



# Bath Area Play Project ANNUAL REVIEW 2014/5

Facilitating play in Bath since 1979

**Bath Area Play Project**

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

Registered Charity No. 1013897



# Chairs Report

Some of the highlights for me this year have been the continued success of SOFA in 2014, the feedback from those involved has been tremendous, and also the really valuable work we undertake in Family Play Support. I know that this has been a service working in challenging circumstances, but has provided really clear benefits and equal rewards to staff and those families we've worked with.

The management committee has been busy working to achieve the strategic objectives in our action plan, and more recently has been considering our objectives for 2015/16. We've been really lucky to welcome Michelle Reynolds to the board of trustees. Michelle is a senior HR professional and brings some very valuable experience and knowledge to the committee.

We've also had to say farewell to some dear friends and colleagues in 2014. Val Rowlands, who has worked for BAPP since 1987, retired from our Pre-school service. Val has made an amazing contribution to the lives of children and young people for many years through her work with BAPP. Val has a place in the heart of many and BAPP is truly grateful. I'd also like to thank Jayne Pye for her time as a trustee. Jayne's contribution has been both welcome and highly valued.

Another year of change and challenges, which I'm pleased to say have been really well met by BAPP. I had the privilege of taking over the role of Chair of Trustees from Graeme Athey mid-way through the year as a result of his mounting work commitments. I'd like to take the opportunity to thank Graeme, not just for his work as Chair, but for his years of work and commitment to BAPP

Two of BAPP's projects were named finalists in the UK wide Children & Young People Now Awards -SOFA & Community Play Rangers. We were also shortlisted in the UK Playwork Awards for Playwork Team. The donation of a play van from The Children's Society has also helped take more varied play to more children.

So it's on into 2015/16, with a continuing dedication and determination to have fun and provide play opportunities for children and young people across Bath. There aren't many charities that can say that! It is important though to recognise that none of this is possible without the hard work, commitment and good natured support of an incredible staff team, volunteers, trustees, partners and benefactors. Genuinely making a difference is what genuinely makes us different.

**Darren Brazil – Chair of Trustees.**



## What We Do

# Play is vital for children's health & well being

We provide a diverse range of inclusive play services for children and their families as well as for those working with children and young people across B&NES. The success of our work is down to our enthusiastic and passionate staff team, many of whom work year round, others return year after year in school holidays. Playworkers understand play and care about children; they are the "software" of play and is what makes it work. The relationships and trust that playworkers build with children and young people and their parents is key to engagement, making a difference and enabling successful outcomes to be met.

We believe that every child has the right to play; Play develops resilience, strong emotional wellbeing and positive mental health through good attachment and relationships with Playworkers. We support children to be in control of their play and playworkers facilitate and encourage playful behaviour intervening as necessary to keep children safe but at the same time as supporting risky play.

- **Closed-access targeted and inclusive holiday playschemes:** parents/carers have to register their children and book them in in advance as there is a limited capacity to the number of children we can have. There is a charge.
- **Pre-school:** play based early years' service for children from 9 months to 4.5 years, open term time only providing sessional care for a fee.
- **Community Play Rangers:** qualified playworkers based in parks and open spaces, children aged between 5 and 13 years turn up and play in all weathers. Children are registered as they arrive. Free community based service
- **Community Play Development:** support for communities to support adults to come together to develop play provision in their community; this year in Odd Down and Whiteway.
- **Youth provision** including Teenage Rampage, BA2 & the successful inclusive SOFA programme providing age appropriate play and leisure opportunities for 12/13+ years recognising that playing with friends is still an important element of their busy lives
- **Family Play Support Work:** working with the whole family where the child has been referred to the service. The parent is often the barrier for the child accessing play perhaps through complex and multiple issues e.g. mental health, substance misuse, lack of confidence and fear of what others may think about their parenting. We work intensively to identify and agree steps which are achievable and then support them to put into place what may work. We are flexible and responsive and can react when needed, providing holistic non-judgemental, family play support. This is tailored and can be individual, small group, parent groups or at home or in the community.
- **Children & Young People's Network:** we provide regular network meetings as well as a monthly e-bulletin, keeping the voluntary and community sector up to date with policy and changes for the sector

# The Hut Pre-school

The Ofsted registered Good Pre-school in Twerton is used by parents of 35 children 9 months to 4.5 years from across B&NES. The Early Years setting uses play as a focus for all learning and doesn't separate children by age; all children play and learn together in the same space which is representative of family life. Parents tell us this is why they use the Pre-school over other providers. As a Good inclusive setting, we receive 2 year old funding and staff are able to get to know the children and assess their progress well with a strong focus on developing and supporting speech & language development and supporting individuals well.

A long standing member of staff who helped set up and run Twerton Play Forum and then worked for BAPP, Val, finished working after 27 years and we hope to build and develop the service for generations to come.

**Independent Examiner's statement**  
Mark Garrett, Chartered Accountant has said that in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act, accounts have been kept which are compliant and no matters have arisen that have given concern.

Total Income £398,454

Total Expenditure £373,127

For a full set of Accounts for 2013/14, please contact the office and we can send you a full copy.

57%

43%

35 Children using Pre-school  
75% in receipt of funding  
for their place

Income is as follows through commissioning and grants and spent as follows:

- PLAY SERVICES
- OFFICE AND SUPPORT
- PRE-SCHOOL AND TOY LIBRARY
- DISABLED SERVICES

£81,565  
(21.97%)

£50,894  
(31.71%)

£29,141  
(7.85%)

£209,572  
(56.46%)



# Inclusive & Targeted Holiday Playschemes

In 2014, BAPP worked as Lead Partner with KIDS, Fosse Way School and BOP to provide holiday playschemes for disabled children aged 3 – 19 years during most school holidays. Over 100 children attended the BAPP holiday playschemes in 2014; children enjoyed lots of water and sensory play including all over body painting, bikes and scooter riding and the bouncy castle! In the summer, children enjoyed trips out as well as lots of outside play whilst parents were able to have a break from caring and enjoyed time with other siblings. 97% of children increased their physical activity levels during playschemes and 85% increased appropriate interaction skills with their peers; some of the many outcomes the playscheme is supporting children with for generations to come.



60%

40%

Children attending inclusive holiday playschemes, 45% of users are disabled, 13% BOME, 35% in receipt of FSM, 49% from out of Bath within the authority

60 Children attending targeted holiday playschemes, 97% of whom are disabled or have a statement, 25% in receipt of FSM, 7% BOME

67%

33%

# SOFA



One of the unique elements of the inclusive SOFA programme is that young people are involved in the design and organisation of the whole programme. A group of 12 disabled and non-disabled young people met weekly from March to devise the programme. The group worked as a team to agree on the balance of activities each week ensuring that there was something for everyone and in 2014 there certainly was something for everyone from the thrills and spills of the white water rafting, adrenaline fuelled mountain boarding to fishing and sailing. Base camp days included Henna Tattoos, music production, Clay modelling, trampolining, Cycling, Mocktails, Cooking, Dance and a Pool Party!

The SOFA programme contributes significantly to reducing social isolation for the 172 participants, supporting healthy peer interaction and increased social engagement as well as increasing the amount of physical activity that young people do. 60% of young people told us that if it wasn't for SOFA, they would be watching TV or on Xbox. This summer we had a new young person who was a young carer, it was wonderful to watch her grow in confidence, building friendships and enjoying social activities with peer groups.

*"My daughter is autistic and finds it difficult to interact but at SOFA she joined in. It really is an inclusive programme."*

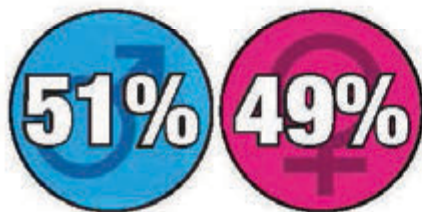
*"SOFA provided the opportunity for a young person with complex and profound disabilities to try new activities and due to the flexibility of SOFA they could access it on their own terms."*





Accessible transport is provided from 6 different pick up points across B&NES; Radstock, Midsomer Norton, Peasedown St. John, Keynsham, South Bath (Rush Hill) and East Bath (Morrisons). Young people have fed back that they find the travelling together aspect of the programme the place where they make friends and get to know each other! For some young people, using transport independently was a newly developed skill with 9 disabled young people or having additional needs doing this for the first time.

"Without provision like this, our children are much more isolated and would find making friendships with the opposite sex very difficult. Our teenagers need a social life. SOFA is essential!"



representing a more equal male: female split, 36% of whom are in receipt of FSM, 50% describing themselves as disabled or having additional needs and 49% living outside of the Bath BA1 BA2 postcodes, what could be defined as rural but also includes Keynsham



# Family Play Inclusion Support



An expansion of the family play inclusion team during 2014, thanks to the BIG lottery fund has greatly increased our capacity to support families and individual children to access play. This has meant we have been able to support 107 children throughout the year, a 200% increase from last year. This has included individual support, running family groups, trips and visits into community settings and providing support into open access sessions and other groups.

Referrals for this specialised family play support come from different agencies with a notable increase of 48% from schools in 2014. Other referrers include Health Visitors, Social Workers and parents themselves.

Family play sessions have included digging, planting and pizza making at the farm and a trip to the beach has enabled families with support to access new experiences and shared memories. Specialist family days have enabled a smaller scale nurturing environment for family play. "I've never been able to take her to the beach, it's always cost too much money, but your trip has allowed me to do this and we've had a brilliant day", feedback from one father

Partnership working with Bath Preservation Trust throughout 2014 and into 2015 has enabled us to support families and children to access a number of museums in the local area. This partnership work has given us the opportunity to enable socially isolated families to access new places and widen their experiences, cultural and historical knowledge and confidence to access these independently in the future.







The family play support team continue to make and develop strong links with community sports providers including family cycling days, enabling children and families to access physical activity and build confidence to make steps towards healthier lifestyles. In addition, this access to community sports groups or facilities has supported reduced isolation for children and families building connections with other families. 'I have been offered lots of people to talk to but talking doesn't help, I want practical support, and I get this by being able to go to the gym'. One young person who is supported individually, now increased her enjoyment of sport using a playful approach

'We've been through so much, and there's been so many people involved, you've been the only consistent thing and you've taught us how to have a laugh again and enjoy each other's company even with everything else that's been going on.' Single Mum talking about her improved relationship with her son through playing together and on-going support

Through feedback one family felt they now had 'the confidence to play together and try things as a family'. This has been extremely important as both parents' needs were dominating and restricting child's access to play. Photos in a play diary have been an important tool in order for parents to feel involved due to Learning Disability & mobility

107 children supported either individually or through groups by the Family Play support team, 30% in receipt of FSM, 14% disabled / with SEN statement, 8% BOME, 10% from across the authority but attending school in Bath.





## Targeted Youth Provision & Life Skills

During 2014, 35 disabled young people aged between 13 and 19 years came along to weekly youth sessions, many of which were based at the Odd Down Community centre. 2014 has been another successful year for us, with a wide variety of activities on offer. We have tried various sports: Tae Kwando, Rugby, yoga, boxing and cricket. We have had great fun doing 'kitchen science' experiments, making large scale messy paintings and tie dying. We have had sessions with the fire pit, picnics, film nights, cooking and going out for meals. We have visited the Egg Theatre for their Christmas show Rumpelstiltskin and have had two successful parties – a barbecue and disco in the summer and a Christmas party.

Numbers have increased to an average of 18 young people per session and we have received plenty of positive feedback. Young people have been referred to us from Social Services and through our own Family Play Inclusion team and we have been able to offer them a safe, supportive and nurturing environment in which to socialise.

Teenage Rampage continues to be a session which is popular with young people, parents and staff alike.

### Case Study

*A young person who has been attending the sessions for three years moved from a special school to a mainstream school. He found this process particularly stressful, but feels able to share his anxieties and concerns with members of staff.*

*Parent : 'This is to let you know how much he enjoys Teenage Rampage. He feels comfortable there, there are people whose company he enjoys, as well as interacting with the staff. He also enjoys the outings e.g bowling, meals out, train trips. In the past year he has gone quieter, coinciding with starting a new school, however, he seems to come out of his shell more at Teenage Rampage and it is good to see him laughing and joining in with people his own age. I am very grateful for your leadership and support from staff and long may this opportunity continue for young people.'*



# BA2 Youth Club

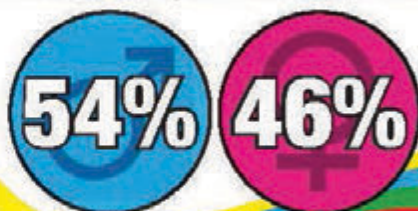


Thanks to the financial contribution from St. Phillips & St. James Church who recognise the importance of youth provision continuing in the centre, BA2 has now gone from strength to strength. We spent time talking to young people about what they needed and since changing the opening times for the club to 5-7pm on Wednesday evenings we have had 35 new young people register. All are from the local area of Odd Down and Foxhill; a notable change has been the huge increase in females. On average about 18 – 20 young people come each week. They enjoy a variety of activities including cookery, music, sports, trampolining, discussions and information about a variety of age appropriate subjects including drugs awareness, keeping safe and community issues.

A group of four young girls aged 12 – 13 years were a bit apprehensive about attending and tended to stay in their own street. It quickly became apparent that there was some friction between them and another group. They all went to the same school and there had been some issues between them. On the second night we asked both sets of girls to help with cooking and split them into two mixed groups, at first this did not go down too well with them. However by the end of the session the girls had got along and laughed and joked with each other. Some week's later they said things were a lot better between them and they don't bother each other at school anymore. Both sets of girls still attend the club each week.



35 young people aged between 11 and 18 using the BA2 Youth Club



an increase of 250% females on last year

# Children & Young People's Network of Voluntary Sector Organisations

## Children & Young People's Network of Voluntary Sector Organisations

This year the Network appointed a dynamic new Chair and held a meeting to identify out strategies and priorities for the year ahead. We produced a Mission Statement and Equalities Statement for the Network and have fed our priorities back to the local authority who are continuing to meet with us to discuss how our priorities can be met

We successfully lobbied for a reduction in fees paid by VCS organisations for advanced safeguarding training and are now Safe Network Ambassadors for B&NES, having gained endorsement for their resources from the Local Safeguarding Children Board. Small voluntary and community sector (VCS) groups can now confidently use these accessible resources to develop their safeguarding practices and are able to attend free workshops.

The Network has become increasingly recognised as providing dependable links with the VCS and we have been invited to provide representatives for new strategic boards including the Public Services Board VCS Reference Group and the B&NES Equalities Partnership. Our input has also been invited to working groups to develop specific pieces of work such as the Substance Mis-use Strategy Group and Special Educational and Disability Needs Reform Working group. We have worked together with Healthwatch to promote their consultation work on issues of specific interest to children, young people and their families and we jointly organised a successful event to improve partnership working between VCS organisations and other local agencies e.g. schools, the council, Sirona, the police and others.

Our representatives provide strategic boards with a constant, crucial reminder of the need to consider and consult the VCS on issues that will affect children, young people and families in B&NES or that will affect our ability to successfully run our organisations and services.



# Who We Are

Director	<b>Caroline Haworth MBE</b>
Finance Officer	<b>Sally Savage</b>
CYPN Co-ordinator	<b>Sue Evans</b>
Family Play Inclusion Worker	<b>James Beattie</b>
Family Play Support Workers	<b>Harriet Rose &amp; Charlotte Fine</b>
Outreach Worker	<b>Sam Ward</b>
Community Play Ranger Manager & Development Worker	<b>Sam Rowlands</b>
Office Manager	<b>Sarah Sealy</b>
Community Play Rangers / Play Support Workers	<b>Julie Bennett, Matt Townhill, John Gibbs, Daisy Leigh-McGill, Charlotte Fine</b>
Pre-school Leader	<b>Val Rowlands</b>
Pre-school Workers	<b>Kerry Rowlands, Michelle Straffen, Kristy Rowlands, Layna Rowlands and Anna Pierce</b>
SOFA Development Worker	<b>Sarah Sealy</b>
Youth Club Leader	<b>Joan Cooper</b>
Teenage Rampage Sessional staff	<b>Matt, Daisy &amp; Danielle</b>

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

**Sessional Playworkers:** Petra Burgess, Garry Llewellyn, Kerry Burt, Rachel Longstreth, Siobhan Wilson, Sarah Booth, Eleni Dumont, Lucy Norris, Louise Booth, Kerry West, Matt Hudson, Matt Kenney, Alistair Pound, Gemma Street, Tegan Howard, Amy Jones, Simon Collington, Mikey Rowlands, Emily Preater, Rachel Lacey, Fintan Lynn, Sarah Bendall, Charlotte Barnes, Sam Stone, Graeme Bevan, James Harding, Hilal Louarradi, Emily Harris, Hannah Lovell

**Volunteers:** Nancy Appleton, Mason Bidgood, Josh Brooks, Stephanie Rhodes, Chloe Pinder, Jenny Boylett, Eleanor Wylie, Emma Frampton, Shasha Kaczmarek, Lucy Matthews, Sarah Davies, Nina Sandham-Bains, Ellen Wickes, the Norland Nannies & Princes Trust for all their help at Odd Down 5-a-side court.

A massive BIG thank you to **Gaby Acosta** as our Volunteer Webmaster who has maintained and improved our website this year and once again to **Mike from Me & My Van** for moving all our equipment on National Playday. Also, Grateful thanks to Sarah Sealy and Simon Collington for some of the photos that have been used throughout.

**Last but not least, grateful thanks to all our funders and supporters as you know we can't do any of this without you.**

## Trustees

Chair	<b>Darren Brazil</b>
Vice Chair	<b>Jo Stooling</b>
Secretary	<b>Vacant</b>
Treasurer	<b>Freddie Wong</b>
	<b>Jayne Pye</b>
	<b>Graeme Athey</b>
	<b>Sarah Giovannini</b>
	<b>Michelle Reynolds</b>

# Community Play Rangers



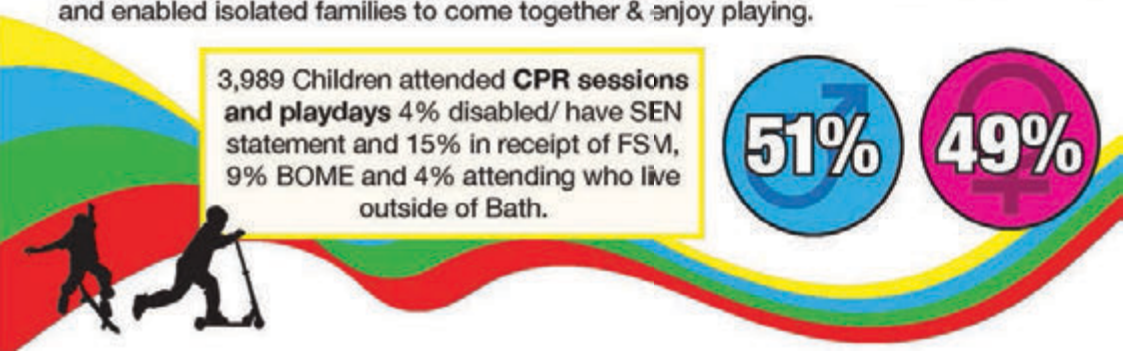
In 2014, CPRs worked in Twerton, Whiteway, Southdown, Milk Street, Bath City Centre, Weston, Combe Down and Foxhill. Play Ranger sessions in new locations were well promoted through schools with 60+ turning up every week in Twerton! Partnership work with Timebank saw a welcome volunteer run some football coaching at Pennyquick Park. Sessions in Weston were welcomed back at the Rec and a new session at Broadmoor Lane enabled children from diverse social groups to play together, also supporting parents to build connections.

CPRs have continued their work within schools and 2014 saw this develop into small targeted nurture group work. This benefited those that attended in the following ways: Improved friendships/ widening friendship circles, improved communication skills, greater understanding of play cues, increased use of Emotional coaching, Increase of confidence and building self-esteem and improved listening and ability to concentrate. Funding from the Police meant we could start work in the Foxhill area of Bath and the community support for this weekly session has resulted in an increase in service users but parents are getting involved too!

Mum of one of the nurture group girls at the school has reported that her daughter is really enjoying the sessions and comes home in a much happier mood after them. As her daughter has autism, she sometimes struggles to feel included in others' play, but this group allows her the opportunity to practice these skills in a safe environment.

**National Playday** was the highlight of a summer programme of playdays, family, play explore sessions and play picnics. We saw nearly 4,000 children in 20 different locations and enabled isolated families to come together & enjoy playing.

3,989 Children attended **CPR sessions and playdays** 4% disabled/ have SEN statement and 15% in receipt of FSM, 9% BOME and 4% attending who live outside of Bath.



# Training, Schools work and Support

In addition to running Paediatric First Aid courses, in 2014, we facilitated a workshop for parents and professionals uniquely to attend together – “Using Emotional Coaching to better understand children” was held in March and attended by 62 parents and professionals.

We have continued to provide playworkers at lunchtimes for St. Saviour's Infants school and have requests from other schools for this service. We have been providing a crèche service for various groups and training courses with very positive feedback which will continue in 2015

We are increasingly using social media to promote and celebrate our services and share information. In the Summer, when horrendous weather meant a playday needed to be moved indoors, the facebook post telling people where we were was seen by over 750 people! Our average reach is 500+ per post.

No of followers on Twitter: 680 No of Likes on Facebook: 760

In 2014, we have started sharing pictures from our play archive which has resulted in some fantastic memory sharing amongst adults who fondly remember coming to playschemes as children.

## Community Play Development Work

Sam continues to support Southside@Play on a Tuesday and they have continued our work with families from Twerton, Southdown and Whiteway facilitating a weekly group where whole families can come along and meet other members of the local community. Highlights have been a 5 week cook it course, sports coaching and art projects. Southside@Play have some very 'hard to reach families' attending due to its location and relaxed approach.





**12<sup>th</sup> National  
Playwork  
CONFERENCE**  
2014 SHORTLISTED



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