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| Subject of risk assessment: | Gardening, conservation and tree planting | | | | |
| Brief description of activity, location, feature, activity and equipment used. | Adult facilitated tree or shrub planting sessions in school grounds or local green spaces.  Adult facilitated gardening sessions.  Adult facilitated conservation activities such as weed or shrub clearance.  For more advanced tool use, please see specific RBA. | | | | |
| 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 assesses 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.  **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: | Digging in soil, moving soil, replacing soil, with spades and trowels.  Using wheelbarrows or carts to move soil.  Raking and hoeing soil and weeds.  Cutting weeds, plants, grass with hand tools (not powered).  Cutting wood and twigs using hand tools (not powered).  Planting seeds. Harvesting ripe fruit and vegetables.  Hammering in stakes and uprights such as canes.  Watering plants and feeding with natural materials. |
| How will participants benefit? | Physical activity.  Collaborative activity, learning to work together.  Social interaction between children and between adults and children.  Knowledge about nature, seasons, plant care and understanding of natural cycles such as water, nitrogen, hydrogen etc.  Attachment to nature, including understanding food production and environmental issues.  Feeling of emotional and physical wellbeing.  Learning to experience and manage risks within real contexts. |
| Who will be at risk? | LTL Staff  Participants (adult and children)  Members of public and subcontractors involved. |
| Any local factors that may affect risks or controls: | Group competence, local school or authority rules. |
| Possible hazards and risks: | Injuries from tool use, including bruising through being hit accidentally.  Cuts from blades or sharp edge of spades etc  Cuts, incisions, penetrations and minor amputations from using scissor tools such as loppers and secateurs.  Slips, trips and falls leading to significant injury.  Lifting heavy weights / awkward objects such as trees, and wheelbarrows.  Cold and hot weather injuries, including sunburn and hypothermia.  Ingestion of dirt, spores or faecal matter through poor hygiene, leading to infection or upset.  Ingestion of inedible seeds or fruit, leading to indigestion or upset. |
| Precautions and control measures to reduce the risk severity or likelihood: | Good group briefing and control to ensure calm use of tools.  Use of gloves where required, to reduce contact with plant sap, stings or abrasions when weeding or lifting.  Awareness and briefing of dangers of certain tools – not reaching in holes being dug; keeping fingers away from scissor tools; care when swinging tools such as hammers or spades, ball of foot on spades (not sole) etc.  Good clothing, suitable to the weather.  Tools kept neat and not lying around to be trodden on or tripped over.  Provision of hand washing facilities and no food eaten before hands are all cleaned. All tools washed as well, to prevent spread of disease and rust.  All LTL staff leading sessions will hold a relevant emergency first aid qualification, appropriate to the training being led, and carry a first aid kit. |
| Precedents or comparisons: | Growing food and planting trees or plants is part of human life.  LTL and many other others have planted trees, shrubs and gardens with all ages of children for many years.  The Curriculum for Excellence in Scotland and the National Curriculum in England both require understanding and experience of planting and growing edible plants.  Many organisations, such as John Muir Trust, encourage conservation of natural places, and work with children and adolescents to do this regularly. |
| Judgement: | Overall, planting and growing plants, shrubs and trees is a satisfying activity that engages children and young people with nature.  The risks, during a well managed session, are usually of low consequence, and the few higher consequence hazards can be managed through good hygiene afterwards should any concerns be raised during the session. |