



Bath Area Play Project **ANNUAL REVIEW 2015/6**

Bath Area Play Project

www.bapp.org.uk (01225) 832479

Registered Charity No. 1013897



Facilitating play in Bath since 1979



Chair's Report

It's been my pleasure and privilege to spend another year as Chair of BAPP, during a year when we've continued to provide an outstanding variety of play opportunities for the children and young people of Bath. BAPP's work, as ever, has been diverse, challenging, and inevitably rewarding.

I think it's incredibly important that we take time to reflect on the year to fully recognise and appreciate the continued dedication, enthusiasm and resilience of the staff team who provide all of BAPP's services, through our open access and specialist provisions. The world can often feel like a frightening and isolating place for children and young people, in fact, I'd say that can be true for any of us, at any age.

The work that BAPP does to tackle that fear, breaking down barriers, bringing people and communities together to play and interact, is universally welcomed and hugely important to the development and support of children and young people. It's also central in supporting the sustainability and cohesion of the communities they live in. Focussing on what makes us the same, rather than what makes us different, is time very well spent, in my view, and play is an excellent way to do just that.

In the face continued uncertainty about the impacts of austerity on services across the country, we've put our efforts into delivering what

we're here to do, and have even expanded the scope and reach of our work.

- We've kept people really well informed of our work through our social media work on Facebook and Twitter, and we'll continue to develop that through the coming year.

- Many of our current contracts with B&NES will be ending in 2016/17 and staff and Trustees will be focussing on securing and developing funding opportunities. We are looking at collaboration and partnership bids as these strengthen applications.

Once again, our many thanks and best wishes to all our staff, trustees, funders and supporters across Bath. Without whom, none of this wonderful and worthwhile work would be possible.

Darren Brazil

Chair of Trustees



Family Play Support Service





The Hut Pre-School

Our play based early years setting is in Twerton and provides playful early learning opportunities during term time for 30 children. The five early years and playwork qualified staff work closely with parents to support children's early development and getting them ready for smooth transition to school. Parents say their children really benefit from being amongst other children of different ages and they like that their children are not separated by age. Routines are embedded and children benefit from the structured elements of each session whilst enjoying the freedom to play and to be in control of their play.

The Hut Pre-school has a fantastic outside space with fixed play equipment, a play house, bikes and trikes, a mud kitchen as well as places to hide and sand and water areas. Children transport, connect, enclose and move objects up and down and around, playing through recognised schemas to make sense of their world at the stage they are at. Staff observe and record progress their key child is making in relation to the Early Learning Goals and encourage parents to share how they play at home and when out and about.



97%
of parents are
very satisfied at
the quality
of care



Inclusive & Targeted Holiday Playschemes

As part of our Targeted Holiday Playscheme contract, BAPP have provided 20 days holiday playscheme in Bath at Three Ways school for disabled children aged 5 - 19 years. Fosse Way School provide 27 days, BOP provide 25 days for children aged 3 - 5 years in Bath and KIDS provided 17 days in Keynsham at Wellsway School.

We have had 12 new children start attending playscheme this year and they along with existing children have enjoyed a diverse range of play opportunities thanks to the fantastic playworkers and volunteers. These have included shaving foam bombs, cooking, den making, bike riding, shelling peas, getting creative with scrap and dancing.

At the Hut Inclusive Playscheme, 66% of children are disabled or have additional needs with increasing numbers of parents of disabled children choosing this provision over the targeted provision. Parents recognise the importance of their children playing alongside non-disabled children and the developmental benefits have been amazing. Children at the Hut in 2015 enjoyed creating stories, making puppets and putting on a puppet show, building dens on the soft play room and the garden, lots of sensory play and physical play with loose parts. 98% of children have increased their physical activity levels and 100% of parents say that the playschemes provide a high quality break from their caring responsibilities as they know that their children are safe, having fun and being well looked after.

96%
of children have
increased
confidence to
express their
needs

“I don't know where we'd be now if we hadn't had all the help from all of you. Well I do, I'd be sat in the corner, rocking. Thank you”
- Parent of two boys at Playscheme

95%

increased their physical activity levels



Inclusive Holiday Playschemes - 12 - 19 years

SOFA - Summer Of Fun Activities

SOFA15 was yet another action packed four week programme put together by a group of creative young people for young people, which is the basis of its great success! This year we saw a slight increase on last year's numbers (9%) overall with 146 disabled and non-disabled young people participating in the fun and activities.

There were opportunities to have an overnight camp, go sailing, extreme tubing, cook, have a go at animation and go narrow boating. Accessible transport was provided collecting young people from 7 different pick up points across B&NES and enabling young people to access the programme without the need to rely on parents, supporting the development of independence skills for some. One young person said "my Mum doesn't drive so can't take me to places to do stuff"

Harry Potter World proved to be one of our most popular trips with 45 young people so keen, they turned up for the coach with their Harry Potter scarfs and wands! For one particular young person it was a trip she had

dreamt about, her carer telling us "As she has such complex needs and her Mother does not have transport or support to take her on her own, it's been her dream to go, thank you so much"

Grateful thanks to the Combe Down Holiday Trust which provided funding to support her and a number of disabled young people to access the SOFA programme, ensuring respite for families over the summer holidays and an experience they will never forget.

There were many sporting activities from Beach volley ball, trampolining to fishing and cricket, as well as increasing the amount of physical activity for young people over the summer holidays the SOFA programme contributes significantly to reducing social isolation, with staff enabling healthy peer interaction and increased social engagement. Over 80% of parent's fed back that SOFA helped their young person increase their social skills and they made new friends.

Children & Young People's Network

This year the focus for the Network has been in increasing active Membership. To facilitate this we hosted a 'Meet the Funder' event at which 1 National and 2 local funders were present in addition to and independent fundraising consultant. There were a series of free workshops and individual advice sessions for members.

The Network introduced twitter feed to inform members of time-limited funding opportunities and other items of relevant news between e-bulletins. Our monthly e-bulletin continues to be well received and meetings have covered themes such as Funding, Safeguarding, a Hustings event, to discuss priorities for Children & Young People with prospective MP's and a meeting with the new Cabinet Member for

Children's Services. The Network continues close partnership working with Healthwatch and organised a youth consultation event, with the Clinical Commissioning Group, on the local restructuring of Health & Social Care services.

Representatives from the Network have fed members views into strategic plans and commissions and continue to impress local strategic decision makers with the need to consider the voluntary & community sector as equal partners in delivery of services to the local community. and the need to consult with us on issues that will affect children, young people and families in B&NES or the delivery of Voluntary & Community Sector services.

27%

increase in membership



“My son has severe communication disorder and does not speak much however he is already asking about SOFA 16.....says it all!!!” - Parent

Targeted Youth Provision and Life Skills

Teenage Rampage is a weekly youth club session for disabled young people. We have had another successful year, with numbers remaining steady with average weekly attendance of 16 young people and various new faces joining us, with a total reach of 29 young people, 79% of whom are on the autistic spectrum.

Activities have included: working with the Museum of East Asian Art to make puppets and drums, eating at two Bath restaurants (ordering and paying for our own food), walking along the canal path to Bathampton and having a picnic, a 'ready steady cook' evening, visits to the Theatre Royal to see 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time' and The Egg to see 'Little Sure Shot', various sport, art and craft and cooking sessions, a summer disco and a Christmas party.

90%
of young people have improved their personal life skills

Case Study:

One of our new starters was specifically referred to us as he needed to access some social opportunities and build his confidence. Teenage Rampage seemed perfect as an introduction to socialising as the group is small, friendly and unthreatening. He started coming along before the summer and almost immediately felt at home. He has now made several new friends, taken a spoken part in our upcoming play and been invited to be a Young Volunteer at the sessions. His parents have commented on his increased confidence and we are now supporting him to access other provision (while making sure he stays as one of our valued young volunteers!).

92%
of young people have increased their social confidence

In September we started working with The Egg Theatre on a National Theatre Connections project which will culminate in a performance of the play 'It Snows'. The work so far has been exciting and collaborative and we eagerly anticipate the day of the show in April 2016.

A measure of the continuing success of Teenage Rampage is that in July we said goodbye to two young people who have been coming to sessions since their 13th birthdays. They were both 19 when they left. The weekly sessions allow us to build strong and enduring relationships with young people and their families, sometimes over a period of years and we are looking forward to continuing this work in 2016.



BA2 Club runs every Wednesday evening for young people ages 11 - 18 years. This year we have seen a lot of new members joining the club, mostly aging from 11- 15 years.

Young people have had an opportunity to plan their activities according to their interest. From this the club's activities have included weekly trampoline coaching, where young people have worked towards their Trampoline Proficiency Badges, which were presented to them at their Christmas Party.

Young people have led on cooking sessions creating dishes from a variety of foods and sharing with all the members at the club.

88%
of young people have increased their physical activity levels

BA2 Youth Club

We have regular life skills sessions which this year have included - Internet Safety, Friendship issues and problem solving them as well as Drug and Alcohol sessions led by our Project 28 outreach worker. The club is more than a youth provision, it is a safe space for young people to come and enjoy positive activities, learn new skills and have mentoring and support from the staff.

Young people's quotes:

"I love the Trampoline I can do a whole sequence and back flips, which I couldn't do before".

"I like cooking the best, especially when we do pasta it's my favourite"

"I broke friends with the girls, but we had a session on friendships and it really helped them to understand me and I was able to speak about how I felt, its better now we even hang out at school"

At Christmas, 10 young people were presented with certificates for Trampolining Proficiency Awards from Level 4 to Level 8.



93%

of children
feel happier
and more
confident



Family Play Inclusion Support

The Service is funded through a contract with B&NES and a grant from the BIG Lottery. Using play as a method to engage positively and with a non-threatening approach, the funding enables 6 staff in roles as Family Play Support Workers and Community Play Support Workers to support children and families in the Bath area to reduce social isolation, increase access to play and reduce social anxieties through building connections with children, families and communities. Referrals to the service come from **Social Care (25%), Schools (47%), Health (5%) , Parents (16%)** with other voluntary sector **organisations and Children's Centres the remaining 7%**.

Holistic individual support for children/ young people and parents. Each of the 118 young people who we've been supporting this year either individually or in groups have made notable progress. For some the emphasis can now shift towards supporting the parent to support their own child to best effect, whereas for others the focus remains on direct support for the young person with a continued objective of helping them to alter their view of themselves and their potential place in their family / community and wider world. Play has been a great catalyst for improved relationships between parents and children as well as an increased understanding of keeping healthy and being active together.



An empathetic and overt focus on human needs such as 'community', 'competence', 'autonomy' and 'well-being' continue to inform staff's practice with children as the caring and nurturing support enables a route to effective, lasting change.

At any one time in 2015, the team support between **20 - 30 children individually**, have run two Playful Families groups attended by **18 families including 26 children** and a group for between **3 and 6 secondary age children** not in school full time to enable their social integration. The group recently produced cakes, fruit salads and more for thirty people at the **Family Festive Fun session**.

We understand that the young people who we invite to this group are those who find it difficult to attend sometimes, but despite this we have seen trust, confidence, and achievement grow

“*The support and understanding from BAPP has got myself and my daughter through the toughest of times. Thank you!!!*”



Case Study:

'A' is in a new school of which he was very apprehensive, and he loves it. He talks about his academic achievements with justifiable pride. He was scared of crowds and never mixed with the public, but gradually we've tried it and he's learned how to say "what's the worst that can happen". He's trusting the notion that it's ok to give things a go and 'failing' can be a safe, positive, learning experience. He's allowing himself to mix with the public. He's smiling and laughing. He takes an active and mature role in our play and social reflections, and his belief system and his self-image have changed significantly, and he is increasingly aware of this great achievement.

Two Playful Families groups ended in 2015 with staff saying goodbye to some families we have supported for over 2 or 3 years. There have been some huge positive changes including removal of children from Child protection Plans and parents much more engaged with their children's schools and other services as well as more secure attachments. A new group started in September and we hope that we can support more families to build resilience and confidence together.

Community Play Rangers



100%
schools report that Nurture groups have improved children's behaviour

In 2015 CPRs returned to Bath City Farm, Weston, Foxhill, Combe Down and Twerton with 60+ children turning up to Pennyquick Park each week. We also began a new session at Odd Down Sports Ground and had a volunteer football coach with us at the Firs. Community Safety funding allowed us to continue our work in Foxhill, progressing our supportive relationships with children and parents as they got more playful each week.

CPRs have continued their work within schools planning small targeted nurture groups. In 2015 they partnered with 2 primary schools per week, changing schools each term to cover a wide area of Bath. After identifying the individual needs of each child, our CPRs delivered activities and play opportunities designed to benefit the children through improved social skills and conflict resolution within friendship circles; increased ability to listen and concentrate within the classroom, heightened confidence, self-esteem and social awareness leading to positive behaviours and self-regulation through emotion coaching.

During school holidays, the programme grew in popularity with families across Bath and beyond attending. Our larger team of playworkers, funded through the Lottery together with the CPRs set up a range of play opportunities in different parks each day. Not only were they joined by 100s of families from the local community but by dozens of children and parents that travelled each day to wherever we were - on foot, by bike, by bus and even taxi! Play Out Wild days in the woods and Family Play Explore

days increased children and parent's physical activity levels where we moved across fields, through streams and on bikes at Wheely fun days in partnership with Wheels4All.

“*The CPRs are consistently energetic, friendly and fun, intuitively adjusting the activities to meet the needs of the children. They [The children have] higher resilience levels when faced with challenges in their work and this work has helped us to develop understanding of anxiety levels of some children - Class Teacher*”



National Playday - always the first Wednesday in August.

This year we were back in Queen Square with our fabulous partners including Family Information Service, Tri-Active coaches, Museum of East Asian Art and Sirona. Play opportunities enabled the square to be turned into a playful and safe space where over **1,700 children** and their families enjoyed tie-dyeing, cooking, inflatables, straw bale dens, large scale paint dropping and getting creative with scrap.



Training, Schools Work and Support

This year we have continued supporting St Saviours Infants School with playtimes through provision of playworkers at lunchtimes and from next year will be doing the same at Moorlands Federation. Increasingly schools are recognising that good quality play opportunities at lunchtime provide outlets for children who then come back into the classroom ready to learn!

Increasingly this year, schools are buying in play based interventions for individual children who they are struggling to engage. The response has been incredibly positive with our holistic family approach and playful techniques, engaging children and young people to develop positive attitudes to school and strategies to use to help them manage their emotional responses better when things are challenging.

Staff this year have attended **Safeguarding** and **Child Sexual Exploitation training, updated Food Hygiene and Paediatric First Aid as well as CAF, Team Around the Child, Hoist and Handling and 2 Staff completed their Level 3 in Playwork.** Pre-school staff have maintained their CPD with courses including Letters and Sounds and making the most of Pupil Premium.

Congratulations to Kerry Rowlands, our Pre-school Leader for successfully completing her Early Years Professional Status degree!





Who we are

Trustees

- Chair: **Darren Brazil**
- Vice Chair: **Jo Stoaling**
- Treasurer: **Freddy Wong**
- Secretary: **Vacant**
- Trustees:
- Sarah Giovaninni**
- Michelle Reynolds**
- Graeme Athey**
- Anji Henderson**
- Fiona Andrews**



Staff:

- Director:.....Caroline Haworth MBE
- Finance Officer:.....Sally Savage
- Office Manager / SOFA Development Worker:.....Sarah Sealy
- Outreach Worker:.....Sam Rowlands
- Children & YP Network Co-ordinator:.....Sue Evans
- Family Play Support Workers:.....James Beattie, Harriet Rose (until September 2015) then John Melbourne & Lisa Wilson
- Community Play Support Workers:.....Julie Bennett, Matt Hudson, Matt Townhill & John Gibbs (until Sept 2015), Jade Hall & Dan Fisk
- Community Play Rangers:Julie Bennett, Daisy Leigh-McGill, John Gibbs and Matt Townhill (until August 2015) then Matt Hudson & Kate Pizzey
- Pre-school Leader & Toy Library Development Worker:.....Kerry Rowlands
- Pre-school Workers:.....Louise Barnes, Kristy Rowlands, Michelle Straffen & Layna Rowlands
- Teenage Rampage Sessional Staff:.....Matt Townhill and Daisy McGill (until September 2015) then Nancy Appleton and Dan Fisk
- Crèche Workers:.....Petra Burgess, Tegan Howard, Layna Rowlands

All of our amazing team of playworkers who facilitate and support children's play whether in a building or a park or out and about all year round!

Sessional Playworkers: Petra Burgess, Garry Llewellyn, Kerry Burt, Rachel Longstreth, Siobhan Wilson, Sarah Booth, Eleni Dumont, Gemma Eades, Louise Booth, Kerry West, Matt Hudson, Matt Kenney, Alistair Pound, Tegan Howard, Mikey Rowlands, Emily Preater, Rachel Lacey, Sarah Bendall, Sam Stone, Jordan Bool, Alison Walker, Liam Horler, Michelle Blissett, Zahira Laing, Matt Saunders, Jade Hall, Charlie Waldron, Layna Rowlands, Jaydee Callas-Belben, Kate Pizzey, Shona Seek, Adrienne Adlam, Chloe Clifford, Emma Hendy, Kyla Pole, Phoebe Eldridge, Louise Barnes and Anna Pierce

Volunteers - to all our volunteers at the Pre-school and during the summer holidays, you all make such an amazing difference to the children, providing extra hands and eyes & Princes Trust for all their help at Odd Down 5-a-side court.

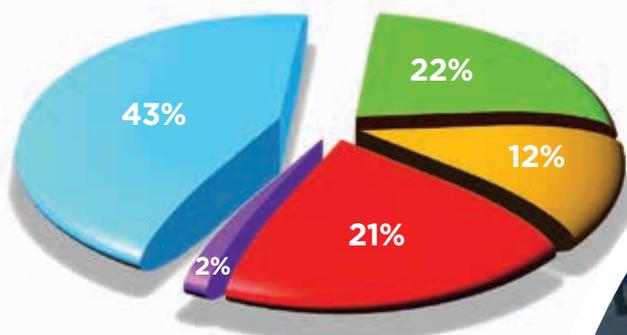
A massive BIG thank you to **Gaby Acosta** as our now retired Volunteer Webmaster and HUGE thank you to Sue Evans for all her her work in migrating the BAPP website to the new platform.

Once again, a MASSIVE thank you to **Mike from Me & My Van** for moving all our equipment on National Playday. **Last but not least, grateful thanks to all our funders and supporters as you know we can't do any of this without you.**

Funding Information

Mark Garrett has Independently examined our Accounts in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act and accounts are fully compliant and no matters have arisen that have given concern. **Total Income for 2014/15 £397,578 and Total Expenditure was £373,127**

For a full set of Accounts for 2014/15, please contact the BAPP office and we can send them to you.



Play Services	£161,561 (43%)
Office and Support Services	£82,820 (22%)
Pre-school and Toy Library	£44,109 (12%)
Disabled Services	£79,111 (21%)
Governance Costs	£5,526 (2%)



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Every child has the right to play



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Working across Bath since 1979

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