**Risk and Benefit Assessment for Play Street Sessions**

**Street name:**

**Date of event(s):**

**Named Organiser(s):**

**Date of risk assessment:**

N.B. This is a draft to be adapted by each street – categories and actions are given as examples. Use the resources and information on the Playing Out website – [Four simple steps to organising a play street](https://playingout.net/play-streets/start-on-your-street/) (playingout.net/play-streets/start-on-your-street/) – to help you fill it in. We suggest you talk through the risk assessment with your stewards as part of their briefing. It’s also a good idea to review the risk assessment after a few sessions.

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| **Benefits**  To help balance the risk vs benefit, list below what you hope to be the benefits to organising your Play Street session.  If you need reminders or inspiration about why playing out is fantastic, try [Playing Out’s Why webpage](https://playingout.net/why/) (playingout.net/why) | | | **Notes/ review/ reflections** |
| **1.**  **2.**  **3.**  **4.**  **5.**  **6.** | | |  |
| **Hazard** | **Risk/s** | **Actions to reduce risk** | **Notes/ review/ reflections** |
| Moving vehicles and cyclists | Injury to volunteers when setting up/ taking down the road closure, or to children when playing.  After the barriers are removed, children don’t realise the play street has finished and run out into the re-opened street. | 1. Parents to be clearly informed they are still responsible for children’s safety and behaviour. 2. All volunteers to wear high visibility jackets 3. Volunteers to check the road is clear before installing the road closure, using the procedure outlined in our [Step 4 video](https://playingout.net/play-streets/start-on-your-street/four-simple-steps/step-four-make-the-street-safe-and-play-out/). 4. Road closure points to be clearly marked with traffic cones and appropriate signage 5. Consider installing the road closure point away from turning points where drivers may not be able to see it. 6. Road closure notices and door to door leafleting prior to event to warn neighbours in advance of the road closure 7. Children to be asked to stay out of the road until ALL road closure points in place 8. Volunteers to alert each other and ensure there are no children in the road if a vehicle needs to pass through the road closure, before removing the barrier 9. Cars passing through the barrier to access their property to be slowly led to a parking spot by a steward. 10. Full steward briefing before start of the event, by event organisers -to cover every point of the risk assessment 11. Plan how to ensure children know that the session has ended and the street is ‘live’ to cars again. (It can be a good idea to take children inside their houses.) See the [Playing Out Manual](https://playingout.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Playing-Out-manual-2018-smaller.pdf) Step 4 for more info. |  |
| Children going beyond the barriers | Injury or loss of child. | 1. Ensure parents know that they are responsible for their children during the event 2. Volunteers/ stewards with mobile phones to stay at the barriers throughout the event. If it is a longer duration session – ensure there are back up adults who can provide rest-bite (toilet breaks etc!). |  |
| Parked cars | Damage to cars from scooters etc.  Children not being seen by moving bikes/cars. | 1. Residents are given prior warning of the event so they can move their cars if they want to 2. Ensure parents know that they are responsible for their children during the event 3. If there are ball games being played, consider suggesting use only of soft balls – not hard leather for example. |  |
| Passing members of the public | Collision with children playing or activities. | 1. Visibility of volunteers in high vis will alert people that there is an event going on – they can ask about it if they wish 2. Ensure parents know that they are responsible for their children during the event |  |
| Angry drivers | Volunteers or residents being subject to abuse or injury from drivers trying to get in and out of the street. | 1. Prior notice of the event is given to residents (including opportunity for any objections to be discussed amongst neighbours and/ or considered by the council) 2. Calm, well briefed volunteers who can lead cars in and out at walking pace (see our [manual](https://playingout.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Playing-Out-manual-2018-smaller.pdf) step 4, for more detail about how to brief stewards on dealing with angry drivers.) 3. Ask children to say thank you, smile and wave at the drivers as they pass |  |
| Rubbish in the road | Unsightly/ obstructive. Negative perception of Play Streets. | 1. Volunteers to clear any rubbish at the start of session 2. Ask everyone involved to support with clearing up at the end |  |
| Rain / Heat / Ice | Children, parents and volunteers are affected negatively by extreme weather.  Possibility of slips, trips, collisions increased with ice. | 1. Ensure parents know that they are responsible for their children during the event 2. If the weather is extreme, organiser and stewards to make a call as to whether the event should go ahead, or certain activities should be discouraged. |  |
| Anything particular about your street? Steep hill / street off busy main road…? |  | 1. If appropriate, consider moving the closure points to create a smaller play street area – you could consider ‘road ahead closed’ signs to provide a warning to drivers. |  |