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| 0Subject of risk assessment: | Beach, shoreline or waters edge venues |
| Brief description of activity, location, feature, activity and equipment used. | Any activity (play, learning, training and meeting) that LTL staff undertake with children or adults that uses a beach, shoreline or waters edge at the sea, lake, lochs, rivers, streams, swales and deep puddles. |
| Type of assessment(if play design process) | Designer [ ]  | Provider [ ]  | Post Installation Monitoring [ ]  |
| Job title and name of person making assessment | Matt Robinson  | Signature of person making assessment |  |
| Date of Assessment | 12 December 2023 | Review Date | 1st January 2025 |
| Name of senior manager: | Carley Sefton  | Signature of senior manager: |  |
| **Risk Management Statement**LTL recognises that all risks cannot be reduced to nil, therefore this risk assessment prioritises the significant risks. Significant risks are those which pose risk of serious injury, chronic injury, disability or death, or risks that are overly common in interrupting our staff and clients normal work. For all activities, LTL staff will dynamically assess risks and put in place control measures and record as required, but always within agreed and recorded RBAs.Concerns, changes in risk management practice or minor injuries that are seen by LTL staff to be significant should be reported to the LTL manager who has signed off this RBA. The correct LTL Incident Report form should be used.**This RBA should be read in conjunction with LTL’s Health and Safety Policy, other relevant LTL Risk Benefit Assessments and LTL Play Policy (as appropriate).** |

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| Activity or feature: | The **activity** being undertaken is outlined in the relevant specific LTL Risk Benefit Assessment that will work in conjunction with this beach, shoreline and waters edge Risk Benefit Assessment.Typical activities include:Free play, with children allowed to play around the edges of the water, but not deliberately entering the water, other than shallow puddles and streams (under 20cm depth) with direct supervision of LTL Staff and responsible adults.Training and learning opportunities, where children and adults may be undertaking field study, science, numeracy and literacy activities, creating art work and general studying.Travelling (walking, running, cycling, scootering) through an area or on a beach. |
| How will participants benefit? | Relaxation, physical, mental and social wellbeing improvements.Physical exercise and engaging with learning about physical risk taking and physical capabilities.Learning about natural environments and appreciation of them.Using natural environment to stimulate creativity, problem solving and general learning.Using local or different environments to support learning. |
| Who will be at risk? | LTL StaffChildren and adult participants.Members of the public. |
| Any local factors that may affect risks or controls: | Local authority or school guidelines. Tide times should be checked, and some local knowledge around tides, mud or similar risks sought.Consideration should be given to seeking landowner permission, especially with a large group or for activities such as fire lighting or den building. |
| Possible hazards and risks: | One of our main concerns is drowning, even in shallow water, if paddling or entering the water.Getting cut off by tide or rising flood waters is possible, especially around large bodies of water or in inclement weather.Ground in and around water is often very slippery, and can be varied in terms of friction/grip. In addition the ground may pose extra hazards due to sharp rocks, or spiky ground topography. Wet persons (children and adult) are more susceptible to cold injury (hypothermia).Reflection of the sun from the water will increase exposure to sun and the risk of sunburn.Becoming lost, running away, isolated or being abducted, leading to harm or fear. Members of public behaving inappropriately – aggression or fear-inducing.Many aquatic and marine animals can bite or sting. In UK waters this includes Weaverfish, and local knowledge of the risk should be sought.Dogs are common on beaches and near water, and can attack and bite.Dangerous rubbish can be found in large quantities, and/or is well hidden, such as glass, needles, faeces and sharp objects.Zoonosis – Weil’s disease |
| Precautions and control measures to reduce the risk severity or likelihood: | Swimming is not allowed.Paddling is allowed; however we shall take great care and caution when entering water that is moving (waves, tide, current and flow) or water that is over 20cm in depth, or further out than 10m from dry land. Children will be supervised closely by LTL staff or responsible adults at all times near water of more than a puddle, including sea, streams, rivers, lakes and lochs. Great care will be exercised where there is fast flowing, deep water (such a river, river in flood, storm drains and estuaries) and likelihood of staff or participant falling in. LTL Staff will be aware of preceding, current and predicted weather forecasts involving significant rainfall, and make judgements about how that will affect the venue. LTL staff will be aware of the state of the tide and predicted tide patterns at coastal venues.LTL Staff will judge the competence of individuals and groups when moving on or standing on slippery, loose or difficult terrain. Where necessary a group may need close supervision until their abilities and judgements improve.Precautions such as sun cream, extra clothing and shelter will be thought about and provided where needed, to prevent cold and heat injuries.Care will be taken, and groups involved in taking care, when looking at and picking up aquatic or marine flora and fauna.Care will be taken, and groups involved in taking care, when looking at and picking up rubbish or natural materials for activities or play. The area may be inspected prior to an event if LTL staff have concerns due to amount and type of materials or the age group and competency of a group.LTL staff will ensure controls are in place, suitable to group and venue, to allow gathering and checking of group numbers. Awareness of contact between children and public will be maintained, and LTL Staff or responsible adults intervening if required.All LTL staff delivering training courses will hold a relevant emergency first aid qualification, appropriate to the training being led, carry a first aid kit and identify access in an emergency. |
| Precedents or comparisons: | A visit to the beach, lake or loch is a common occurrence, for schools and in life. Many paths and buildings are located near or overlooking water, as it is an attractive place to spend time. There are many waterborne recreational activities.There are many resources that can be used to inform judgements and decisions from staff such as Beach School and Field Study Centre guides. |
| Judgement: | Overall, beaches, shorelines and waters edge pose no significant risks above any natural space.Contact with and being in water does bring more risks, and therefore an increased level of LTL staff awareness and interaction will happen, with staff restricting activities in line with the hazard posed. |