

## Jinder Ubhi

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**From:** Rhian Williams  
**Sent:** 05 January 2018 15:00  
**To:** Londonplan  
**Subject:** FW: FW: London Parks Supporting Learning and Development AND Health and Well-being - A response please  
**Attachments:** Evidence Green Infra Learning\_HD050118.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

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**From:** Susan Crisp  
**Sent:** 05 January 2018 14:26  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: FW: London Parks Supporting Learning and Development AND Health and Well-being - A response please

Dear Cassie and Rhian  
Please see below which refers to Environment Strategy and London Plan. Could you kindly log this within your respective consultation responses.

Susan

**From:** Hugh Dames [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 05 January 2018 12:32  
**To:** Susan Crisp [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: FW: London Parks Supporting Learning and Development AND Health and Well-being - A response please

Hi Susan

Thank you for your response. I have had a chance to focus the proposed amendment (below) and supporting evidence (draft attached) and I would be grateful if this could be forwarded to the Environment Team and others best placed to consider. Thank you. Hugh

Hello..

I am contacting to ask your organisation to endorse a response I will be submitting to the New Draft Plan for London.

Chapter 8, Para 1.1 of the Draft Plan currently reads as follows:

*"[T]he network of green spaces, street trees, green roofs and other major assets such as natural or semi-natural drainage features must be planned, designed and managed in a more integrated way to meet multiple objectives including: promoting mental and physical health and wellbeing; adapting to the impacts of climate change; improving air and water quality; encouraging walking and cycling; and conserving and enhancing biodiversity and ecological resilience alongside more traditional functions of green space such as play, sport and recreation."*

(<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan/new-london-plan/draft-new-london-plan/london-plan/chapter-8-green-infrastructure-and-natural-environment>)

I will be asking for the inclusion of "learning and development" with the other green infrastructure objectives listed, so that the capital's green infrastructure should be planned, designed and managed in a more integrated way to support learning and development in children and adults.

I hope that you will agree with my proposed amendment, as have Parks for London. Attached is evidence that I will be including in the response, as well as a link to a Facebook page containing examples relevant to the importance of parks to learning and development <https://www.facebook.com/ParksforLearning>

My interest in this is that I lead an adventure learning programme at Crystal Palace Park for an Adventure Learning Charity called Wide Horizons that supports all areas of the KS1 and 2 Curriculum. I also run Forest Schools in other parks and other green spaces in SE London.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to discuss this further.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks

Hugh Dames



On 4 January 2018 at 15:27, Susan Crisp <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Hugh,

Thank you for your email sent to Deputy Mayor Joanne McCartney just before Christmas I have been asked to reply on her behalf.

The Mayor has a number of strategies which relate to health and well being and the environment.

Consultation is [currently open on the new London Plan](#) and within that the social infrastructure policy identifies that there is opportunity for schools outdoor and sports space which could be shared use, Policy S3. Similarly the play and informal recreation policy identifies that how children move around and have opportunities for play is wider than formal play areas, Policy S4. If you have not already done so please comment on the draft London Plan (your comments as below) [using the online response](#).

As you will be aware the Environment Strategy was recently open for consultation and the replies are currently being considered. I will forward your comments onto the Environment Team. The draft Environment Strategy sets out the Mayor's commitment to the green environment and recognises that this is important for quality of life and health and well-being. The importance of green space for mental health and active lifestyles was also recognised in the draft Health Inequality Strategy which was consulted on as well in 2017. Ideally we want to bring together the Mayor's strategies to be mutually reinforcing as we move to delivery.

The Mayor seeks ongoing engagement with Londoners and one way to do this is through [the Talk London online forum](#).

Best wishes

**Susan Crisp**  
School Strategy Delivery Manager

Education and Youth Team

[REDACTED]

Web: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/education-and-youth>

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**From:** Hugh Dames [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 19 December 2017 12:03  
**To:** Joanne McCartney <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** London Parks Supporting Learning and Development AND Health and Well-being

Dear Ms Mc Cartney

I would be very grateful for any advice and assistance you can provide that might help ensure that the green infrastructure and natural environment strategies within the GLA's New Plan for London support "Learning and Development" alongside the existing vision that these assets support "Health and Well-being".

I believe Chapter 8 (Green Infrastructure and Natural Environment) of the plan should be amended to say the Capital's green infrastructure and natural environment should support "Learning and Development and Health and Well-being" whenever it presently mentions just health and well-being.

The logic is that whenever families and schools are using these assets to support child learning and development (forest school, school curriculum linked adventure learning and outdoor learning, nature play etc) these assets are also supporting the health and well being of the children, parents and school staff taking part in these activities (see attached). If nothing else it suggests opportunities for joint commissioning between education and health.

Given the existing references of these assets supporting schools and families throughout the draft plan, it almost seems an oversight that "Learning and Development was not mentioned. Ditto the Draft Environment Strategy.

Do you think this is something you can assist with? Should I forward further info / evidence? Might it also still be possible to amend the environment strategy to also include "learning and development" on basis that it was an oversight not to include?

Thank you for your consideration

All the best

Hugh Dames  


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# **Evidence Supporting London's Green Infrastructure Being Planned, Designed and Managed to Support Learning and Development in Children and Adults (Working Draft 05/01/2018) Hugh Dames**

## **The Benefits to Child learning and Development**

The largest project of its kind in England, The Natural Connections Demonstration project, funded by Natural England, Defra and [Historic England](#) and delivered by [Plymouth University](#), worked with 125 schools over the last four years to help school children – particularly those from disadvantaged areas – experience the benefits of the natural environment by empowering teachers to use the outdoors to support everyday learning. Natural connections reported the following findings in Sept 2017

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6636651036540928>

- 95 per cent of children surveyed said outdoor learning makes lessons more enjoyable
- 90 per cent said they felt happier and healthier
- 72 per cent of children said they got on better with others
- 93 per cent of schools said outdoor learning improves pupils' social skills
- 92 per cent of schools said it improves pupils' health and wellbeing and engages them with learning
- 85 per cent of schools saw a positive impact on behaviour
- 90 per cent of staff surveyed found outdoor learning to be useful for curriculum delivery
- 72 per cent of schools reported that outdoor learning had a positive impact on teachers' health and wellbeing
- 79 per cent of teachers surveyed said outdoor learning had a positive impact on their teaching practice and 69 per cent said it had a positive impact on their professional development
- 72 per cent said outdoor learning improved their health and wellbeing and 69 per cent said it had a positive impact on their job satisfaction

**The benefits to helping London adapt to the impacts of climate change; improving air and water quality; encouraging walking and cycling; and conserving and enhancing biodiversity and ecological resilience**

*The only way we are going to be able to sustain our environment is to have people who care about our environment and love it and the only way we are going to get people to love and care about our environment is by*

*getting children outdoors.* Rory Stewart, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Environment and Rural Affairs



Eurilla Forest School – Mayow Park, South London

### The Capacity to Deliver

- Ability to harness the national curriculum: There are 692 primary and secondary Schools in London and as evidenced in e.g. the Government funded Natural Connections Project involving 125 primary and secondary schools and Wide Horizon’s Crystal Park Adventure Learning Project involving 20 primary schools, local green spaces are already being harnessed to support the entire curriculum

Working Draft



Wide Horizon’s - Adventure Learning at Crystal Palace Park  
Year 6 pupils became Victorian Railway Engineers and identified the best routes offering optimal gradient for their fully loaded trains to traverse across hilly terrain to reach the final destinations using the least amount of track (and least cost). The session supported KS2 History –The Victorians and local history, Maths - calculation, measures and conversions, DT – construction, Geography – land use and distribution

- Aligned with Central Governments environment policies for England: Green infrastructure to supporting learning will be central to the governments 25year plan for England’s natural environment
- Ability to harness the myriad of established not for profit and commercial organisations with a successful history of harnessing the capital’s green infrastructure to support learning: E.G RSPB, London Wildlife Trust, Royal Parks, Wide Horizons – Adventure Learning, LEEF (London Environmental Education Network), The Woodland Trust, Chelsea Physics Garden, Lee Valley Youth and School Service, The City of London, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides and the hundreds of forest schools, outdoor nurseries and nature play groups operating within the M25. Website links for these and other organisations and initiatives can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/ParksforLearning/>
- Fits with GLA’s other grant funding

### **Capacity to harness London’s green infrastructure to support learning and development across the community**

- Many organisations that run learning programmes for schools also run programmes for adults – bird watching, bat walks, eco sessions
- Other non-nature focused learning programmes to be considered include classes in chess, craft (e.g. working with willow) kite flying, tennis, circus skills etc.

### **Can Often Require Minimal or Zero Investment in New Infrastructure**





# Mr Hugh Dames comments

Page: [Draft New London Plan](#)

Section: [N/A](#)

The Social Infrastructure and the Green Infrastructure and Natural Environments sections of the New Plan for London should recognise the need for the capital's green infrastructure to play a larger role in supporting learning and development in children and adults.

Sections should highlight that by using green infrastructure to support learning and development through e.g curriculum linked outdoor education initiatives, adult learning etc you are also supporting health and well-being . See key findings below from the Natural Connections Project, England's largest outdoor learning project <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/englands-largest-outdoor-learning-project-reveals-children-more-motivated-to-learn-when-outside>

## Key findings

- 95 per cent of children surveyed said outdoor learning makes lessons more enjoyable
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Hugh Dames

Page: [Policy G1 Green infrastructure](#)

Section: [N/A](#)

Chapter 8, Para 1.1 of the draft plan should be amended to mention "learning" as being one of the multiple objectives of the capital's green infrastructure and natural environment. This means that this paragraph should read as follows "[T]he network of green spaces, street trees, green roofs and other major assets such as natural or semi-natural drainage features must be planned, designed and managed in a more integrated way to meet multiple objectives including: SUPPORTING LEARNING, promoting mental and physical health and wellbeing; adapting to the impacts of climate change... etc"

This proposed amendment is endorsed by the following people

John Reeve: MA tutor at Institute of Education, University of London

Catherine Simpson: Education Officer at London Canal Museum

Sue James: Tree Design Action Group

Sue Waite, Associate Professor in Outdoor Learning at Plymouth University ( PM Natural Connections Project)

Members of the Green Party Group, London Assembly

Tony Leach, Parks for London

Chris Dee, Forest School Learning Initiative

Also - I believe this amendment needs to be reflected in any other relevant sections - including the Social Infrastructure section - particularly when there is mention of new schools being built near parks and schools making use of parks to support physical activity.

For evidence as to the benefits to learning and well being - See key findings below from the Natural Connections Project, England's largest outdoor learning project involving 125 schools in England <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/englands-largest-outdoor-learning-project-reveals-children-more-motivated-to-learn-when-outside>

#### Key findings

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This amendment should also be reflected in the section on adjusting to climate change given the link between increased familiarity and greater understanding of the green infrastructure and natural environment and an active interest in safeguarding these assets.

Page: [Policy G1 Green infrastructure](#)

Section: [8.1.1](#)

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Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to discuss this further.

Please see attached document for further detail

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Hugh Dames

Page: [Multi-policy response](#)

Section: [N/A](#)

Full comments - see attachment