

ANNUAL REVIEW 2017/8

“Play is the royal road to childhood happiness and adult brilliance”

Joseph Chilton Pearce



Bath Area Play Project

www.bapp.org.uk 01225 832479

Registered Charity No. 1013897

Chair's Report



I arrived as Chair having been a Trustee in previous years. BAPP has always been, for me, a organisation that proves play can be integral to the physical, mental and emotional health of individuals and their extended families. I therefore was very pleased to be asked to take on this role. It was great to see new and 'old' Trustees with enthusiasm for the challenges ahead. Staff have moved on, including our new Play Service Manager; we have managed to fill their posts with individuals whose experience and knowledge will positively add to BAPP as a whole.

The summer for BAPP is always very busy with Playdays, the SOFA project and summer playschemes needing appointment of staff and detailed organisation to keep everything running smoothly. The Playdays ran across B&NES this summer were a great success despite having to cancel National Playday due to the appalling weather. As no longer a commissioned service, these were supported by B&NES Ward Councillors recognising the importance of play for their communities. Parents mentioned great variety of play and felt a donation of £1 per child extremely good value. BAPP received £400 from donations from those attending to help finance next year's programme. Over 3,500 children attended and if every child gave £1 a day, this would secure the future for playday provision.

The SOFA project, led by a new worker, Ella proved extremely popular and comments from those attending included diverse and inclusive activities and staff very friendly and approachable. Our partnership with Southside in the delivery of the Family Support & Play Service has grown in strength and often exceeds targets whilst maintaining consistent and high-quality support for schools and families alike. BAPP remain strong advocates for children with play a core value. As well as our commissioning monies from B&NES, we have received funds from BBC Children in Need, GWR, Joyce Fletcher Trust, Barbara Ward Foundation, Skipton Building Society, the Co-operative, Curo & Knightstone Housing, the Medlock Trust, St James Place Foundation and Quartet and we would like to offer out thanks to them.

The Trustees have been particularly busy in improving financial reporting, finding and then approving a new accountancy firm to act on behalf of BAPP. We believe, as with every part of a organisation, we have a responsibility as Trustees to offer the best advice we can for BAPP to run as efficiently as possible

Well it's onward to 2018 and more hard work and exciting opportunities for BAPP.

Jayne Pye

Chair of Trustees

Achieved
ISO9001:2008
accreditation
for the 8th
consecutive
year

Who we are, what we do & why

Bath Area Play Project (BAPP) are a voluntary organisation governed by volunteer Trustees with services managed and delivered by staff and supported by volunteers. Together, we provide a range of services for children, young people and their parents as well as support for staff working with children and young people across B&NES. These include a learning through play Pre-school, Holiday Playschemes for disabled and non-disabled children and young people, Support for children in school through Nurture Groups, Play@Lunchtime and play interventions with schools, Support for families and their children and Teenage Rampage and Life Skills for disabled teenagers.

Bath Area Play Project was set up in 1979 in response to a lack of provision in the summer holidays, to organise play opportunities for children and young people in Weston, Whiteway and Walcot. We have grown and developed in response to changing community needs however our core focus remains the same; the areas of need are the same as are the needs of children and young people. Their freedom erodes and anxiety levels increase but play, as an innate behaviour is one we support and enable through play provision. Increasingly, this is becoming more targeted as funding reduces but BAPP strive to maintain universal open-access provision.

We have a fantastic and passionate staff and volunteer team who work hard to provide consistent and positive play based support for hundreds of children and families across B&NES. Friendly and professional staff provide non-judgemental spaces where children and parents can be themselves, providing exciting and interesting resources and inspiration for magical play opportunities. Overall, we support families to



make positive changes, enable children to try new things and grow in confidence and encourage greater community engagement and resilience.

BAPP supports over 800 children and families annually including 200 disabled children and young people through a range of services. Whilst many services are targeted at specific more vulnerable groups, we also run Playdays for all and support and advise how organisations can include the child's voice.

Mission & Aims

Every child has the right to play in their community and BAPP's mission is to recognise and promote the importance of self-directed play in relation to child development and the rights of children and young people. BAPP is committed to facilitating user-led inclusive, specialist play opportunities and activities for children and young people in their own communities. BAPP supports this through provision of or access to ongoing training and professional development for all staff and volunteers.

Impact of what we do - the power of nurturing play

Intensive support
has enabled
improved attendance
in schools between
3% and 8%

A 7-year-old boy was finding school very difficult to access. At referral he was undiagnosed but an EHCP application was being written. He found it difficult to stay in the classroom with his peers. He was struggling with being challenged and with low self-confidence, had no healthy or alternative coping strategies which was impacting on his education, his mental wellbeing and on his wider family. Referral came from the Parent Support Advisor. Support was offered to the family to attend the MSN Family Play Hub to spend time together focusing on play and having practical support from workers when problems arose. Individual weekly support was provided at school, focusing on his confidence and developing and implementing alternative coping strategies such as identifying "calm down" items e.g. a cuddly toy, sensory objects (playdoh, bubbles etc), a trusted adult identified within the school he can go to and a safe space to go to within the school when he feels unable to cope with the classroom. This support has doubled his attendance and participation in class, he now has TA support and has had no behavioural incidents impacting on peers.

Family Play support

78%
of children
supported are more
emotionally
resilient

A 16-year-old young person was referred to us with issues around social anxiety, depression, OCD, and some subtle but significant learning challenges. He'd been involved with various services but nothing had really seemed to make a real difference. We felt that Cognitive Behavioural Therapy could be helpful and took a formal but playful approach providing both structure and safety. Through exploring the connections between feelings, thoughts and behaviours, he learned how to challenge himself and started to see things in a different way, chose to try to do things differently, and reflect on what he'd observed. He now takes a far more realistic and positive view of how other people see him, and a balanced view of how he feels about other people's possible opinions. His relationship with his Mum is now consistently calm. His school attendance has greatly improved. He's consistently applying himself to access after school support. The improvement in his daily mood and disposition have been commented on by various teachers including his school's Head. And then he said, "I'm like a new man".



Providing
1,096
sessions of play support
with families supporting
67 parents and **85**
children in their home
and in groups

114 children

took part in 12 Nurture Groups in Shoscombe Primary, St Andrews Primary, Beechen Cliff, Paulton Juniors, Widcombe Juniors, Midsomer Norton Primary, St Gregory's, Camerton Primary, Paulton Infants, Marksbury Primary, St Michaels Junior and St Philips

Group work

A Mum was under a great deal of stress from all her caring responsibilities, feeling isolated and lacking a social network. Daughter's separation anxiety, difficulties attending school and the lack of children her age in their neighbourhood mean her peer friendships are limited. It was felt that the family would all benefit from a group that would allow them to form friendships and reduce their isolation. After 4 months attending the Family Play Hub, staff have supported the youngest to develop his confidence, Mum has formed a friendship with another parent in the group. They offer each other mutual support and have arranged to meet outside the sessions. The daughter has got more confident leaving her mother to play with the other children and this feels like a sign of increased security. She always returns to her mother if she is upset or if she wants to show her something special. Mum was very touched by some of the things she said and made in the group that expressed her love and appreciation of her mum. This felt very important and allowed Mum to feel more confident about their relationship. She continues to attend the group and is now having counselling.

Targeted Holiday Playscheme

Providing
58 days
of holiday playscheme
for **196** children & young
people, **87%** disabled

A 13-year-old disabled young person when she first started attending the Holiday Playscheme, was shy and very unsure, and her parents being very nervous, didn't help. Playworkers reassured and supported the parents, encouraging them to stay and see her settle to start with, slowly increasing the number of sessions. Over the years, Playworkers noticed gradual changes in her confidence and she has now grown into a lovely young lady, relaxed, helpful and supportive of her peers in the play environment. Her mother has also shared that this follows throughout her life.

"I think the BAPP playscheme is fantastic and a real asset to and for the B&NES community. It allows parents and carers some respite, knowing that their children are having a lot of fun and guidance from people who know how to properly provide and care for their needs."

*"The BAPP Holiday playscheme is an absolute lifeline for us. There is very little that *** is able to access due to his needs and this playscheme is so brilliant as they have the space (and energy!) to give him the stimulation he needs to enjoy his day and spend time with new people doing different activities. He always comes home tired and energized. Also just as important, we are able to spend time with his older sister doing activities that he isn't able to join in with and give her some individual attention for a change."*



Targeted Youth

"Our son loves attending Teenage Rampage. It is great for our son to socialise with his peer group and participate in age-appropriate activities that don't make him feel inferior. He is more sociable now and his willingness to try new things has increased."

"It's sad that he won't be able to continue at TR as he's reached the top age, which is a real shame, as you know, he has always enjoyed it rarely missed it and it has been such a successful club for him. It seems so long ago now when I first spoke to you about it. Can I thank you SO much for all the fantastic activities and support with J over the years and keeping us so well informed about what's been going on."

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evening sessions for disabled teenagers for 31 young people, 68 Life Skills sessions for 26 young people and 20 days provision during the Spring and Summer holidays for 95 young people

The parents of a young person with ADHD and ASD had struggled to find a social setting, where she felt comfortable or supported. She could become agitated and aggressive when anxious. It quickly became clear she was increasingly comfortable at Teenage Rampage. She felt able to be herself, made friends and started trusting staff. She stopped trying to get attention through 'shocking' us. Staff gave honest, descriptive praise and role modelled appropriate behaviour.

She is now settled; happy to attend, join in and make people smile, particularly caring and supportive of others, anticipating needs and ensuring they are included. Parents have shared that Rampage is the only social activity where she can enjoy time with her peers in a non-stressful, supportive environment.

In 2017, we received funding from GWF Community initiative fund to support an additional Life Skills group to that funded by BBC Children in Need which has extended our reach to 25 young people who have learnt how to keep themselves safe, how to use public transport, how to stay healthy and make positive choices as well as have some fun with their peers

Inclusive Playscheme

This summer at SOFA

63%

of users described themselves as disabled, an increase of 8% from last year.

A is a 16 year old male with Asperger's. The SOFA staff recognised a distinct change in his outlook and behaviour on the last day of SOFA. Throughout SOFA17, he was tense, would lose his temper quickly and give direct instructions to his peers. He nearly always had his hood up and headphones in. He would often get annoyed if another young person was doing the 'wrong thing'. He thrived at camping, putting up a tent with another young person on the Autistic spectrum and coped well with the relaxed schedule by giving himself tasks. His confidence built throughout the project and at the Fun Day, he was particularly good at giving instructions while four young people tried to walk, synchronised, to move two planks of wood. He stayed calm, although loud and excited, he was not angry as he may have been towards the start of SOFA. AN took part in the wheel race and put in a lot of effort so that his team may win. After the wheel race, he couldn't stop laughing with another young person and seemed free of responsibility and stress

SOFA is not just about the fun activities. Paddle boarding, Camping, Go Karting, Zorbing, White water rafting, climbing but about the friendships, increased confidence and reduced isolation.

"Doing SOFA is so much fun but actually makes me think about how other people do things too." Throughout the project, one young person, with behaviour and emotional difficulties, notably became more considerate and caring towards young people with disabilities after he had attended more activities. At first he was inconsiderate and quite discriminatory.

Young Person said after being asked about his feelings towards a non-verbal young person; "It's just [boy's name] him isn't it? to have fun too."

I want him

97%

of children are more physically active

Support for disabled children

Playdays

18 weekly Safe Play sessions took place with an average attendance of 17 children. 39 engaged in total. Two special holiday events also took place. Parents engaged at times but on the whole they did not join in, which meant that the play rangers modelling of behaviour management techniques had limited effect. However, one of the KHA parents felt they had learned positive approaches to improving their children's behaviour. Notable positive changes were seen in 5 children. The most notable was a child who at the start, was destructive, offensive and very challenging behaviours, developed a real sense of pride in the project and behaviour changed so that he became a positive role model for the other children, often helping others and diffusing situations. The Play Rangers clearly did a very good job of creating fun and inspiring activities for the children. Weekly, some children did not want the CPRs to leave, pleading with them to stay longer. Whilst the project did not help some children to feel safe, there were often deeper and more significant issues that a play session could not support with because of personal circumstances and entrenched behaviours.

"It was our first time attending a BAPP event, at Paulton yesterday. It was fantastic! My children had a wonderful time, with the variety of activities to get involved in and do together. The staff were friendly, approachable and helpful. The equipment and activities were fascinating, enjoyable and creative. I would highly recommend attending a BAPP event and we look forward to doing so ourselves again soon! I was very impressed at the number of people involved and what was on offer as a free event. We made a donation in hope that such a wonderful organisation can continue offering such brilliant family orientated and outdoor fun opportunities"

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Play Ranger Sessions ran in Twerton and Foxhill funded by Curo and Knightstone Housing Associations 104 children registered with average weekly attendance of 33 at both sessions

The Hut Pre-School

18
open-access Playdays
took place attended by
3,473 children
in 12 different
communities
across B&NES

Playworkers supported 7 children each week including the Virtual school and Alternative Education as part of our Play Intervention packages

The Hut Pre-school offers a maximum of 15 places each session with good staff ratios and we currently have 28 children on role. A small, inclusive and friendly early years setting which treasures every child, respecting their individual needs and supporting them to make good progress

Huge improvement in one of our children in 2017. Pre-school staff gently approached Mum at the start of her time with us as to further support that might be needed. An Early Years Action Plan, ASD diagnosis good multi-agency co-operation with B&NES and BOP, together with successful application for Inclusion funding allowed us to appoint an additional worker. This resulted in a huge improvement in all aspects of her behaviour and functioning in the preschool; she is now sitting really well at the snack/lunch table previously completely unable to do so, she is now independently taking her own cup and plate down to the tray and emptying the food waste. She has also started developing a preference for a certain member of staff when needing something or when she is upset or unwell and needs comfort. She is also interacting well with her peers during play and circle time and making a lot more eye contact. Significant changes and improvements which will help with her eventual transition into school.

Support for Schools

Moorlands and St. Saviours Juniors have playworkers at lunchtimes to support positive playtimes

At the last session of a 12 week nurture group in a Primary School, one of the children stood up in the circle and thanked and said a nice thing about each of the Playworkers in turn. These comments were unique and had been clearly thought about. This was lovely to see in itself but was made all the more significant as this came from a child who at the beginning was consistently having to be reminded about inappropriate behaviour. On one occasion had to be removed due to becoming physically aggressive. The change in his behaviour and attitude over the term has been tremendous, especially with regard to his ability to regulate some very big emotions brought about by an ongoing clash with another child.



Finance

Mark Garrett has independently examined our Accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016. No matters have arisen that have given concern. Total Income for 2016/17 £514,521 and total Expenditure £498,396

You can help Save Summer Playdays through donating:

www.localgiving.org/charity/bapp/project/summerplaydays/



■ Office & Support Costs	£161,963
■ Disabled Services	£145,171
■ Early Years & Toy Library	£54,696
■ Play Services	£135,546
■ Governance	£1,020

31

Volunteers from 14 years to 57 years were supported in working alongside paid staff in our Pre-school, Holiday Playschemes, Community Play Rangers, SOFA programme and Teenage Rampage.

We can have volunteers aged 14+ years, one of only around 9 places that young people can choose from

This year we have had several young volunteers returning, who have previously accessed BAPP support and services themselves. These volunteers have been successful in transforming their experiences into positive placements and really understanding the value of play and the services we provide, it is great to see their successful development from service user!

Megan, a student with learning disabilities at Bath College, applied to volunteer with Bath Area Play Project in July 2016 and continued volunteering through 2017. Since then Megan has been part of the BAPP team volunteering with weekly sessions at The Hut Pre-school, as well as getting involved with several holiday play schemes that BAPP run during the school holidays at Three Ways and The Hut.

Megan was nervous at first, when she started out volunteering with BAPP. She was worried and felt unsure about meeting new people and what would be expected of her.

Through regular reviews and support sessions, Megan has been able to talk about her needs within a work placement and as a result develop her confidence in many areas.

Megan has overcome initial nerves and built some fantastic work based skills during this time, including independent bus travel to various locations, time keeping, developing verbal and written communication through contacting BAPP staff via text message and email as well as taking the lead on play opportunities and working as part of a team.

Megan has always been highly committed to volunteering and enthusiastic to participate, often taking 2 buses to volunteer. Moving forward Megan has developed so many new skills, she has been able to secure a supported work placement with 'Project Search'. Megan will still give her time during holidays from college and project search to support BAPP, we are very grateful!

Thanks

BAPP would like to acknowledge and thank all the Commissioners, Funders, Supporters and Service-Users for continuing to believe in the importance and power of play for children



Practical support: BUAS who build an outdoor storage container supporting the day to day running of the community centre. B&NES local council, through the volunteer centre community challenge - built raised beds for groups to plant in at our community centre, including growing marrows and pumpkins. BMT Defence decorated the Lounge at the Community Centre. Rory, spent a few months as a resident handyman, keeping things neat and tidy, painting, fixing and improving the play spaces for children!

Individuals volunteering on projects: Sebastian, Nancy, Leen, Lan, Amy, Emily, Hennie, Della, Charlotte, Megan, Lorraine, Inez, Holly, Ella W, Laura, Amy, Lauren, Ella H, Felicity, Virginia.

"Having attended the Network meeting as a new organisation in the area, I feel less isolated and have made some good contacts so thank you for letting me know about it"

We send
Monthly E-bulletins
to over

170 Member

groups working with
children and young
people as part of the
Childrens Network

We have introduced a 'star project of the month' feature to the monthly ebulletin where we celebrate the successes of a different local charity each month, a great addition to the bulletin which has been well received by members.

Our network meetings have also gone from strength to strength this year. Being held quarterly we have covered topics ranging from funding, to contributions to the children and young people's plan 2018 -2021 and wellbeing in the workplace. Attendance at these meetings has increased over the past 12 months from 11 attendees in March to 23 in September & December. We have also made connections with the Elmhurst Foundation who offer a public benefit program supporting local charities and they have offered to host our next Network meeting at the Combe Grove Manor Hotel so we can highlight to members some of the complementary facilities on offer for families in need.

Members have also made significant contributions to the creation of the children and young people's plan 2018 - 2021 and are also represented at strategic level on a number of different boards across B&NES including the Local Safeguarding board, Early Help, Health and Well being and Workforce reform boards. We are an elected Core Group member of the 3SG (Third Sector Group) who campaign to bring together the strengths and expertise of the wider B&NES third sector, developing strategic responses to broader challenges.

This year, a successful funding bid to Quartet Foundation from the CYPN Steering group has enabled us to appoint two researchers to undertake a research project into collaboration for those working with children and young people. They are currently at the stage of collecting opinions about the potential different areas of collaborative working from members and have attended one of our Network meetings to introduce themselves to our members.

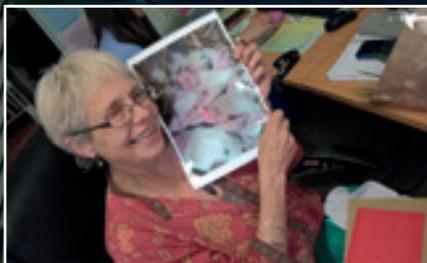


Who we are

Director:	Caroline Haworth MBE
Finance Officer:	Sally Savage (until October 2017)
Office Manager:	Sarah Sealy
Outreach Worker:	Sam Ward
Children & YP Network Co-ordinator:	Sue Evans (Until May 2017), Hannah Whitrow (temp until August 2017) then Gilly Samuddin (from Sept 2017)
Play Service Manager:	Julie Bennett (from Dec 2016 to Dec 2017) Sabrina Lucas from Jan 2018
SOFA Development Worker:	Ella Emery
Family Play Support Workers:	John Melbourne & Lisa Wilson
Community Play Support Workers:	Tamsin Sharp, Jade Hall and Natalie Aiken (until Sept 17) Dan Fisk, Charlie Farnham, Chloe Ridout, Sarah Meddick (from Sept 17), Matt Pepper, Sarah Davies
Community Play Rangers:	Matt Pepper, Kev Paton, Tamsin Sharp & Catt Davidson
Pre-school Leader & Toy Library Development Worker:	Kerry Rowlands
Pre-school Workers:	Kristy Rowlands, Michelle Straffen, Harriet Ridings & Mandy Wordon
Volunteer Co-ordinator:	Harriet Rose
Teenage Rampage Sessional Staff:	Dan Fisk, Nancy Appleton, Hannah Brittain (until August 17), Matt Pepper from Sept 17
Lunchtime Play / Schools Intervention:	Alistair Pound, Dan Fisk, Charlotte Hansen, Petra Burgess
Crèche Workers:	Petra Burgess, Charlie Farnham, Rosie Carey, Gemma Mizzi
Volunteer Archivist:	Phil Cooper

Trustees

Chair:	Darren Brazil (resigned March 2017); Jayne Pye
Vice Chair:	Jo Stooling (resigned March 2017); Fi Andrews
Treasurer:	Freddy Wong (resigned March 2017); Amar Shah
Trustees:	Anji Henderson Vicky Heslop Emma Hendy Phil Woodruff James Sutherland



over
100 hours
of CPD training &
10 achieving L2 & 3
qualifications



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No. 1013897