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| Subject of risk assessment: | Working with vulnerable or challenging adult and youth groups in practical outdoor situations |
| Brief description of activity, location, feature, activity and equipment used. | Working with vulnerable groups, who may show extreme behaviours, to:* Plant trees or general gardening tasks
* Basic construction using wood or stone; hand tools and some small power tools (drills)
* Lighting, managing and cooking on small fires
* Eating outdoors

This Risk Assessment should be read in addition to any Generic or Specific LtL Risk Assessments. |
| 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 RBA’s.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 Assessment’s and LtL Play Policy (as appropriate).** |

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| Activity or feature: | General gardening – digging, clearing plants and trees, adding compost, planting shrubs, trees and plants.Small scale work such as wooden garden edges, small raised beds, wooden posts and signs installing.Use of power drills, handsaws, spades, forks, pick-axes, trowels etc. |
| How will participants benefit? | Social time with each otherDe-stressing impact of nature and fresh airA focus on simple, pleasurable work tasks can distract from worries.Fresh air and moderate physical exercise is excellent for health.Improved sleeping and eating through exercise and fresh air.Improved immune system and prevention of illness through contact with ‘positive’ bacteria and stronger body.Investing in local greenspace protects increase participants feeling of pride and ownership. |
| Who will be at risk? | Participants, LtL staff and Partner staff, public |
| Possible hazards and risks: | Additional to our usual Gardening and Tree Planting Risk AssessmentsPoor fitness, hunger and/or tiredness leading to irritation or frustration in group members, that can express as violent outbursts. Poor behaviour and self-regulation, leading to disagreements, arguments and violent outbursts leading to harm or upset of staff, participants or public.Risk of flight or hiding from children or vulnerable persons, particularly on an open or less than secure site.Poor quality, damaged or inappropriate sized tools supplied by partners, or damaged by staff or participants leading to injury..Over confidence or over enthusiasm about abilities or Project timescale pressure leads to groups taking part in activities with increased likelihood of harm. |

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| Local factors that may affect control measures or level of risk: | Partner staff (quality and availability) in attendance, and ongoing as needed. Lack of Partner staff or teachers in attendance, who can help manage group and individual behaviour. This can lead to a lack of understanding to support individuals, if they feel stressedParticipants moods and external community influences, including family.Activities happening that are not under LtL supervision or LtL planning (e.g participants starting their own fire or BBQ), combined with unsafe behaviour or lack of group management, leading to injuries or argumentsDrug or alcohol abuse in participants.Unknown issues in personal life.Unknown or undiagnosed global development issues or undiagnosed mental health issues.Local alcohol, drug use or anti social behaviour can lead to the site being littered with bottles, needles, sharp objects etc. |
| Precautions and control measures to reduce the risk severity or likelihood: | Clarity and agreement reached on expectations of partner staff, both at outset of project and during each session.Empathy and understanding of the influences and individual circumstances – allowances made to activity and timing as needed. Build working relationships with individuals.Awareness of process and reaction around disclosure of information, behaviour influences and unusual reactions. Staff to be cautious around activities they use.LtL Manager to support any changes to programme or activity, as deemed needed by LtL staff, due to group behaviours. LtL staff to feel they can change to ‘plan B’ easily.Venue appraisal when a site is selected, repeated as a daily check on arrival.Staff aware of procedures and approach to be taken should a child or person abscond or hide. |
| Precedents or comparisons: | LtL has led many projects with vulnerable groups – including the recent YMCA Foyer project ‘Fruitful communities’.Many similar projects working with vulnerable adults, led by RHS, Forestry Commission etc. |
| Judgement: | These individuals stand to gain much from our work outdoors, in groups, in nature. It is therefore important we work with them.LtL staff must feel supported and empowered through training and collegiate work to lead these sessions.With appropriate LtL staff and partners, this work is appropriate to undertake. |