

BAPP Annual report 2020/21



Bath Area Play Project
www.bapp.org.uk (01225) 832479



**Bringing play
to life**

Odd Down Community Centre
Odins Road, Odd Down, Bath BA2 2TL
Registered Charity No 1013897

Chair's Report

Determination, Understanding, Support.

Those three words barely scratch the surface of how I can describe the actions of the BAPP team through the recent crisis. At the end of 2019 we were planning our celebrations for our 40th anniversary. That had to be halted and this last year turned out to be one of the most challenging we could have faced.

In spite of the incredible restrictions placed on us all, the BAPP team stood up and made every effort to ensure that the families and young people they had been supporting, continued to receive the resources they needed to continue their positive steps forward. This was by no means an easy ask. As Chair of the Trustees I feel honoured to be in their company and want to put on record our praise and thanks for their perseverance and achievement. I, too, like many suffered loss during this time and was hugely supported by my fellow Trustees while I myself had to take time out to process the loss of my mother.
My thanks also to them.

Since writing this report two significant changes to our team have occurred...
An example of the determination to move forward is that one outcome of this difficult time is our recognition of the need for more administrative support, not just for Caroline, our very able CEO but the whole team. Before the lockdown we had only just started on assessing this need but despite everything we managed to appoint Lydia, our new Finance and Administration Manager who started in August 2021. We are sure she will be an asset to the team; and has already demonstrated her ability to action several pieces of work at once. Multi-tasking, an essential skill for BAPP, is obviously her middle name!

Sadly, one of our team, Sam Ward, a stalwart of BAPP for 17 years has recently left the BAPP team and I want to publicly acknowledge the huge contribution she has made in her time with us. Wherever she heads next from here, she will be a great asset and we all wish her well.

Anji

Chair of Trustees

Overview of 2020-2021

On Monday 16th March 2020 at our Team Meeting, we agreed that as the country would be going into Lockdown, that we would move to working from home and expected to be back in a month! We postponed the following two residential weekends already planned and organised. We cancelled the AGM and 40th Birthday Party event. On the 19th, we locked up the building, having watered the plants, thinking, we would soon be back.

Thankfully, many years ago, we had moved to a cloud-based system and so all staff were able to continue working, accessing documents and working from home. We quickly assessed and prioritised children and families' vulnerabilities across all our services, ensuring that we kept in touch with all that needed ongoing support. It quickly became apparent that we would need to expand the food parcel support and reached out to families, some of whom we would only normally support in school holidays. The staff team showed incredible resilience and I am so proud of the whole BAPP team.

Following the lockdown, we started to apply for funding and were successfully awarded funds from Quartet and the Clothworkers Foundation which meant that we were able to continue support for many of our vulnerable families. We increased the amount of food parcels we delivered, were able to have toys and equipment delivered to families with disabled / vulnerable children and worked with partners to ensure that no-one fell through the net.

Trustees had to make quick decisions based on the Government Guidance and regulations as it happened, often on a daily basis. Once mass gatherings were banned, it soon became clear that we wouldn't be able to run any face to face services at Easter or potentially in the Summer. Our bid to the National Lottery Community Fund was successful and we were able to start providing some individual support for disabled children in the summer term either in homes with gardens or in community parks.

Staff became adept at using Zoom and Teams, and able to take advantage of training courses which were now being delivered online, making them far more accessible. All staff were offered vaccinations in order that they could continue to support vulnerable people. We ordered PPE, hand sanitiser dispensers and gallons of hand gel.

Our Nursery and Pre-school re-opened at the beginning of June and the concept of "bubbles" was established with children making full use of the outside garden at the Hut; outside learning through play was definitely best!

More than ever the BAPP staff team were amazing, undertaking even more than usual with the increased cleaning and hygiene required yet smiling throughout and trying to ensure families were supported and children's play experiences weren't too negatively impacted by these new requirements to keep them safe.



We did everything we could – and we did, in fact, do rather a lot!

- **Holiday Playschemes for disabled children ran using bubbles throughout the Summer and October school holidays, reaching 116 children.**
- **We provided regular home deliveries of food for 32 families through Lockdown, including fresh vegetables & fruit some from Bloomfield Allotment Group who shared excess with us.**
- **Children & staff at the Hut Pre-school met the Duke & Duchess of Cambridge where they talked about a worm!**
- **We delivered SEND specific toys & play equipment to 45 children including a swing!**
- **At Christmas we delivered Food Hampers, Festive Packs provided by Bath Preservation Trust and presents for everyone. We had over 25 individuals contribute by providing a Reverse Advent Calendar ensuring that all our most vulnerable families had Christmas early on the 21st December.**
- **We provided individual support for 32 children who weren't able to access Short Breaks services or struggling due to extreme clinical vulnerabilities/anxiety**
- **Worked in 18 schools providing either Nurture Groups or individual support for 205 children as well as whole family support for 30 families**
- **We worked with Brighter Futures providing Holiday Nurture provision at Twerton Infants School in the Summer, supporting 40 families**
- **We worked with Bath Rugby Foundation, Bath City Football Club, Fareshare South West and caterers providing Break Out sessions for individual families at 3 different locations for 4 weeks of the summer, supporting 381 individuals.**
- **Term Time Short Breaks services including Saturday Clubs and Teenage Rampage restarted face to face in June, providing 65 families with a much needed break from caring responsibilities.**
- **We held a virtual online National Playday on our Facebook page with various videos of playworkers encouraging children and families to play. These had over 4,000 views and reached in excess of 16,000 people. <https://www.facebook.com/160369844030713/videos/1167162343684298>**



We are so proud of our staff team and all we have achieved with partners this year. None of which would have been possible without the continued support, financial or otherwise of all those who enable us to ensure that we bring play to life for children and families across B&NES.

Caroline Howarth (MBE) - Director

As a family we wouldn't cope without these sessions during the holidays, we would be extremely isolated

- Parent of SEND Child

There are no words to explain how invaluable these schemes and sessions are. We honestly do not know what we would do without them. They open up our sons life in a way that normal life cannot offer him with his special needs. - Parent

The sessions are brilliant and the staff wonderful! I love their positivity about my child regardless of how challenging a day he is having!

It is an invaluable service, a lifeline for both parents and child.

IT'S THE BEST THING WE EVER DID IS JOINING BAPP

Parent

*Our younger son has been going along to the nurture group sessions that you run. He is finding life quite a challenge at the moment and has been quite low of late. He particularly enjoys the freedom that he has in the sessions and how he is encouraged to explore and be creative and make his own decisions about what to do. With all the restrictions in place he feels quite constrained much of the time. The BAPP sessions give him a real sense of freedom and joy as well as respite from 'the new normal'.
I just wanted to let you know how profound a difference your work makes to children's lives and how liberated they feel because of it.
We can't thank you enough."*

THANKYOU ONCE AGAIN FOR ALL THE AWESOME STUFF YOU GAVE US OVER CHRISTMAS. THIS EVENING WAS ALSO A GOOD REMINDER HOW BAPP WENT ALL OUT FOR CHRISTMAS EVEN DURING A DIFFICULT PERIOD. THANK YOU, YOU ARE ALL AWESOME."

As we are moving away, we won't be needing any Bath Area playscheme days and I'm absolutely heartbroken as you guys literally single-handedly deliver all of X's respite and I couldn't be happier with the support we get from you all. I'm sure if he knew, he'd feel the same. Again, I am so grateful to everything you have done for us and really want you to know that you are a lifeline. Your staff are kind and patient and supportive and all are an absolute tribute to you. Thank you. You made a difficult journey so much easier.



FPS Team

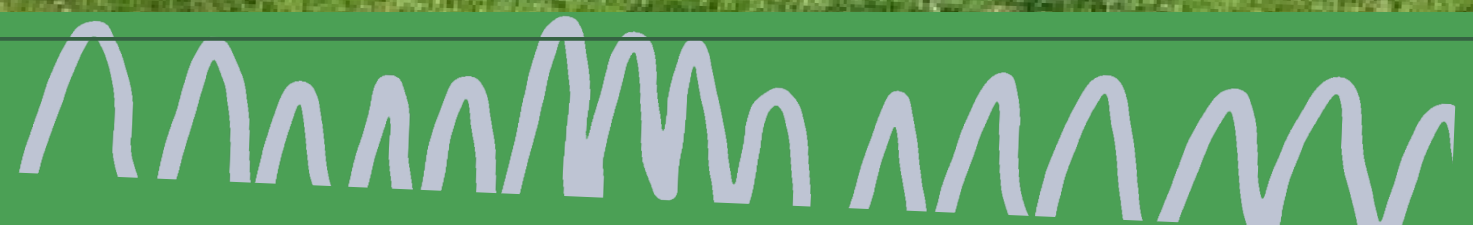
Between January 2020 and Easter 2020, the Community Play Support Worker Team worked with a total of 66 children in Primary and Secondary schools delivered nurturing play opportunities at Writhlington, Roundhill, St. Saviours Infants, Somerdale, St Andrew's and Welton Primary. Between September 2020 and Christmas 2020, the team worked with 68 children in Nurture Group settings at Hayesfield, Castle, Shoscombe and Batheaston Primaries, St. Saviours Infants and Chandag Infants. Starting In March 2021, Nurture group support continued at Writhlington, Somervale and Wellsway Secondaries and Marksburly, Weston All Saints and Midsomer Norton Primaries with a reach of 71 children, with sessions continuing through the summer .

Sessions focused on providing a safe and stimulating environment to develop resilience, self-esteem, confidence and building healthy peer relationships.

The staff team were able to access some informative face-to-face training prior to Lockdown, including 'Understanding County Lines' in January 2020, and 'Supporting Children and Young people from the LGBTQ?+ Community' in February. Staff continued with ongoing training during Lockdown including Thrive, Adversity and Trauma, and Social Stories to name but a few. Staff were also able to attend the Review and Development session with Trustees in February 2020.

The FSPS team saw significant staff changes in 2020. We welcomed Amie Clarke, Lesly Whitefield, Sophie Fieldsend, Emma Hurd who joined Mark and Nic providing Nurture Groups and 1: 1 support for children and families. It was a challenging year for the FSPS team, with a new way of remote working to contend with whilst navigating significant staff changes, but the team rose to the challenge and quickly adapted to supporting children in different ways using different remote forums – it wasn't the same but it was definitely the new normal.

Nikki Cox, Play Service Manager



Hedspace

'I'm so impressed with your time with X, she has come out more in herself and has made so much improvement.

We were so pleased to receive funding from Quartet Community Foundation for Emerging Needs to set up a group for children struggling with peer interactions & school attendance due to anxiety issues.

Overall, the grant for provision of the group and support for vulnerable young people, for most of whom, the pandemic had exacerbated their anxiety, has made a huge difference. Children have grown in confidence and started to flourish in most cases.

This has partly been with support given to the family in greater understanding of different approaches to education and how these benefit their child. Restrictions on numbers for group sizes and households mixing, meant that numbers fluctuated due to anxiety levels and when we went into the lockdown at Christmas, we then moved to more individual support based either at home or outside in the community.

Improved ability in understanding their emotions and being able to express themselves confidently as well as developing techniques and coping strategies for when they struggle. In the safe context of the group, or through individual support, children have been able to explore anxieties, underlying unhelpful thoughts and beliefs and develop personal reflection and recognition of progress and change for themselves.

"Since coming to the group, i haven't had a single panic attack or meltdown. Thankyou"

Short Breaks Holiday Playschemes

Together with our partners, BAPP were able to continue running playschemes at Three Ways School in 5 bubbles, each of up to 15 children with 2 groups each day at Three Ways and one at the Hut and SOFA. Children and Young People were allocated to bubbles or groups to reduce the amount of contacts following on from school and ensuring compliance with Ofsted regulations. Staff put together bubbles boxes of resources per group, eg pens, paper, scissors, sensory play items etc. so children could enjoy less restrictions. By 'Bubbling up' groups of children, they got the best out of play, whilst being kept in a group that was safe for their needs and meant that Parents felt safe and secure regarding their child. Having a separate primary and secondary bubble worked well, as less numbers in each group and staff could ensure age-appropriate play/communication which meant that children got more out of their time. For some young people, having smaller numbers has meant they have excelled and blossomed during their time with us.

Whilst we couldn't run any Family Sessions this year, we have developed stronger relationship with many families both those who chose to continue using services and those who were in isolation. Having regular contact with families during lockdown, established consistent care which has been all year round not just during the holidays. Parents have had someone to talk to that knows their child via mobile, as and when necessary to support them. One parent said it was great to have a play worker at the end of phone just in case while the family were going through various Covid related issues in their life including anxieties, and worry over food supplies



SOFA

Summer Of Fun Activities – for SEND Young People aged 12+ years

We organised 2 separate SOFA programmes as legislation changed at a pace. We ran as many outside sessions as we could and where appropriate, recreating off site activities which weren't available, for example: purchasing proper bowling pins, so the group could play our own game in the building, and using a projector for a movie night, so the children could get the same satisfaction from the activity. Each week had a fixed bubble of 14-16 young people. It was fabulous to get out and about and for the young people to have a sense of normality during Covid. Having a fixed group each week, we saw more of a change in confidence and self-esteem with the young people, who thrived on the personal connection and social interaction.



One of our talented Playworkers, Francie worked with disabled young people to create an animation short emphasising the importance of the Covid message aimed at young people.

BANES:BAPP ANIMATED COVID-19 FILM.mp4 - Google Drive

Saturday Club+

For SEND young people aged 12+ Short Breaks Term Time

Saturday club+ had 11-14 young people per session, with 29 young people on register (attending and waiting to start in April 21) Going online and setting up a Facebook group/work profile worked well as postal packs sent out with activities, and getting to know the older children as more regular contact

There were challenges in not being able to use other community space eg Somer Centre in Midsomer Norton and issues with crossing over of school/colleges when only schools could open.

New friendship groups were made as the new club was put together during covid as there was shown a need for the service. Having young people who enjoy a challenge has been great as staff could push them out our their comfort zones, and supply higher level activities and more life skills, rather than a general playscheme of a mixed group of needs attending.



Children and Young People's Network

The Children & Young People's Network (CYPN) provides a range of services that support the diverse children and young people's workforce across B&NES. The breadth of our membership is reflective of a wide range of organisations, from mentoring, play, sports and advocacy services to support for families experiencing domestic abuse.

We have 207 network members, of which 43 are actively involved on a regular basis (13% increase on last year) and send out a monthly news ebulletin to 283 individuals within the CYPN.

CYPN members help represent and raise the 'voice of the sector' on 6 strategic boards within B&NES, helping to influence policy and decision making within multi-agency partnerships.

Over the last 12 months we held 5 virtual network meetings which were well attended and we maintained all our services for members throughout the pandemic, increasing opportunities for members to network with each other virtually and our annual review showed 53% of members saw this as our most valuable service for them and expressed how important maintaining contact with other providers via our network helped them keep up to date with information locally.

Opportunities for collaboration between members continues to be a focus for the CYPN with 47% of members reporting as collaborating more with other CYPN groups during the Pandemic and 67% interested in collaborating more in the future.

We were very pleased to have confirmation at the end of the year, that St. John's Foundation will continue to fund the Network for a further 3 years, allowing us to take a more longer term developmental approach and look forward to focused working with our members in areas such as partnership working and peer support.



Teenage Rampage



'She sounded so happy and that's down to you and all the Rampagers; we haven't heard her like that for a long, long time!'

'Teenage Rampage has been a wonderful addition to J's life - we're so grateful and look forward to the time, when life gets back to some sort of normality'

'Let me tell you, that Tuesday evenings are soooooo odd without you in them! You are so missed! These sessions are beyond invaluable and it is all of your energy and input and the way you are with the kids. Very very special!'



Due to the vulnerabilities of many of the group members, sessions moved to Zoom where we had Scavenger Hunts where young people were sent off to find a certain item in their house, which was lots of fun. With Picture Bingo, bingo cards were sent through the post in advance. We have also chatted about what we've been up to and had a couple of quizzes.

After the first Lockdown was lifted, sessions restarted face to face and were combined with a short section also on Zoom. This allowed members the opportunity to still "see" peers and provide continuity. We developed and used a rolling Risk Assessment for the sessions, which was reviewed after each session to see if any further changes to be made. We had a session with a representative from the Cleveland Pools Trust as they are wanting to ensure the pool is accessible as possible. This was a great opportunity to ensure the voice of disabled young people was heard.

The ground rules for sessions have been revisited and refreshed, with the input of the young people. Young people have shown a real understanding of the importance of social distancing, hand sanitising etc.

From September, activities centred around Autumn crafts, painting, leaf rubbings, creating our own tree for display, making clay leaf imprints and weaving natural materials. The young people requested a film night and very specifically asked for Mama Mia, which involved a lot of singing along and dancing! We have also made various types of slime and used the outdoor area for football with the floodlights on.

'Thanks for this evening. B loved seeing everyone.'

'You are amazing and all you do for our kids is beyond valuable!!!'

'Just wanted to say that J LOVED your TR Zoom last night. He was so happy to see everyone and felt so good afterwards. We just wanted to feedback that he thoroughly enjoyed it and was so happy and excited to see everyone. His other Zoom calls are all school based and so hard work for him, but your Zoom chat was fun and light and happy time so thank you VERY VERY much for making that happen.'

'Teenage Rampage has been a wonderful addition to J's life - we're so grateful and look forward to the time, when life gets back to some sort of normality'



The Hut Nursery & Pre-School

The Hut Pre-school is a nurturing environment where children grow and develop through play. We are a small, inclusive setting where each child's individuality is encouraged, nurtured and respected. The teacher/child ratio is very low, enabling the teachers to have a very hands-on approach. A typical morning involves lots of learning, through movement, song, creative craft and messy play – which the children love!

We pride ourselves on being an inclusive setting where the individual child is so important. We currently have a little boy with us who is doing a dual placement with us at The Hut as well as at BOP. He attends our setting 3 sessions a week, giving him the opportunity to integrate and socialise with the other children in the group.

We were very excited to have a 'Coffee and Muffin' morning with our mummies, to celebrate Mother's Day in March 2020. However this unfortunately had to be cancelled, due to Covid19.

As we only had a handful of parents who were keyworkers, it was decided to close the pre-school during the 1st lockdown, to ensure the safety of the children, staff and their families. We re-opened in June and were so happy to see a few of the children returning, to see their friends and enjoy the summer sunshine.

In September the children all returned back to nursery with lots of outdoor learning and were so happy to see their friends. It was really lovely to see the children socialising and having a bit of normality, in these strange and unprecedented times!

We had a lovely Christmas party and Father Christmas visited outdoors to spoil the children with gifts.

We were really fortunate to get funding to have our floors and carpet redone. They look fabulous and have made such a difference to the setting, particularly for SEND children!



Mandy Wordon – Hut Nursery and Pre-school Leader



Food Parcels during Lockdown

This year, we worked as part of the Sustainable Food Partnership, Food Poverty Group/Affordable Food Network, as many of the families we were supporting were struggling to access food. We developed a link with Bloomfield Allotment Group who dropped off fresh produce each week which was shared with families. We referred families to Foodbanks where needed and co-ordinated with other agencies to support in the best way we could.



"The deliveries have been a lifeline for us and it's so nice to see your smiling face!"



Summer Break Out



Due to the restrictions & guidance in place, we couldn't go ahead with our usual Community Summer Playday programme

During the summer holidays, the wider Play team worked with Bath Rugby Foundation, FareShare and Bath City FC to provide family 'Break Out' sessions at sites in Welton, Keynsham and Twerton. These 'play at a distance' sessions provided local children and families with play opportunities in their community which adhered to Covid-19 restrictions – a challenge in itself! Play opportunities ranged from wide games to nature play, from bubbles to chalk printing and Pre-booked families had access to lots of mainly outdoor play and sports and a hot meal every day. Some families were disappointed as they thought they would be mixing with others but due to the restrictions in place, they were allocated their own time slots. This resulted in times where there were only a few families booked in and so was relatively calm unlike our usual summer!

BAPP Staff had very different experiences at each site but generally the service was well received with plenty of food available both at the sessions and for families to take away.

Nurture Summer Play

We worked with Brighter Futures at Twerton Infants School and provided a 2 week programme for 9 schools, each of whom put forward 10 children aged 5 to 11 who would benefit from nurturing support over the summer. Many of the children have specialist support in school/home (including Nurture Outreach Support, Speech and Language, Behaviour Support, 1:1 in class) and had a range of vulnerabilities. Most families had been disproportionately affected by lockdown (many of the children on the scheme had not been in school since March for a variety of reasons). The provision was built around EYFS principles; a rich offer of various activities, skilled practitioners supporting children to explore their fascinations at developmentally appropriate level. And a strong focus on supporting PSE/MH and emerging social situations.

Children were able to build a tree house together over the 2 weeks which was left in situ for the children to continue using at the school. Children learnt how to use tools safely, worked together co-operatively and were incredibly proud at their achievement.



There were also lots of Harry Potter related imaginative play including broomstick flying and quidditch!



"It's probably one of the best holiday clubs I have been to, it's fun, we get to play, do cool stuff like building stuff, like a tree-house, doing a fire, and just nature. I found it really fun!" Zeb



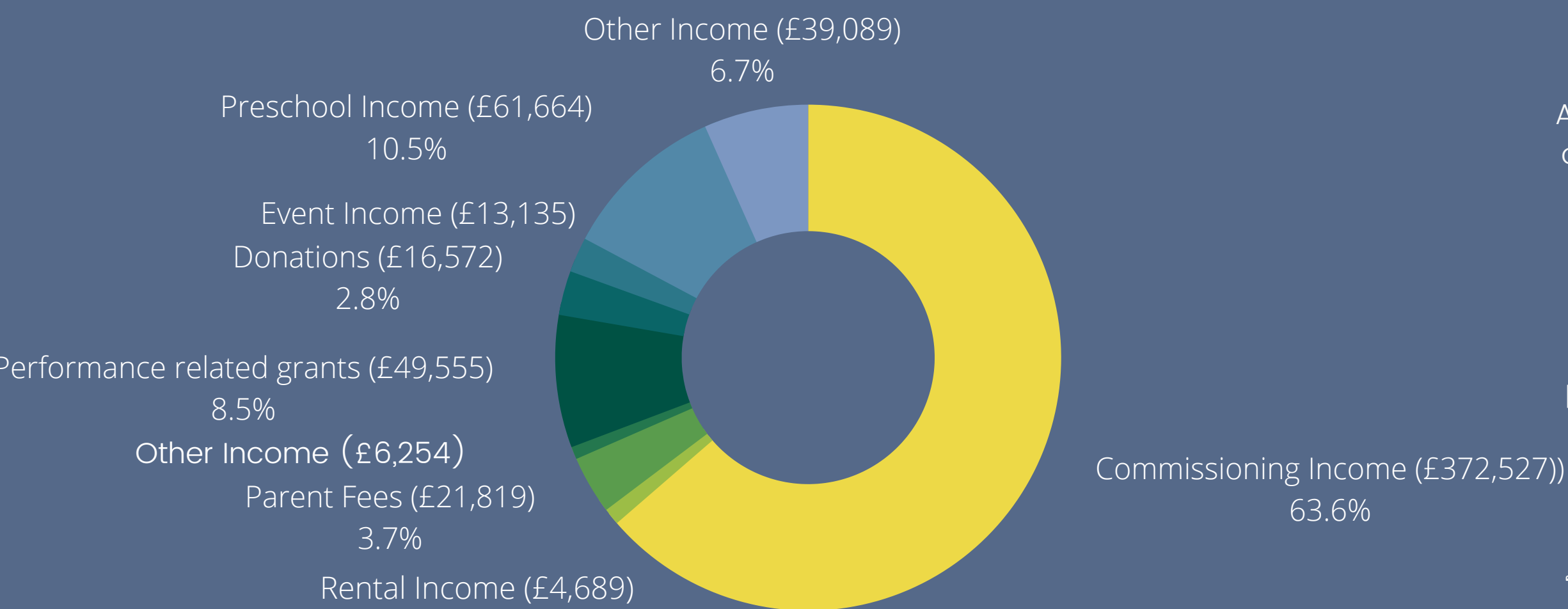
Finance, Governance and Quality Improvement

BAPP Trustee meetings moved to Zoom with an increased amount of workload as decisions were required quickly in response to the changing situations. We received Covid support grants used for building maintenance whilst we had no building users and funding for specific Covid support for families which was highly valued and appreciated.

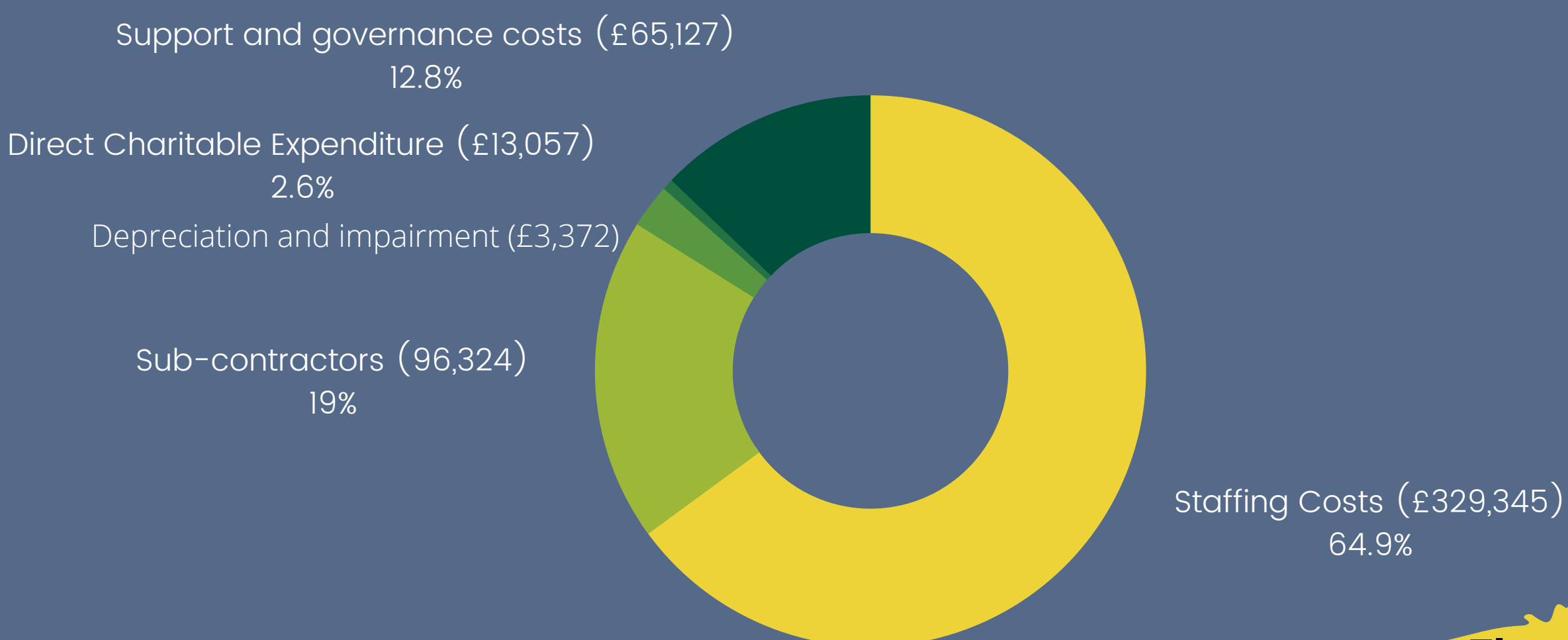
We are very grateful to the Bath Disability Trust for their support this year, as we have finally managed to replace the flooring throughout the Hut, making the space much safer and more accessible for non-mobile disabled children.

We were able to recruit a new Trustee Treasurer, Tracy Hill who was hugely welcomed. Trustees and Management supported staff through this period, acknowledging the change of working from home was challenging and showed appreciation to staff for everything that they were doing to support children and families. Our Compliance Officer, Karen managed a smooth transfer for the ISO9001 Quality Standard to the 2015 version, putting in place various processes in order that the standards are maintained across all our services.

We held our AGM on Zoom – asking everyone to bring something they could make a noise with as this was the theme for this year’s National Playday. This event was held virtually on our Facebook page with various play provocations provided by all staff. Throughout the day, even though we couldn’t be together face to face, we reached over 16,000 people and had 4,000 engagements – far bigger than our usual public event in Queen Square!



Total Income for the year ending 31st March 2021 - £585,305



Total Expenditure for the year ending 31st March 2021 - £507,225

The Bath Area Play Project Annual Accounts are available on request, please provide an email address, alternatively they are available on our website www.bapp.org.uk

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their 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)

Thank you to all those who provided funding to ensure we could continue supporting children and families.

Who we are

Trustees

Chair:	Anji Henderson
Nice-Chair:	Felicity Wikeley
Treasurer:	Charles Gerrish (until April 2021)
Trustees:	Emma Hendy, Vicky Heslop, Joan Cooper, Carly McKeever, Michael Bogg, Caroline White, Fiona Andrews (until Sept 2020)

BAPP Trustees are from a diverse range of backgrounds who all give their time and expertise to support staff and govern the organisation, ensuring that we can focus on delivering high quality play services that are responsive to needs.

Thank you to all our Trustees for their ongoing time and support.

If you would be interested in becoming a Trustee please get in touch.

A big welcome to our new treasurer, Tracy Hill, from May 2021. Tracy is an accountant and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience.

Staff

Director:	Caroline Haworth (MBE)
Play Service Manager:	Nikki Cox
Outreach worker:	Sam Ward
Family Play Support Workers:	John Melbourne, Sarah Davies
Community Play Support Workers:	Amie Clarke, Sarah Meddick, Mark De'Lisser (until sept 20), Matt Pepper, Nic Cunliffe (from Sept '20), Emma Hurd, Sophie Fieldsend Lesley Whitefield
Children and Young People's Network Co-ordinator:	Gilly Samuddin
The Hut Nursery and Pre-school Leader:	Mandy Wordon
Early Years Practitioners:	Michelle Straffen (SENCo), Kristy Rowlands, Harriet Ridings, Helen Mattock, Rosie Carey
Short Breaks Co-ordinator:	Roz King
Finance and Office Manager:	Caz Hey
Short Breaks Playscheme & Saturday Club Staff:	Lead - Petra Burgess, Ethan Hallett, Francie Brown, Emily Harrison, Patrick O'Reilly, Mandy Wordon Rachel Connew, Katie Blacker, Andy Fenton, Beth Ives, Tamsin Sharp Luke Guest, Amber Cook, Gali Shiloh, Beth Jolley, Lucy Sheppard, Michelle Straffen, Reece Tomlin, Matt Kenney, Emily Fyffe, Louise Fluck, Shannon Buxton, Patrick O'Reilly, Gemma Button, Katie Blacker, Phoebe Eldridge, Charlotte Nurse, Carenza Clifford



All our wonderful sessional playworkers for Creches, Playdays and Playschemes.





Bath Area Play Project

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**Registered Charity
No. 1013897**