incident (including 'near misses') immediately to their line manager, and assist with any subsequent investigation, including co-operating fully with the provision of witness statements and any other evidence that may be required.

Line managers have additional responsibilities for ensuring all health and safety risks under their management are identified, assessed and controlled, with specialist input from H&S Advisers and others including Occupational Health where required. Where the risks cannot be adequately controlled the activity should not proceed.

Additional information can be found in the [Council Health and Safety Policy](#).