



Bath Area Play Project

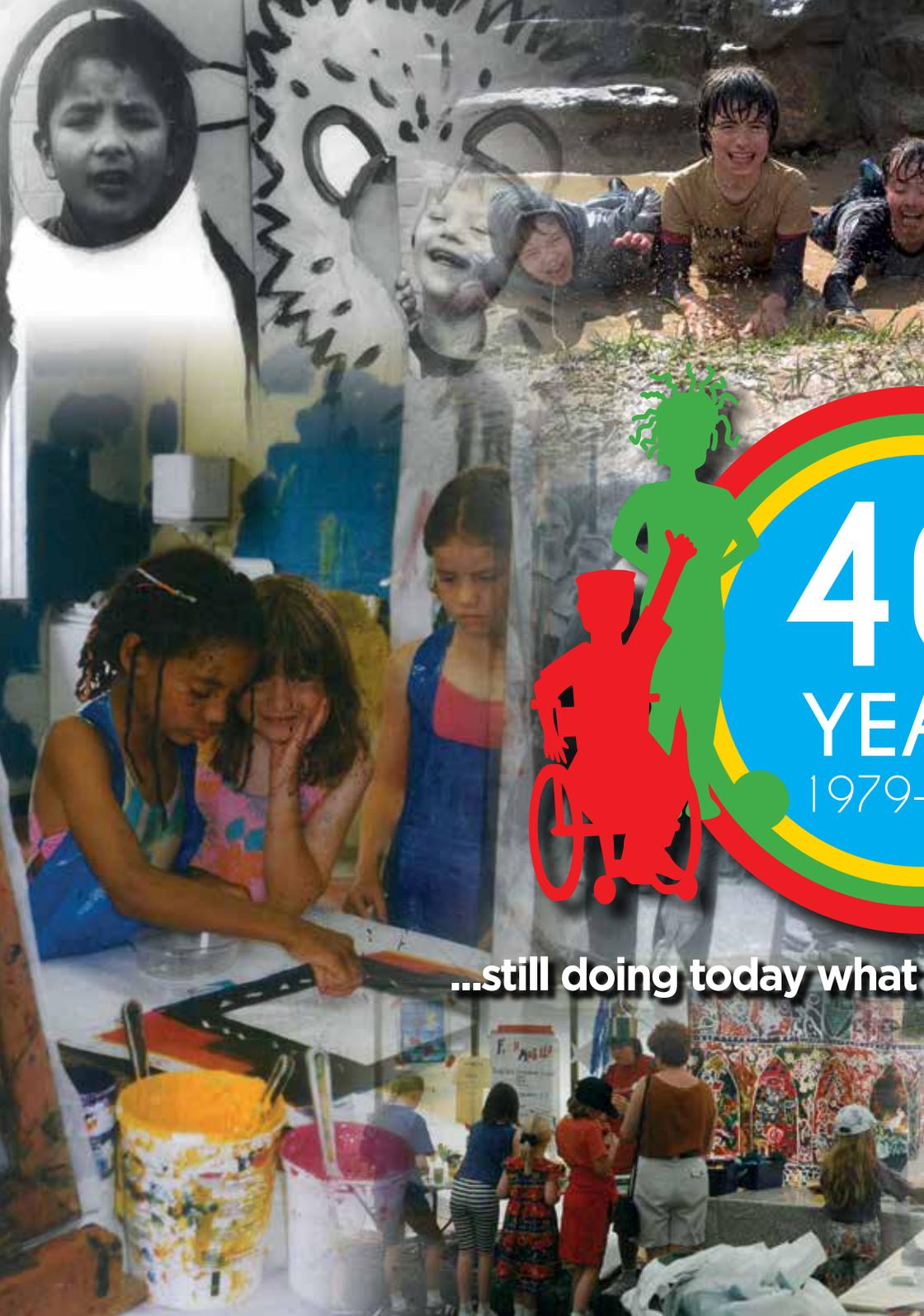
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Registered Charity No. 1013897

BAPP Annual Report 2018/19



1979 - 2019 - 40 years of play in Bath



40
YEARS
1979-

...still doing today what



we were set up to do!





1979 – 2019 BAPP are still working at the edge of chaos providing a range of play opportunities, supporting young people into volunteering and enabling 1,000s of children to develop confidence and resilience through play in action. We have had several staff changes this year and now have an amazing staff team as well as regular volunteers both of whom are critical to the success of our work. Trustees made difficult decisions this year; firstly to keep the Nursery and Pre-school operating whilst we increased numbers from September to December and to suspend the Toy Library as the user numbers were making it unviable however groups are still able to access by request and toys are loaned to parents where needs have been identified which play would help with.

We completed some successful consultation sessions with children and families in two areas; Sydney Gardens and Alice Park and were delighted to hear that the bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund was successful. In April 2019, we will be starting weekly Play Ranger sessions in Sydney Gardens.

We have continued to provide support for schools including lunchtime Playworkers at Moorlands, St. Saviours Infants and Juniors as well as work in partnership with other organisations to deliver services. We have continued to build on our partnership with other organisations and submitted bids to B&NES Children's Services for Targeted Term Time and Holiday Short Breaks. These were both successful bids and work began in April 2019.





Whilst today in 2019, we deliver a hugely increased range of services compared to 1979, the playing child still remains at the heart of all that we do. We have a staff team who are playful at heart and flexible and caring with the children and families they support.

They understand the importance of nurturing and enabling and allowing children to be in control of their play. Play is the right of all children and with today's increasing childhood obesity and mental health issues, we will continue to campaign and maintain services for children across the Bath area to have the freedom and confidence to play out in their own community, to connect

socially with peers and adults and have the capacity to thrive wherever they are. We are reaching in excess of 6,000 children each year, many of whom are vulnerable and disabled but through the expertise of our staff and the power of play as a catalyst for change, supporting both children and adults to make positive changes and choices and most importantly great play memories.

On a social media post showing old photos from BAPP services in the 1970s and 1980s, adults have fondly recalled their time at open-access playschemes, remembering key moments like it was yesterday, even sharing photos of items they made and still have.

We are indebted to everyone that also believes in the importance of play for children; our Trustees, business support, donations from parents and businesses, grant funding from funders.





CHAIR'S REPORT

Another busy year for BAPP in increasingly more challenging times.

BAPP has managed to not only carry on services in both Bath and throughout B&NES but also extend its capabilities within this very important sector of preventative work working with children, young people and their parents and carers.

It has been my pleasure to Chair the Board. The number of Trustees has grown and following an audit, we now have a balanced make up of skills and experience. Sadly, this will be my last year as Chair and I would like to commend all the staff, volunteers and Trustees commitment to BAPP and the work they do. It is greatly appreciated.

During the year there have been many changes in the administration and back room side of BAPP. Trustees made the decision to open a new Bank Account and to move finances from an internal role to external Accountants. The staff team have undertaken GDPR training and maintained the requirements of legislative requirements and keep up with policy. We will be further expanding this thanks to funding from St. John's Foundation to ensure that we maintain the Quality and Compliance required.

I wish to commend Caroline and all employees for all their hard work this year and their ability to turn their hand to anything; responding to challenges and taking on things outside their role, helping and supporting each other. I have to also thank and commend Caroline for the successful commissioning bids and the further development of partnership bids which have helped ensure that services for the vulnerable and disabled children and families remain being delivered by an inclusive and non-judgemental local third sector organisation.

40 years of delivering high quality services is one which we are all immensely proud of and i fell privileged to have been involved.

Jayne Pye

Chair of Trustees

THE HUT NURSERY & 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, and each session has a maximum of 15 children per session. A typical morning involves lots of fun with movement and song, some creative craft and, best of all, some messy play – which the children love!

At the end of the school year we had a large group of children leave us to move on from pre-school to reception. We are very happy to say that each one of those children transitioned smoothly and have settled happily into their new school. We are especially proud of very special little girl, who was sharing a dual placement with us and BOP. She made such remarkable progress with us through the year, both socially and cognitively, which enabled her to transition remarkably well into her new school – Margaret Coates.

As a team are really proud of how lovely our setting is looking. We have recently repainted 2 rooms in the nursery, thanks to donations of paint from Rabart which has made the room welcoming, lovely and bright, enabling to show off all the creativity that the children make. We were very lucky to receive funding from Bath Disability Trust for our artificial grass outside at the Hut, which has made such a wonderful difference to our outdoor area! The children are loving the new sandbox too! Thank-you too all involved who made these improvements possible!

FAMILY PLAY SUPPORT

provides support for families referred to the Family Support and Play Service which we are working in partnership with Southside to deliver. The Service includes support for whole families, Nurture Groups in schools, individual support as well as Family Play Hubs and Playdays. In 2018, the team have worked with 49 families and 103 children in schools across B&NES, with increased support for young people with mental health challenges. A teenager engaged with our offer of support, has now really taken responsibility for his own health and the tools for improving it. Part of the process was to help him to take on these tools with a view to being his own coach into the future. Support has been provided for young people with needs around depression and various forms of anxiety. For some older young people, the inclination is to talk. For others, talking can be a challenge so we have combined CBT methods with play. And this is not just for the individual; Parents, siblings and other key extended family members can get drawn in, for the child's benefit and their own!

Of course, we support behaviours via supporting emotions and cognitions. And for the majority, play can make that support so much more emotionally accessible. (... oh, and we, the staff, enjoy playing too :-))



PLAY SAFELY

and always use common sense
and follow the instructions
to prevent any accidents or
injury.

CASE STUDY

An 8-year-old girl and her mother were referred with issues around their relationship, managing their responses to each other, feelings of isolation for the mother and dealing with rejection from her father for the daughter. This family had previously had no support other than from school so to pull everyone together the family agreed to an early help assessment. Mother and daughter started to attend a family play hub to start to have some fun together and to build on social networks to address the isolation mum felt.

To help the girl understand her feelings around rejection she met weekly with play worker and experienced therapeutically informed play sessions addressing her feelings, talking through her 'anger' towards mum and dad for not being together and to build strategies to manage her responses. The worker worked in their home to encourage mother and daughter to communicate feelings, talk about issues, whilst encouraging them to devise their own ways to reduce negativity and build on positive experiences together. As a result of this approach, the family no longer requires statutory assessment, mum has a small network of friends, at home they state feels happy and they both reflect that the whole family support approach helped them to deal individually and together with issues faced.

Quote from the young person: "I'm better since seeing my worker and I am learning how to deal with my emotions. Spending time with her has been great. I am proud of the work and things I have learnt".



Once again we completed several successful applications for funding to continue the ever popular open-access **Playdays** which were attended by 4,548 children and their families offering a huge variety of outdoor opportunities across the B&NES area to engage in play opportunities with their children that could be replicated in their own homes, gardens and in the local community. This included messy play with cornflour, bubbles with washing up liquid, Den building and assessable cycling. The playdays offered families chances to play and explore local settings that they may not have already visited or known such as local woods, local parks, two tunnels and local walking routes. The play days were well attended with many families following the days around BANES, this enabled the team to build some relationships and address some family issues; which included access to playful activities which were free or have a minimal cost, sign posting to our other services such as whole family support, Teenage rampage or volunteering.

One family who we met at the first play day came to all except 1 day, mum spent time with staff talking through play opportunities and what they encouraged within child development, enquired about volunteering for her daughter and shared struggles her and her family have experienced in their local community around their religion and how they are identified by others. The team were able to sign post to local support groups and offered potential support through the family play hubs

The Nurture groups within schools have been successful in addressing issues including dealing with anxiety, social exclusion from peers, low self-esteem and low self-confidence. Our work in a secondary school in September was particularly successful as each member of the group had similar struggles with transitioning to secondary school, feelings of isolation within their peer group and pressure to 'fit in'. Once the young people started to feel and show relaxed responses towards the team of play workers, they started to address feelings through successful challenges that addressed the groups issues such as time keeping, resilience under pressure, asking for help and ways to support each other when a task feels overwhelming.

The skills learnt in the sessions were evident early on in the term as reflected by the SENCO as the group members were making transitions between classes better, they were spending time at breaks with each other outside rather than inside and have formed supportive friendships outside of the group with each other, some have increased attendance especially to make the group and all are less focused on how daunting secondary school is and more on how to enjoy the experience.

"We'd love the team to come back next year please! The c students have engaged and responded well to the sessions and shown a huge development in confidence."



TARGETED & INCLUSIVE PLAY SERVICES

2018 was the last year of the existing B&NES contract providing Holiday Playschemes for 157 disabled and non-disabled children aged 3-19 years and Targeted Youth provision. Holiday Playschemes ran at BOP for 3-5 year olds and at Three Ways School for 5 to 19 years, The Hut for 5-12 years The SOFA programme and Teenage Rampage support disabled young people aged 12/13+ to enjoy regular social opportunities through term time and the school summer holidays with a trial of 2 days at Easter. All services aim to provide high quality care and great experiences for disabled and non-disabled young people, Improve sociability of young people over the long summer holidays, To create a safe and fun environment and allow young people to try new activities, Promote an active life style and Allow young people to enjoy being outside and the place where they live.

Young people worked with the Development Worker to put together the programme. Highlights of which were White Water Rafting and the Beach day. We were delighted to hear in January 2019, that our partnership bid to continue delivering similar services was approved.

QUOTES FROM YOUNG PEOPLE

"Just to say how grateful I am that this service is available to me, it is great fun and helps my parents in the holidays too."

"I did SOFA because they provided activities that I have never tried before and it was LOTS of FUN!"

"The staff were so friendly and helped me make friends"

"Sofa 18 was fun it got me out the house and off my Xbox"

We were approached by B&NES to run the Saturday Club which we started in September and continue to run with the new contract. This provides respite for parents and a secure and safe fun sociable group for disabled children aged 5 – 12 years at the Hut every Saturday during term time.

TARGETED YOUTH – TEENAGE RAMPAGE

This year we have had sustained attendance for the 30 sessions with 250 disabled young people accessing the partnership services across the year. Particularly popular was the Dance session – One of our Workers studies dance, so was able to create a dance routine for some of the young people to learn, based on songs that they chose. Make Your Own session – we made stress balls, soap, sensory bottles, scones and play dough. A very messy session, which appealed to many of the young people.

We have built a very successful relationship with the Manager of Giraffe who allows us to take Menus away so young people have the time to look through and discuss choices. We then place the order in advance. At the restaurant they are very welcoming and have very patient staff!

As an integral part of Rampage is developing life skills, young people have been clearing away after snacks, telling a member of staff if there is a spillage, sharing responsibility for tidying up and looking after things etc. This also led to a weekly rota for helping staff with cleaning the kitchen, doing the dishes, sweeping etc. This all helps to encourage a sense of shared responsibility.



CASE STUDY

We have noticed a positive change in one of our newer young people over a few terms. He has always been an energetic and enthusiastic young person and we have had occasions where it has been a struggle to keep him engaged. He has now started to relax with us and is able to listen when we explain that there will be time to run around later in the session. When we reviewed the session agreement, he had some positive input and was reassured by the fact that we made it clear that the staff are not teachers and that the emphasis during sessions is on everyone enjoying themselves together. He has been more able to focus on short craft activities and has even wanted to bring his finished work to show staff. At the end of the session we have made time to talk to his Dad about all the positive things we have seen during the session and this has helped him to feel noticed and proud of himself. He is now much more settled in the group.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S NETWORK

- **Research project: commissioned by Quartet, the research project highlighted ways which the network could be supported to work together more collaboratively. The Network has followed up on several of the suggested outcomes and are currently working on proposals for a Pre NEET Collaboration project working with young people 14 – 16 years old. The working group has met with B&NES council and are working on the finer details and awaiting funding at the moment.**
- **Our monthly ebulletin newsletters which go out to over 180 members have continued to be well received. We have featured a range of projects as our star of the month feature and regularly get positive feedback on the highlighted training and fundraising opportunities.**
- **This year we held 4 network meetings: 2xGDPR (March & April – 1 was hosted at combe Grove), Collaboration (June) Young people's Foundation (September). Our December meeting was postponed until January at members requests with speakers from Tech4Good, Bath.**
- **Member engagement levels are consistent, and we have also worked hard over the past year to engage with new groups. The Network coordinator has made connections with new members through attending interagency meetings, 'my big local' meetings, visiting local toddler groups to speak to parents as well as attending various play days to network with families in the community.**
- **Network representatives sit on 8 strategic boards (Early help board, LSCB, SEND strategy group, Emotional Health & wellbeing, Workforce reform steering group, CYP subgroup of the Health & wellbeing board, Parenting strategy group & newly reformed B&NES Equalities group) as well as having a network member as an elected core group member for 3SG (third sector group)**
- **We are now exploring 'action learning sets' and have held first SEND group in January 2019**
- **184 members at the end of quarter 4: 2018 , an increase of 12% across the year**

WITH THANKS TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS!

As we are able to offer volunteering opportunities from age 14, we are able to support a number of young people to gain valuable experience and build confidence. In 2018, we had support from 29 volunteers aged 14 - 70 years from all backgrounds as well as student groups, and student placements.

Our Volunteer Co-ordinator supported a transition from service user (SOFA) to volunteer at TR and taking part in social action project. Staff spotted that Amy had potential and during attending the session was an incredible support to peers during the summer. Amy showed an interested in volunteering and developing these skills. She has since been a valuable weekly volunteer at Teenage Rampage and central member of the social action project. The Social Action Project was funded through #iwill through the Quarter Foundation and the young people have been involved in making and selling crafts including pom-pom tree decorations at the Christmas Fair, gardening and volunteering.

With Special mention to Tony our resident handyperson who keeps the buildings and outside space at the Community Centre and the Hut looking fabulous and fit for play! Tony has committed a lot of time and brings his expertise to BAPP over the last year including revamping an entire surface area in the Hut garden, making a much more accessible, playful and safe environment for the children. Thank you, Tony!

With Thanks to the returning BUAS (Bristol University Air Squadron), for clearing the outside space at Odd Down Community Centre and to Mike from Me & My Van for moving all our kit to and from Queen Square for National Playday - you're a star!

"I really enjoy volunteering at BAPP.. I recommend it to other people"

"I felt that BAPP's approach to volunteering was spot on"

FEEDBACK FROM VOLUNTEER AGE 14, AND HIS PARENT,

the staff were all "really nice - they treated me like a person not a child!" and he liked "being helpful." His confidence has increased, and he definitely wants to volunteer again.

FEEDBACK FROM YOUNG VOLUNTEER WHO WAS ANXIOUS ABOUT TAKING THE STEP INTO VOLUNTEERING.

"I really enjoyed it I was kept busy with things to do so that really helped"

Many Thanks to our Sessional Volunteers: Jessica, Maddison, Emily H, Virag, Mash, Divancy, Vanesha, Verity, Evie, Rebecca, Charlie, Fedesi, Emma, Shivani, Lucy, Martha, Jack, Amy, Iona, Gemma, Becky, Abi, Emily C, Marianne, Charlotte and Megan.



MISSION

Bath Area Play Project are strong advocates for the child's right to play and have a clear inclusive ethos which is applicable across service delivery as well as culture and our workforce. As a play organisation, we have children's participation embedded in how we work. We actively support young people to get involved in volunteering through mentoring and ensure that the voice of the child is central to the services we run.

BAPP recognises and promotes the importance of self-directed play in relation to child development and the rights of children and young people and is committed to facilitating user-led inclusive, specialist play opportunities and activities for children and young people in their own communities.

We support this through provision of or access to ongoing training and professional development for all staff and volunteers.

82% of children are more emotionally resilient

By being in control of their play and having an adult they trust that allows them to test things out and take risks, supports children to develop resilience. Increasingly we are supporting children to develop coping strategies and understanding of self, linked to their mental health and social isolation.

97% of children are more physically active

Access to outside play opportunities enables children to be more physical than in PE lessons at school. Through play sessions, children don't feel judged or stigmatised and respond positively to physical group games and activities which combined with being outside and being able to control their play, has shown increased physical literacy.

95% of children are more confident

Once children have established a trusting relationship with playworkers, their strengths are recognised and built on. Staff spend time listening to children and providing information which enables children to develop self-esteem. Disabled children have increased confidence in practical life skills as well as around their peers, recognising their impact on others.

Year Round



In School Holidays



In term time



WHO WE ARE

Staff

Director:	Caroline Haworth MBE
Office Manager: Cheryl Clifford	Sarah Sealy until September 2018, then
Outreach Worker:	Sam Ward
CYP Network Co-ordinator:	Gilly Samuddin
SOFA Development Worker:	Ella Emery
Family Play Support Workers:	John Melbourne, Lisa Wilson until December 2018, then Sarah Davies
Community Play Support Workers:	Chloe Ridout, Dan Fisk until June 2018, then Mark De Lisser, Sarah Meddick, Sarah Davies until December 2018, then Shane Leigh, Ellie Miller until December 2018, then Rachel Inker Harriet Rose
Volunteer Co-ordinator:	Sarah Sealy until March 2019, then
Saturday Club Leader:	Mandy Wordon
Targeted Sessional Staff:	Nancy Appleton, Jasmine Appleton, Jamie Hamilton, Tamsin Sharp, Michelle Straffen, Phoebe Eldridge, Daria Wieczerza, Tim Gilks, Louise Fluck, Lara Cristiano
Schools Intervention:	Petra Burgess, Tim Gilks, Ellie Miller, Rachel Inker, Dan Fisk, Nicole Titchener, Catt Davidson
Creche Workers:	Helen Mattock, Gemma Mizzi, Bryony West, Layna Rowlands
Volunteer Archivist:	Phil Cooper
Volunteer Handyman:	Tony Clutten

Trustees

Chair:	Jayne Pye
Vice Chair:	Fi Andrews
Secretary:	Anji Henderson
Treasurer:	Amar Shah Vicky Heslop Emma Hendy Felicity Wakeley Joan Cooper Caroline White





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