



# ANNUAL REVIEW 2016/7



**Bath Area Play Project**

[www.bapp.org.uk](http://www.bapp.org.uk) (01225) 832479

Registered Charity No. 1013897



*Facilitating play in Bath since 1979*



**96%**  
of children have  
increased  
confidence to  
express their  
needs

## Our Mission

BAPP recognises and promotes 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



## Priorities

To work in partnership with schools, organisations and authorities to embed the importance of play for children's development as part of a commitment to improved emotional well-being

To support workforce development of the playwork sector

To work with vulnerable and disabled children, young people & their families, providing holistic support based on a strengths perspective

## BAPP Aims to:

Support children and young people's access to play and to enjoy their childhood.

Our vision is of a society that values equality and recognises the importance of play and positive activities for children and young people

Actively advocate for children, enabling their voice to be heard and facilitate a range of services supporting children and young peoples' access to play and leisure opportunities

Support families to enable improved attachment and relationships leading to greater resilience and capacity.

## What We Do

- Family Support • Nurture Groups • Teenage Rampage
- Life Skills • Playdays • Holiday Playschemes
- SOFA • Pre-school • Children & Young Peoples Network



## Trustees

Chair: **Darren Brazil**

Vice Chair: **Jo Stooling**

Treasurer: **Freddy Wong**

Trustees:

**Graeme Athey**  
(resigned March 2016)

**Michelle Reynolds**  
(resigned March 2016)

**Sarah Giovaninni**

**Anji Henderson**

**Fiona Andrews**

**Amar Shar**

## Chair's Report



It's been another exciting and challenging year for us at BAPP. It's fair to say we've been through the mill a little, with continued challenges in the external environment, not least the increased pressures on local authority budgets. Despite this, and the challenges this year that the commissioning processes have presented to us, we have held our nerve and our resolve, and continued to provide both universal and targeted services across the city. We've said farewell to some friends and colleagues, and hello to new members of the team, both staff and volunteers. Now I'm not one for lists but given just how much has gone on this, I feel the need to share just a few here;

- We delivered a very successful Summer programme reaching over 6,000 children and their families.
- We installed a new sensory room at the Hut, which was funded by Wooden Spoon, the charity for children's rugby.
- We've made improvements at the Community Centre with funding from Tesco, Groundworks and Bags of Help; had the building painted by interns and apprentices from the MOD in Bristol, the lounge decorated by BMT Defence team, and the fence replaced and painted by volunteers from B&NES as part of a Community Challenge. All of this work and other activities, show a real sense of the value our communities place on the work that BAPP does, and for me show a real sense of shared pride in our achievements well outside of the organisation itself.

We successfully tendered for commissioned services in a joint venture with our partners at Southside. This is a new model of delivery for us, and we're really pleased to be working in partnership Southside and we're very excited for the future delivery of that work.

I'd like to pay our particular thanks this year to our volunteer Phil Cooper who has been gradually scanning and logging in hundreds if not thousands of documents creating an Archive of BAPP's work over the last 38 years! An amazing contribution to supporting us and preserving our legacy. Thank you Phil.

Every year that I have been with BAPP, it never ceases to fill me with immense pride and humility. The work of our staff, volunteers, commissioners, donors and friends, genuinely has a value beyond measure. It's the things we do, every day, the small acts of kindness and care, that set us apart, making us as precious and special an organisation as we are.

In my final year as chair of BAPP, I'd like to offer my sincere gratitude for all the hard work and dedication that goes into making this charity what is today and for the difference it makes every day. I wish you all nothing but continued success, with all my heart. You're amazing.

*Darren Brazil*  
Chair of Trustees

Play is vital for children's development; it enables children's emotional resilience to develop and strengthens their mental capacity to deal with the unknown and challenges. Without the opportunity to explore, experiment and take risks in play, children are less able to problem solve and have less capacity for social engagement

## 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.

■ Play Services	<b>£161,561</b> (42%)
■ Office and Support Services	<b>£82,820</b> (13%)
■ Pre-school and Toy Library	<b>£44,109</b> (10%)
■ Disabled Services	<b>£79,111</b> (33%)
■ Governance Costs	<b>£5,526</b> (2%)



Total Income for 2015/16 £500,796 and Total Expenditure was £491,652. For a full set of Accounts for 2016/17, please contact the BAPP office and we can send them to you.

**Play is the universal language of childhood. It is through play that children understand each other and make sense of the world around them**



I can now have a break with the confidence that my child is safe. He is now able to initiate play with unknown children as he has become more socially confident.

Thank you





No of CYPN  
Members:  
**167**

No of families  
supported  
**86**

No of  
Individual  
Children supported  
**113**

No of Volunteers  
supported:  
**37**



**WEBSITE**  
total unique visitors  
**23,559**  
[www.bapp.org.uk](http://www.bapp.org.uk)

Provided  
**1,152**  
sessions of play  
support with  
families

**100%**  
Schools report that  
Nurture Groups have  
improved children  
behaviour

No of Play  
Ranger  
Sessions  
**64**

No. of children  
attending:  
**295**

Number  
of holiday  
Playscheme Days  
delivered  
**58 Days**  
or  
**248**  
hours



**1331**  
Facebook Fans

No of children  
attending:  
**4,273**

No of playdays  
delivered:  
**24**

No of young  
people on SOFA  
**114**

## What we have done this year...

BAPP supports over 900 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. 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.



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

# The Hut Pre-School

In December 2016 our play based early years setting was again graded Good by Ofsted. The Pre-school is in Twerton and provides play based early learning opportunities during term time for 25 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 choose this setting as their children 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 benefits from being permanently set up with the following facilities on site which staff use effectively to support children's learning and development:

- 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.
- A newly refurbished Sensory Room funded by the Wooden Spoon Charity
- A Soft Play room
- An experienced and well qualified friendly staff team



**Ofsted Inspector said** *"Children respond positively to staff and are confident and secure in their care. Staff are friendly and sensitive. They support children's emotional security effectively. Children enjoy their play. Staff plan a good range of motivating activities based on children's interests, which help children make good progress from their starting points. Staff have developed their awareness of children's particular patterns of play and this has helped them support children's learning well. Relationships with parents are positive and supported by good sharing of information ensuring consistency between home and the Pre-school."*

# Community Play Rangers

This year the Play Ranger team continued to work in Springfield Park, Pennyquick Park, Weston Rec, Bath City Farm and the Firs. We saw an increase in whole families attending and parents participating in the sessions with their children, increasing social relationships in communities and encouraging positive relationships with their children and others through play. The Foxhill and Pennyquick sessions saw a vast age range of children attending; from parents with babies, to older teenagers engaging with play workers and supporting younger children to enjoy play in their local park. Returning to Foxhill after last year's Community Safety funding meant we had a great reception from the community, all happy to see the play rangers back and facilitating play in their area. Curo have agreed to fund more play sessions in April 2017.

By facilitating Community Play Ranger sessions local to the school where our nurture groups have been based, we enabled a good rapport to be built with schools, meaning numbers of children attending the after school sessions increased and the positive impact of play was seen within local communities. Having more parents and carers attending sessions enabled play workers to support them to access other services. Often having an informal chat allows parents to openly discuss any issues or concerns with regards to family life and be signposted to other agencies where appropriate, forming strong relationships.

The CPRs continued their work within schools planning small targeted nurture groups. In 2016 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, structured activities and play opportunities are planned to benefit the children. Outcomes including improved social skills and conflict resolution skills within friendship groups and the increased ability to listen and concentrate within the classroom.



*"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

# 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.

With 17 new children, these Holiday Playschemes are becoming more and more popular with demand for places increasing. We have had referrals from schools and Social Care and as well as parents, foster parents are also using the schemes for much needed respite. 98% of parents agree that the service provides them with a much needed short break with many saying it enables them

to enjoy time with other children or to just have space to do things they couldn't otherwise do.

We have been working closely in partnership with Fosse Way, KIDS and BOP to streamline the booking and allocation system with a revised policy for allocations. Over the course of the year, we are also dealing with more complex and challenging behaviours and to ensure the quality of care is not affected, numbers will be managed more effectively.

The Playschemes ran during the Easter, Summer, October and February holidays with a Christmas Party at the Hut. The staff and volunteers work incredibly hard to facilitate a range of play opportunities which has included Henna, Wheels4All bikes, soft play, non-cook cookery, smoothies, lots of water and bubble play, imaginative and creative play as well as the usual den building and general open-ended, often messy, play.

## Parent evaluations:

*"It is really important that my child can play alongside other children. He is really happy at playscheme and I can spend quality time with my other child knowing he is having fun at playscheme."*

*"He now seems more and more able to entertain himself and is becoming less dependent as his confidence increases and he is proud of himself when he attends playscheme."*





**90%**  
of young people have  
improved their  
personal life  
skills

**Inclusive Holiday Playschemes - 12 - 19 years**

## **SOFA - Summer Of Fun Activities**

Participating in an inclusive programme such as SOFA has positive outcomes for Young People's psychological well-being; not only is it a source of enjoyment, but offers opportunities for experiencing success, as well as learning new skills but essentially it improves self-worth, confidence and self-esteem. We saw a huge increase this summer in numbers of service users with additional support needs. This summer over 55% described themselves as disabled; on top of this, a further proportion were referred through social care or schools SEND/ School nurse, which created larger numbers who presented with either emotional or behaviour issues. Staff were on occasions stretched and the balance, where young people have in the past supported each other was lacking due to the higher levels of needs.

The participation team this summer were incredibly proactive and took ownership from the start. This was led by two experienced young people who had previously taken part in the planning process. They showed strong leadership skills and levels of maturity which supported those who were new or less confident. They allocated specific roles amongst the group, which had not been done previously and developed small sub groups; finance group, a design group and research group. This was initiated solely by the young people. The group also took it upon themselves to advocate for SOFA and took a quantity of leaflets into their own schools and created a competition to see who could generate the most applications from their schools. (Norton Hill won!)

### **Quote from a 16 year old young person:**

*"SOFA has been a part of my summer for many years and I have really enjoyed coming. It's a shame 2016 was my last year as I am now 16. The programme has allowed me to be more confident and comfortable around people. I have done many things and met so many people I would not have done. Thank you for many amazing summers.*



**93%**  
of children  
feel happier  
and more  
confident

# Teenage Rampage

2016 has seen another successful year for the group. We have been able to maintain steady numbers despite several young people (who have been with us since the age of 13) reaching the age where they had to move on. The sadness at saying goodbye to old friends has been tempered by the excitement of introducing several new young people to the group who have settled in brilliantly!

Activities have included: Teenage Rampage Fashion Week, a meal at a restaurant, cooking on the firepit, boxercise, baking, film night, multi sports, disco, making bird feeders, large scale junk modelling, local walk and picnic.

## Egg Theatre / National Theatre Connections - It Snows

From January to April, we worked on our performance of the scripted play 'It Snows'. The project was longer and more intense than the young people were used to, but it culminated in two amazing performances on the stage at The Egg as part of the National Theatre Connections Festival. The young people, their families and all the staff were so proud of the hard work and perseverance put in by all the young people. It was an amazing experience!

## Case Study

A young person has quite low confidence and struggles to believe anything positive about himself. This young person was cast in one of the two main roles in 'It Snows'. Staff and theatre practitioners supported him to learn his lines, record sections of dialogue, learn a dance and feel able to perform in front of his peers and ultimately on the stage.

When the performances came around, he invited his whole family and performed brilliantly, despite understandable nerves. He was able to accept the praise and congratulations and expressed that the project had helped him to believe in himself and his abilities. 'I never thought I could have done something like that'.



# Life Skills



Funded by BBC Children in Need, the group is led by the needs of the young people attending it. In 2016 we covered various topics, including healthy eating, kitchen skills and cooking, getting more active, using various forms of public transport, managing a budget and using money, shopping, routines, bullying and e-safety.

A highlight was our train trip to Bristol, which was planned and timetabled by the young people. They found information on the internet about train times, printed maps, found somewhere to eat, and worked out how to



get to certain places within our time frame. They ordered their own food and looked after train tickets and money themselves. We also practised appropriate behaviour in a gallery and museum, speaking to shop assistants and asking directions.

## Children & Young People's Network

This year, at The Children & Young People's Network, we have been focusing on extending our collaboration with other networks and agencies and raising awareness of our local Charities and Community Groups in terms of their professionalism and the impact they have on quality of life and locally.

Our monthly e-bulletin continues to promote funding, training and networking opportunities to support the work of our members and a successful workshop was held, in collaboration with the Volunteer Centre and the Business in the Community, to help groups look at their strategic direction in this changing environment. We are contributing to a number of discussions on avenues of increasing our influence in local decision making and our representatives continue to feed our views into the development of new strategy e.g. Early Help, Parenting and Neglect Strategies and responses to current issues such as online safeguarding, mental health, etc.

Elsewhere, The Children & Young People's Network webpages have been extended to include various resources for those working with children young people and their families.

We have had 6 new members join this year bringing total membership to 167 and have appointed new representatives on the SEND Strategy Group, Emotional Health & Wellbeing Board, Healthy Weight and Neglect Strategy groups.



# Family Play Inclusion Support & Family Play Partnerships

In 2016, the Service was funded through a Community Play Service contract with B&NES and a grant from the BIG Lottery. This was the final year of funding from the lottery. From 1st December 2016, we have been working in partnership with Southside to deliver the Family Support & Play Service, continuing much of the work. 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 across B&NES to reduce social isolation, increase access to play and reduce social anxieties through building connections with children, families and communities. This is done through a variety of methods including whole family support, individual support and Nurture Groups in Schools.

## Where referrals come from



**75%**  
parents increased confidence in managing behaviours

*"A fantastic service, an absolute life saver! We have been encouraged and supported in so many ways; the sessions have made such a difference - she has formed new friendships and developed confidence. We are a happier family now, thank you."* Parent of 13 year old





## Individual and whole Family support

Each of the 113 children/ young people who we've been supporting this year either individually or in groups have made notable progress. 86 families over the course of the Lottery funded project which together with a further 29 families were all supported with some significant shifts; notable increased play with parents and increased attendance at community groups and events as well as confidence in dealing with behaviours enabled improved relationships within families. With the continued support from Bath Marks and Spencer's and Neighbourly as well as Fareshare South West, BAPP have been able to provide families with food as well as use produce in cooking and snack making with children and families. Eating and sharing food together provides opportunities for social development and supports children to develop communication skills as well as understanding of public health messages in practical terms. This in turn supports parents to make positive changes to portion size and sugar intake often popular with children.

The Thursday Group continued to provide an opportunity for young people, who are electing not to attend or refusing school for a variety of reasons, to be able to achieve and socialise in the same setting. Much of the time is spent enjoying activities that the group

plans and engaging socially with each other. As a result of sustained contact, all young people started to attend school in September 2016 and are maintaining attendance.

Our team of 4 community play support workers offer 1:1 support to families and young people. Together they set targets for us all to work towards during our weekly sessions which are agreed with the family. We work as part of a multi-disciplinary team, contacting SENCOs, art therapists and various professionals whose aim is to improve the lives of young people. We keep an open line of communication with the families we work with establishing an honest, respectful and trusting relationship where we work as a team towards the outcomes we have set together.

In a parent review of the support, a Mum said that her daughter 'has come miles' and 'has really come out of herself' which is lovely to see. Mum said that she usually finds it difficult to trust people, but she has gained a real bond with the worker and has been sleeping better"

A full independent evaluation by the FSI of the project has been completed and is available on our website <http://tinyurl.com/grkvblp>



# National Playday

**always the first Wednesday in August.**

This year we were back in Queen Square with our fabulous partners including Family Information Service. 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. The former Mayor of Bath Cllr Will Sandry returned for an inflatable challenge with the Bath MP Ben Howlett and the current Mayor Cllr Paul Crossley enjoyed making a bike smoothie!



# Staff:

Director:	Caroline Haworth MBE
Finance Officer:	Sally Savage
Office Manager / SOFA Development Worker:	Sarah Sealy
Outreach Worker:	Sam Ward
Children & YP Network Co-ordinator:	Sue Evans
Play Service Manager:	Julie Bennett (from Dec 2016)
Family Play Support Workers:	John Melbourne & Lisa Wilson
Community Play Support Workers:	Julie Bennett (until November 2016), Matt Hudson, Jade Hall, Dan Fisk, Charlotte Farnham
Community Play Rangers:	Daisy McGill, Matt Hudson (left August 2016) then Natalie Aiken, Kate Pizzey, Tamsin Sharp
Pre-school Leader & Toy Library Development Worker:	Kerry Rowlands
Pre-school Workers:	Louise Barnes, Kristy Rowlands, Michelle Straffen & Layna Rowlands
Volunteer Co-ordinator:	Harriet Rose
Teenage Rampage Sessional Staff:	Dan Fisk, Nancy Appleton and Hannah Brittain
Lunchtime Play / Schools Intervention:	Alistair Pound, Dan Fisk, Charlotte Hansen, Catt Davidson, Harriet Rose
Crèche Workers:	Petra Burgess, Charlotte Hansen, Layna Rowlands
Volunteer Archivist:	Phil Cooper

## Volunteering:

We would firstly like to thank all the volunteers that have given their time to support us this year. Collaborative projects with Bath and North East Somerset council and the volunteer centre have enabled us to complete two necessary projects in our outdoor spaces - refurbishing and tidying up the 5 a side court at Odd Down and clearance of the garden at The Hut. Both projects have created truly great play spaces for children using our service! Thank you to B&NES community challenge teams for making this possible!

We have been able to offer volunteer opportunities and work experience placements to young people, including supporting those with additional needs as well as students aspiring to become teachers and social workers to enable them to gain valuable experience working with children, young people and families. Highly successful partnerships have been built with secondary schools and both Universities resulting in a high number of applications which we will build on.

*“Volunteering with BAPP helped me gain valuable skills and there was a good induction so I understood my role.”*

**A big thank you to Seb Roberts, City of Bath College for some photography taken in the Summer 2016.**





**Every child has the right to play**

## **Bath Area Play Project**

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