



# Bath Area Play Project Annual Impact Report



**2022-2023**





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# Chair's Report

As you can read in the following pages, it has been another busy year for BAPP. As an organisation we support children and their families in a variety of ways but all through the medium of play. 'Bringing play to life' is what our staff do on a daily basis and we are proud of all that they achieve in enabling children, young people and their families to grow in confidence and skill.

As Trustees we have not been idle either. Unfortunately Anji Henderson had to resign from being Chair of the Trustees for personal reasons in January and as vice- chair and with the support of the other Trustees I took on the role. We thank Anji for her long commitment to BAPP and wish her the best for the future. As Anji had instigated a full staff review before the Covid pandemic made BAPP's work even more important, my first job was to complete that review and start to implement any changes identified. To that end we followed up an initial meeting in September 2022, with a full day staff meeting in January 2023, both led by an external facilitator, to help staff, managers and Trustees explore issues and concerns that could be detrimental to the smooth running of the organisation. Our first action has been to give more autonomy to project leaders in relation to their budgets. We are currently working on a more meaningful organisational structure that will create a senior leadership team to better support the Director and build a more collegial management culture. We will be celebrating Caroline, our Director's 30 years with BAPP this year, and whilst we hope she will be with us for many years to come ensuring that the organisation is fully sustainable is a key aim.

Again to this end, we have recruited 3 new Trustees; Baz Harding-Clark; Tania Swift; and Ben Price. All bring new skills and experiences to add to those already represented on the Board of Trustees thus ensuring the organisation is run efficiently and effectively.

**Felicity Wikeley**  
**Chair of Trustees**

# Overview of the Year

BAPP has continued to recognise and promote the importance of self-directed play in relation to child development and the rights of children and young people. 2022/23 was another challenging year with new commissioning, staff changes and successful funding bids! We said goodbye to Gilly, Sarah and Aimie and will greatly miss their cheerfulness and can do approach and wished them all well in new roles. Chloe went on Maternity Leave in December, bringing another beautiful girl into her family. We were also able to make some fantastic staff appointments and welcomed Maggie, Calvin and Mel to the team.

We secured Awards for All Lottery funding as well as support from other local Trusts and Parish/Town Councils, ensuring that we could provide a 4-week programme of free open-access play opportunities across the authority area – Family Playdays. We put out a plea on Twitter, asking if anyone might be able to loan us a transit van to help us get all the kit and equipment to each site. We were thrilled to have a positive response from King Edwards School, which made such a massive difference to how we operated over the summer playdays. We reached over 4,500 children and families with 448 children through the HAF programme accessing our Family Playdays through E-vouchers. The family playdays ran in 15 different locations and also included a couple of Family Day trips, funded by a Family trust which included families from the Play Hub in Writhlington as well as others who had used the playdays.

In December, we received notification that two funding applications were successful and we were able to appoint a new Family Play Support Worker for 3 years, appointing Emily who is a wonderful addition to the team.

**None of what we do would be possible without the hard work and compassion of all our staff** and volunteers; our playworkers, practitioners and support workers are the vital and essential core of BAPP. Our projects, each with play at the heart, support and nurture children and families to feel safe and secure with who they are, where they live and able to develop positive relationships within the family and their community. BAPP works in partnership, formally and informally with an array of local groups to develop and deliver positive intervention and support for families in difficult or stressful situations e.g we provide experienced workers to support creches for Domestic Violence support & training groups. Our play support workers run group activities in addition to the vital individual support with children and families experiencing difficulties in engaging with school or family. Play is the essential component that catalyses relationships and attachments within families. Our focus has always been in supporting those most in need; all of our work is early help or preventative and we work in partnership with parents and children to overcome barriers and build resilience and confidence in themselves, preventing the need for statutory intervention whilst supporting children's wellbeing.

**Caroline Haworth MBE**  
**Director**



# Family Support and Play Service

We work in partnership with Southside to deliver the Family Support and Play Service. Our Family Play Support Workers hold a caseload of families providing whole family support and our Community Play Support Workers provide nurturing support in small Nurture Groups in schools as well as in Family Hubs after school with Southside. With Southside, we have developed a series of Outcomes so we provide evidence of the difference our service is making; improvements in feeling of safety, family wellbeing, sense of identity and belonging, relationships & connections and resilience

This year, the team have continued to support a wide range of issues faced by families and anticipate the need growing with the ever-increasing cost of living and the struggles with education provision for some children. However, despite the challenges that families are experiencing we have seen change and positive outcomes. Many families in the service have experienced trauma from poor attachments through to domestic violence, struggles with low confidence and feelings of isolation and the team have signposted to SENDIAS and community groups and help them understand their and their children's emotional needs of their children. The team build respectful relationships with parents and children using therapeutic based approaches and playfulness to bring positive outcomes for families. Staff completed Non-violent Resistance training and have been able to use it successfully with some families. Sarah qualified as a Trauma Informed Educator and she has been able to support the development of the staff team to becoming a fully Trauma Informed Workplace. The work is supporting a wide range of complex needs including recovery from sexual abuse, domestic violence and substance misuse. The team continue to implement a trauma informed approach to the work that we do with children, young people and adults in order to support families to make lasting change and improve their resilience.

In the first half of the year, staff had the opportunity to be trained in NVR (Non Violent Resistance) and family support play workers are now implementing this approach into the work they are currently doing. The approach takes a trauma informed approach to supporting the resilience of parents to better enable them to remain present to the needs of their children and offers practical strategies for improving relationships, communicating and holding effective boundaries.

When Community Play Support Workers work with families, it is often a lighter touch where play has been identified as a clear vehicle for improved attachment. Staff have been supported to reflect on the structure of such sessions to support parents to improve their understanding of child development through play including meeting their emotional needs and settling clear and effective boundaries. Feedback from schools this year has evidenced the importance of the Nurture Group intervention for wellbeing.

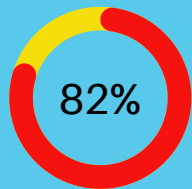


**We have worked with 92 families enabling them to thrive**



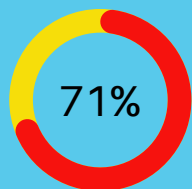
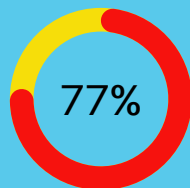
# Family Support and Play Service

Feedback collected from school was that all who attended had:



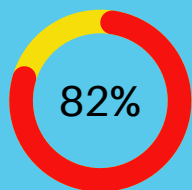
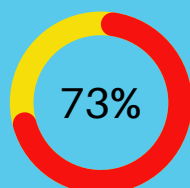
improved emotional resilience

improved confidence



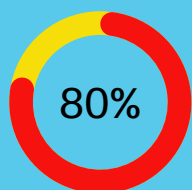
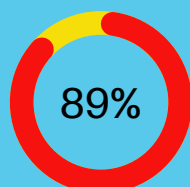
improved attitudes towards learning

improved peer relationships



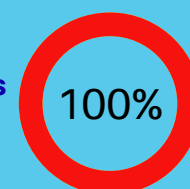
improved speech and language

improved social interactions



improved wellbeing

have improved in either peer relations, attitudes to learning or confidence and self esteem



During the year, **Nurture Groups** were run in the following schools (four per term: Cameley Primary School, Temple Cloud, Clutton Primary School, Moorlands Schools Federation, Mulberry Park Educate Together Primary Academy, Oldfield Park Junior School, Peasedown St John Primary School, Roundhill Primary School, St John's Primary School, Bath, St Martin's Garden Primary School, Two Rivers Primary School, Keynsham, Broadlands Academy (secondary) and St Mark's School, Bath (secondary)

Schools have seen a decline in children's play skills, which is impacting their peer relationships, wellbeing and also their speech and language skills. Supporting children to develop play skills has been a focus. We have used imaginative play opportunities to develop children's 'symbolic play' skills. Symbolic play increases children's abstract thinking, problem solving, life skills, communication skills, understanding of safety and risk and self confidence. Playworkers and school staff have seen improvements in children's symbolic play and overall noticed improved outcomes for children in schools. We also continue to support children with the development of peer relationships and building confidence and self esteem through the nurturing environment created within the groups. Feedback from schools has included

## Case Study

Mum and young person were referred in relation to the risk of exclusion from school. Some of this particular school's culture and systems could not adapt or respond with sufficient flexibility for the young person's needs. The school's approach remained orientated towards instruction, rules, punishment (much of which is for extremely trivial matters which simply serves to cause loss of respect from the young person), and if any of this results in anything other than compliance then more punishment is used. We supported the young person to observe for himself and seek to understand that the school system, as with many systems in life, cannot be changed by the individual. Supported him with strategies for coping with it, to work with it, to understand which elements can be constructively influenced and how, and which we simply need to learn to accept and cope with. The support was enabling him to respond in a manner which best serves genuine interests, learning to cope and work with an obligatory system despite not really liking, and finding a way to survive it. He managed to reach the end of year 11, without being permanently excluded and received a College offer for a course he was interested in

# Family Support and Play Service

## Individual Play Support Case Study

Amie has observed some great progress with this support including the parent learning to become more playful and joyful with her child. On the first few sessions, the parent struggled to engage in imaginative play, often rejecting all of her son's play cues, creating a barrier between them. By providing playful provocations & opportunities with parent and child, including creating dens in the house, offering Thera play activities including nurturing physical touch, and becoming super-heros this has helped the parent to understand the value and importance of her role in her son's development . As a result, the two have developed their relationship to form a playful and happy relationship between them both. Feedback has been received from the parent comparing their relationship being unstable and rejecting, to now being a more supportive and harmonious relationship



**We provided 288  
hours of nurture  
support**



# Short Breaks - Family Sessions

**Family Sessions enable young people with additional needs or SEND to come together as a family and enjoy a much needed day out.**

We held two Family Sessions during the June Half term; one held at the Odd Down Sports Ground and a Boat Trip. There were 28 families booked onto the Sports and Active Play session which had fantastic weather. Families enjoyed a Zumba session to start with and then a few hours using all the accessible Wheels4All bikes. By lunchtime everyone was ready for a rest and enjoyed eating lunch in the sunshine. We had coaches from Nova Sports who ran a multi-sports session including football, cricket, boccia and various games which everyone participated in.



The second trip was a coach trip up to Gloucester with 12 families who all enjoyed a relaxing day on a fully accessible broad beam boat. The Boat staff supported the children and parents to all have a turn at driving the boat and there was lots of wildlife and boating traffic with friendly waving and some singing along the way. We moored alongside an accessible mooring where families were able to get off the boat and have a run around on the grass and sit and eat picnic lunches.

There were 2 further Family Sessions held in the last week of the summer holidays, one was another Boat trip for a different group of families and the other a Picnic in Sydney Gardens in Bath.

There were 57 people booked on for the picnic in the park but on the day less arrived due to sickness. We had organised free tennis coaches and use of tennis courts and equipment was provided. The families really enjoyed this and one child wouldn't leave until they had hit the ball 55 times! The new play area was very popular with many families not knowing about how accessible it is and included sensory play with sand and grass maze. There is an accessible toilet with a hoist here but it doesn't use a radar key; you have to request a code.



For the Family Session in the Christmas holidays, we had 12 families consisting of 15 adults and 20 children who all enjoyed a fun festive session with games and festive crafts. Some helped prepare and cook the hot food with the chef and everyone sat down and ate together. Children also enjoyed Lego and music and dancing with some singing along to musical films. The session was very much appreciated by families; somewhere warm with food provided and support from staff, particularly for single parents with multiple children.



# Short Breaks - Holiday Playschemes

**We are Lead Provider for this commissioned service and work in partnership with Fosse Way School, BOP (First Steps) and joining us this year, WECIL.**

## **The Hut provides Holiday Playschemes for children aged 5 to 12 years with SEND.**

This year, children enjoyed a lot of construction play; K'nex, Lego, and larger outside with nets and tarpaulins for den building and the wooden bricks and blocks. When the weather was good, play was mainly outside and led to flower and leaf printing and threading. Great use of the bikes and scooters and sports equipment meant children were physically active for 90% of their day. Free flow play, inside and out with lots of large scale messy and wet play; particularly popular was the spray painting on shower curtains which most of the children found hilarious. Freezing dinosaurs in ice the night before, worked well as a sensory activity, great for those needing physical release, trying to break the ice to release the dinosaurs. Due to the heat, we went on a few woodland walks in nearby Carrs Woodland for smaller groups of children, providing with exploration and adventure, with children's confidence growing and wanting to lead the walks! The newly cleared area at the back of the garden, became a focus for some fantastic den building.



Children spun over 1.700 pieces of card using over 18.000 litres of paint  
 Banged in over 5kg of nails  
 Built cardboard creations with hundreds of boxes  
 Used hundreds of bananas & apples to make smoothies  
 Popped thousands of kernels of corn  
 Built countless magnificent dens  
 Used 15 bottles of fairy liquid for sliding & bubbles  
 Played, danced, cycled, explored, chased, tested, tugged & balanced  
 Got muddy, wet, tired and had so much fun with our wonderful team of playworkers



In the October school holidays, children enjoyed a wide range of festive themed creativity using leaves and natural objects found outside, using wool to make spiders webs and pom pom spiders and sensory fun with orange and black dyed gloop and red gelli bath. This developed into a monster trap with children using the wool across the furniture which engaged all children for most of the afternoon with lots of imaginative play. With returning children, friendships became established with children visibly excited to see each other again; many children do not attend the same school and the only time they do is at Playscheme.

All children showed improved outcomes in life skills and increased interaction skills with peers; one child who has been a long term user, showed huge improvement in this area and we believe this links directly to his capacity for listening and becoming more tolerant. The good staff ratios allowed for high levels of free play with notable increase in child led play one example was with a long term user nearly 12 years who led a Knex construction activity showing younger boys good techniques and the engagement level of all those taking part was significantly longer than had they been playing independently.



**Three Ways Playscheme runs three different age groups; 3-5 years with BOP/First Steps, 5 to 11 years and 12 to 19 years.**

**3- 5 years**

There was lots of sensory play with gloop, sensory room, bubbles and the mud kitchen. Children that attend BOP that hadn't used the playscheme before settled well and really enjoyed the sessions thanks to active adult interactions. Staff focused on encouraging sharing through modelling and emotionally supportive vocabulary enabling children to thrive and feel secure. Interestingly, this playscheme was totally male gender with no female children attending at Easter; the imaginative play revolved around superheroes and ownership of "caves"

In the summer, children enjoyed a range of play opportunities, despite the heat, managed to spend a lot of time outdoors with the shaded garden and also trips to the park on a pine cone hunt. Trampoline, Jelly play, giant bubbles, space water pistols and imaginative ships sinking were all children initiated play. Children enjoyed watching the big diggers on the building site next to the school and enjoyed lots of water play, friendships were made and overall a positive summer with lots of grateful parents.

**My favourite part was everything” New child at Three Ways and “Had such a fun day only because of you lot**



**Primary 5 – 11 years**

Highlights included the positive developments from children that have been attending regularly; responding excitedly to seeing friends, playing socially with others as well as good combinations of children. Lots of creativity and an increase in independent play with less intervention needed by Playworkers. One of the biggest challenges was getting children off the bouncy castle! The level of needs in Primary age children attending is increasing further however, there was still some great play happening and some positive changes in behaviour for some whilst staff also having to deal with challenging behaviours in others.

At Easter, a treasure hunt was created rather than an Easter egg hunt which was far more interactive and enjoyed by all ages. Children enjoyed a Zumba session and a drumming session with external providers including a drum circle which enabled all children of whatever ability to be part of an “echo” type drum off which everyone enjoyed. In the summer, highlights were the shaving foam and water fights, water play in the paddling pools, the sprinkler hose and water balloons. Lots of sensory play with gelli baff and new this summer, crackle baff. Construction play with the straw connectors and Lego expanded with children working more cohesively to create together despite the number of solitary players earlier in the summer. The trip to National Playday went well despite the public transport system and children enjoyed the samba drumming, the rides and large scale painting and straw bale dens.

Despite the high needs and combinations of new children this year, there have been some great outcomes for children with increased confidences and interaction skills

**“The Hut has been fantastic this summer; you’ve all worked so hard and they have had so much fun – he cant stop talking about it and asking when is he coming next!”**



## Secondary 12-19 years

At Easter there was an off site day using public transport to Weston-Super-Mare. This was a trip which started in the afternoon in order to accommodate the suggestion from young people of spending the evening at the beach! GWR provided free rail travel through their Accessibility Mentor who is a contact we have established and will continue to use. Young people enjoyed their visit to Clip & Climb. Most young people had never been on a train before. There was a lot of nervousness with the climbing (was a request by a group of young people to go). We had some real superstars including one male who had been tentative on the camp last year and not had much distance off the ground. Here, he was much more confident and really thrived and got a lot from the experience. They enjoyed buying and eating fish and chips on the beach and one young person who usually doesn't eat in front of others, did so and it was so wonderful to see this "normality" for him. GWR supported brilliantly with the wheelchair access; this was a first as she had never been on a train or had the opportunity to be clipped on to a belay. There was not enough confidence to leave the ground but she enjoyed the experience and giving directions and helping others.

In the summer, physical sports and games including Nerf games were thoroughly enjoyed and will remain a feature as increased physical activity levels of this, often more sedentary group. We had a Potter who visited twice; on the first occasion, young people could use clay to create shapes, make coil pots and generally enjoy the pleasure of creativity with clay. The second visit, the young people were able to glaze biscuit fired pieces and watch as they were put into a small kiln oven. They were so proud of what they had made & achieved.

In the October Half term, there was karaoke with some very interesting versions of some well known chart hits (!) and a small group put together a dance routine and then performed in front of the group. Kitchen science included making "fireworks" in a jar – no noise but great visual and sensory effects. Lots of cooking including learning how to use the sandwich toasting machine and making their own lunch using ingredients provided.



**982 restbite hours  
have been provided  
to families with a  
disabled child**

**SOFA (Summer of Fun Activities) 12 -19 years**

This Summer, SOFA had a packed programme of activities both on and off site for 60 young people, including 7 new starters. In the main, activities were chosen by young people and included Jewellery making, gardening, music, tie dye and woodwork including using of tools. We had workshops including spray art and screen printing. Young people were able to create graffiti style boards using their name if they wished and learnt how to use stencils and the spray cans. With the screen printing, this was a completing new technique for all of them, and resulted in some fantastic artwork on canvas bags, pencil cases and t-shirts. One young person had known a young person who had been killed and wanted to make a t-shirt he could wear to the celebration event. This led to emotional offloading to staff and the process was very therapeutic for him.

The overnight camp was a success despite the heat. Activities included axe throwing, archery, zip wire and kayaking. The kayaking was the most popular and most enjoyed activity, possibly as involved water and it was hot! The lazer tag worked really well in the evening. The menu planned by young people, as prepped and cooked by them with support from Playworkers with two notable outstanding cooks and the mix of young people worked well.

The night time provoked some great outcomes, starting with watching the sunset, then star gazing and a young person identified their first ever meteor and lots of good supportive conversations, reflecting on the successes of the day before bed.

Due to the heat, some found it difficult to sleep so some staff led on two night hikes on different routes for different groups of young people which led to further conversations and support between group members. There were a lot of great outcomes for individuals in terms of successfully completing or having a go at activities/ doing better than they thought, to understanding about shared responsibilities (washing up) but everyone socialised well and managed without the need to phone home!



In October, the day was split with a morning session where young people designed and made their own mini golf with tools. Using planks of wood and some openings that they had cut out of the wood to create "holes" they set up a couple of courses.

The young people enjoyed the challenge, but then they choose to rearrange and change the course and made it harder. They enjoyed designing. Their confidence showed especially those that used their own knowledge and experience and helping to set targets for each other. This activity was just as fun, if not more than being at the crazy golf in town, as the young people had no restraints, had control over the design of game, and could continue until they met their play needs with each other/themselves.

Later the same day, we went into town for a pre-booked ten pin bowling session at the Sports Centre. The group split into 3 lanes and 2 young people took on scoring for the teams. They visited a restaurant which was age appropriate and much appreciated by parents as they had their tea, providing young people with the opportunity to develop life skills and self-confidence out in the community.



I've been coming to the Play Projects for 8 years now, my son being 8 and my daughter 6. They have been an absolute life saver. Planned play for parents like me, loving nature, making things out of anything, tyre swings, water slides...oohh I love them. I am grateful for them so much.

## Summer Family Playdays

This summer we ran our first fully open-access playdays since the pandemic but still provided plenty of hand sanitiser. We ran a range of sessions from our large open access play sessions in parks which saw an average of 330 in attendance at each session to our smaller scale 'play out wilds' which focused on sustainable more natural play opportunities. This was all possible with our fantastic staff team of year round and sessional staff led by Sarah, our Play Service Manager. We also ran a range of fun activity sessions including giant nerf battles as part of a BIG games session and our wheely fun day using the accessibility bikes at the Odd Down Cycle circuit. We developed a partnership with Bath City Football Club Foundation who provided multi-sports coaching sessions for children at each of our play days. We also worked with Alice Park Café to provide free lunches through HAF for families who are in receipt of free school meals.



It was truly amazing!!! What an amazing playday. Special thanks to the guy who was playing knights with the kids. He'ss need a week to recover from so much running around!

4500 Children attended our free playdays!



## Community Play Support

During the October Half term, we ran a play event at Twerton Village Hall which was attended by children and families with full capacity. In addition to lots of spooky games, music and activities, children also had hot food and drink which was gratefully received.

The Christmas family hampers provided additional benefits for the families over the festive period. The Christmas Play event had around 80 children & families attending with opportunity to have a go at lots of festive crafts as well as play. The 2 new CPSW team members joined us for the event which was a wonderful opportunity to work together and get to know each other!

Its important when children go back to school that when a teacher asks what they got up to in the half terms or summer holidays that they have fun memories to share without having to reply " nothing we dont have money to do things". We really appreciate the play days, the staff are welcoming and incredible with the children. I always feel safe leaving my child with them and he always comes out happy. Its also nice that they have free food to give out. During Covid this was a huge help to many families.

# Short Breaks - Term Time Clubs



This year the commissioning changed to a Framework system and our successful proposal for delivery was successful. Teenage Rampage finished after 21 years but our two Saturday Clubs continue; one for Primary Children at the Hut and one for Secondary held at Odd Down Community Centre. Saturday Club Primary 5 – 11 years Saturday Club Secondary 12 – 21 years. Each week there are a range of age appropriate activities, lots of social and fun provocations with a focus on developing creativity and imagination alongside developing confidence and friendships.

**Life Skills project** was funded through the GWR Community Fund providing weekly sessions on a number of different areas to build confidence and independence for young people with additional needs/anxiety aged 12 – 21 years



“

X has made some real friends after isolating due to their mental health. The sessions have been fantastic for their confidence and they look forward to Saturdays now

”

What our users have said about our term-time clubs

94%

Have improved their personal skills with others

100%

Met their child's needs

90%

Helped increase confidence and self-esteem

Since attending the life skills sessions, our daughter has a greater understanding of the world around her. The fears have been reduced considerably and she can now express herself effectively. The budgeting and travel elements were particularly valuable to our daughter because she is anxious when travelling without us and struggles to manage her money

The sessions were accessible and convenient and offered wide ranging skills and information sessions, for which we are forever grateful. These sessions are incredibly valuable for helping those who need a little extra support with the expectations of life. Huge thanks to Petra and her wonderful team.



# The Hut Nursery & Pre-school



We had a complex cohort of children in the Nursery this year and with Inclusion funding, good partnership working with social care, we were able to support and ensure stability and safety for looked after children as well as those with complex needs. The team worked incredibly hard to ensure that ratios were maintained but challenging recruitment was reflective of the UK wide Early Years sector and we are so grateful for the staff team in stepping up and ensuring that there was a good service throughout the year.

In October 2022, we had our Early Years Ofsted Inspection for the Hut and had a lovely inspector who made the inspection a great opportunity for the team to show how well they are supporting children's early learning through play.

**“Children enjoy their time at this friendly pre-school. They arrive happily, where warm, friendly staff greet them. Children show that they feel safe and secure. They seek comfort from staff when they feel sad and enjoy a cuddle with them. Staff use every opportunity to promote children's independence. The pre-school manager and staff promote children's personal, social, and emotional development. They teach children to be kind and share toys with their friends. They care for children's well-being and help them feel secure when they first start. For example, they give new children time to attach to them before they allocate a specific key person.”** Our overall effectiveness was judged to be Good and we are incredibly proud of the staff team and all their hard work throughout the year which is reflected in this judgement.



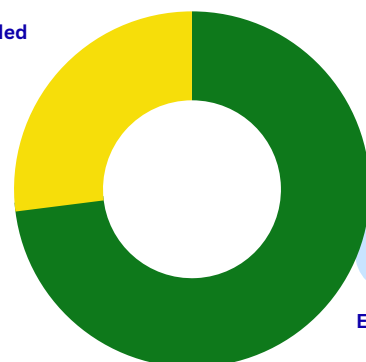
## Pre-school Case Study

A parent came into the Hut just before Half term really upset and wondering whether we could help as her children had been removed from another setting. There had been little support and paperwork not submitted but our team made her feel welcome and offered places. Our SENCo, Michelle worked incredibly hard to complete the review cycles and submitted to SEND Inclusion Panel which was successful. The children made good progress over the year with peaks and dips but are on target with their learning progression to make good transitions to school.

27% of children had additional intervention and support

Parent Funded  
27%

At March 31st 2023, 26 Children were enrolled at The Hut Nursery and Pre-school



15

EY Funded  
73%

“

We instantly fell in love with the setting, the gardens and soft play was an added bonus. Every single staff member who was in the day we looked around were friendly, happy and most certainly willing to answer any questions and queries we had. A lot of other places we had visited we came away feeling like our son would be just another number and pound sign. This certainly wasn't the case with The Hut. During the day there is plenty of activities for X to be doing, he absolutely loves singing the songs with everyone and often tries asking for us to sing at home by using the hand movements he's learnt at nursery. Overall we are extremely happy with The Hut, we know X is happy and well looked after. We haven't encountered any problems or anything to complain about however I'm confident that if any problems ever do arise they would be dealt with professionally and promptly.

”



# Odd Down Community Centre



We received a generous donation of masonry paint and rollers and brushes and a wonderful team of volunteers from Altus gave up their time and painted the outside of the Community Centre which freshened up the outside of the building and cheered us all up!

We have hosted many new groups this year, alongside our regular Tae Kwando, Yoga and Toddler Groups. We continue to encourage new users to the Centre.

We held a successful Christmas Play event on 30th November with Santa's grotto, a café and festive activities and games which was well attended and well received.



We are immensely grateful for all the incredible practical support from a volunteer, Tony Clutten who has over the last 7 years helped with maintenance at both the Hut and Odd Down Community Centre including fitting a new kitchen, cutting the grass and plumbing and electrical repairs. We really appreciate everything he has done and will be lost without him.



## Community Pantry

The Community Pantry continues to be appreciated by the local families. We are grateful for our volunteer who helps with food collections.

A big thanks to M&S Food who donate wonderful flowers as well as food, Fareshare South West, Sainsburys and Bloomfield Road Allotment Holders.

We received grant funding through Community Matters Holiday Hunger Fund of just under £2,500 which enabled us to continue with the food surplus collection and the community pantry over the school holidays. Families were able to access as required and some were given food as needed.

We were delighted to continue our partnership with CropDrop and were matched with Bloomfield Allotments- bringing surplus home grown fruit and vegetables for us to share and use with children and families







This was a busy and changing year for the Network with Gilly participating in the LGA review of the effectiveness of the BCSSP in B&NES voicing the views of the CYPN. She also attended the Business Exchange Conference hearing useful updates from Quartet from their latest vital signs report which evidenced the vital role 3rd sector groups play in preparing for future climate crisis and the impact of children, young people and their families. She also attended a seminar exploring food insecurities for families in B&NES - 16.6% of children are facing very low food security. The Trussell Trust has also seen an 85% increase in demand for services. As a network we could explore ways to support this increased need and what other implications this may have for the children and families we are supporting.

Lots of communication with admin/ strategic board coordinators in B&NES to establish calendar of events for CYPN representatives attending strategic boards: SEND Strategy group, Emotional Health & Wellbeing board, and Children & Adults Workforce reform steering group. We have put forward our representatives and requested dates of future meetings to be sent around with advance notice of meeting agendas, so members can be effectively consulted.

Our CYPN bulletin is now also being sent to Public Health to help improve awareness of services being run by CYPN members.

We have also started to explore local statistics/ demographic data from local authority, that can be used to help inform voluntary sector support and demonstrate 'need' for VS - the aim will be to share this with member groups in our bulletins to help organisations with bid writing and evidencing demand for services/ proposals for new services to meet need in new areas.

In June, Gilly handed over to Mel Macer who came from a Higher Education background and worked rapidly over the Summer, against a very tight deadline, to submit an application on behalf of the CYPN to UK Research & Innovation's (UKRI's) funding call for VCS development of a 'Community Research Network'. The bid was a collaboration between CYPN, Bath Area Play Project, Mentoring Plus and Off the Record B&NES. This is a highly competitive bid but even if we are unsuccessful, it has been a very useful process because it helped engage CYPN members with regard to supporting outcomes for CYPN members by supporting them to lead and/or engage in research activities. The bid was unsuccessful but BSU internal competitive funding for a series of 'Knowledge Exchange Dialogue Workshops' around three key themes: Early Years, SEND and Youth Work. Members of the CYPN will be invited to apply to join a workshop which will be co-delivered by myself (funded within grant) and a leading BSU academic for each of the above three areas of focus. The aims of the workshops are: Phase 1) identify real world issues of importance to the VCS; and Phase 2) Collaborating to address real-world issues - based on key emergent themes/real-world issues from phase 1 - to develop the groundwork for collaborative research project design and bid writing.

Our proposal to St John's Foundation has secured extra funding from St John's to expand the offer to CYPN members, specifically to build on the learnings from the current programme of themed Knowledge Cafes, to develop and extend the initiative through deeper/wider engagement with Bath Spa University (a leader in education and creative practices) and with other local higher education providers including the University of Bath (a leader in Social Policy) and Norland College University (a leader in Early Years).

# Finance, Governance and Quality Improvement

For the year ended 31st March 2023

## Objectives and activities

The policies adopted in furtherance of these objects are listed in the constitution statement and there has been no changes in these during the year. The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake. The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

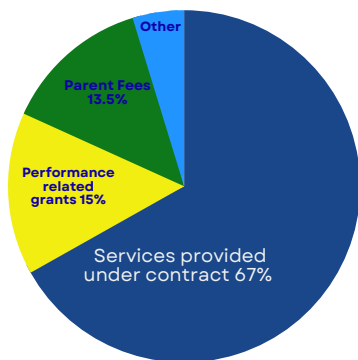
The Charity continues the provision of family play support for children and families, Nurture Groups in schools, Early Years provision, holiday playschemes & youth provision specifically for disabled children and young people in the form of short breaks.

The Trustees continued use of reserves in order to ensure the FSPS team were managed effectively.

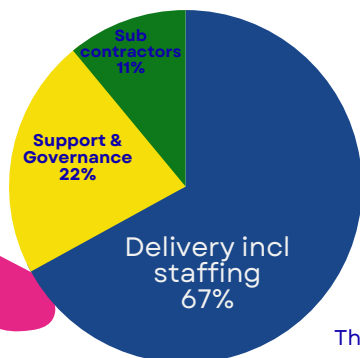
We successfully applied for funding with the We-Activate group providing places on our free community based play sessions open to all disadvantaged children and families across B&NES, for which grants were used to open these to families in receipt of benefit related Free School meals and receive a free packed lunch. These were vital for families with disabled children as they could then access free spaces on our existing specialist programmes in Easter and Summer school holidays. This opened up the service to more families, some of whom have continued to use the service since.

## Financial Review

### Income for the year 2022-23



### Expenditure for the year 2022-23



Income and expenditure from contracts was used to fulfil our obligations, supporting vulnerable families at full capacity, despite no cost of living or inflationary increases being provided by the Council. We were very pleased with a successful application to the Henry Smith Charity and we have been able to extend our capacity for whole family support for the next 3 years. With support from local Trusts and Foundation, we were able to provide much needed community play sessions again, supported by a successful Lottery Awards for All application ensuring that children not in that grey area below the FSM threshold, had services available for them to use for free. Our work as Lead Partner on the Short Breaks contract was extended for a further year and the Local Authority have confirmed that these services will be open for recommissioning for 2024 onwards. We were delighted to have the CYPN contract funded by St. Johns through B&NES Council, providing longer term security however, we have recently learnt that this will not be beyond 3 years.

We have registered with the Government Tax free Childcare scheme in order to further support parents/carers when using our services. It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three- and six months expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. A level of 5 months' reserves has been maintained throughout the year. The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. As part of their ongoing commitment to Quality Governance and Management, the organisation works in line with the ISO9001 Quality Award 2018. Ofsted inspected our Nursery and Pre-school in October 2022 and we were delighted to remain a Good Setting; an accolade to the hard work of the staff team at the Hut.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies and comply with the charities 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

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](http://www.bapp.org.uk)

## A big thank you to

Bath & NE Somerset Council, Southside, Hedley Foundation, Quartet, National Lottery, GWR, Garfield Weston, Henry Smith, Roper Family Trust, Bath Spa Uni, Paulton Parish Council, Peasedown St John Community, Odd Down Community, Westfield Parish Council, Radstock Town Council, Give as you live, Local giving, Co-op, Combe Down Holiday, All of our volunteers! Cameley Primary School, Temple Cloud, Clutton Primary School, Moorlands Schools Federation, Mulberry Park Educate Together Primary Academy, Oldfield Park Junior School, Peasedown St John Primary School, Roundhill Primary School, St John's Primary School, Bath, St Martin's Garden Primary School, Two Rivers Primary School, Keynsham, Broadlands Academy (secondary) and St Mark's School, Bath (secondary)

# The Team



## Board of Trustees

Anji Henderson - Chair  
Felicity Wikeley - Vice Chair  
Tracy Hill - Treasurer  
Joan Cooper  
Vicky Heslop  
Michael Bogg  
Emma Hendy  
Carly McKeever

## Director

Caroline Haworth MBE

## SEND Lead Practitioner

Petra Burgess

## Finance and Administration Manager

Lydia Elliott

## Short Breaks Co-Ordinator

Roz King

## Play Service Manager

Sarah Davies/Kali Diegutis

## Early Help Team Leader

Lily Sargent

## Community Play Support Workers

Mark De'Lisser/Nic Cuniffe/Calvin Cumiskey  
Sarah Meddick/Jess Exton  
Amie Clarke  
Owen Reynolds  
Chole Dalton/Maggie Booth

## Family Play Support Workers

John Melbourne  
Fiona Addley  
Laura Thompson  
Emily North  
Lily Sargent

## The Hut Nursery and Preschool Leader

Mandy Wordon

## Short Breaks Playscheme & Saturday Club 12 + Lead

Petra Burgess

## Early Years Practitioners

Michelle Straffen (SENCO), Paula Curry, Harriett Ridings, Helen Mattock, Kelly Church, Jo Bennet

## Saturday Club 5 + Lead

Sophie Blacker/Michelle Straffen

## CYPN Co-Ordinator

Gilly Samuddin/Mel Macer

## Short Breaks Playworkers

Lucy Sheppard, Aishah Siddeeqa, Helen Mattock, Evie Goold Katherine Reynolds, Daisy Player, Sophie Robinson, Bryony Caddick  
Becky Cope, Emma Morley, Ash Orme, Freya Jones, Ruby Barber,  
Jayesh Punn, Jo Mullen, Amy Edmonds, Kay Horton-Stephens,  
Craig Prescott, Theo Melbourne, Luke Guest, Jess Rogers, Jay Daw,  
Emily Hand, Jake Milsom, Jessica Hill, Lydia Zatchij, Liz Price,  
Jonah Brosnan, Kurtis Cullen, Mark Forrest, Rachel Connew  
Patrick O'Reilly, Emily Harrison, Gali Shiloh

## Outreach Worker

Ethan Hallett/Kay Horton-Stephens

## Playworkers

Hannah Arkell, Lydia Boniface, Ella Swash  
Gemma Burgham, Elijah Green, Abby Chappell,  
Matt Kenny, Jaz Turnbull





**Odd Down Community Centre  
Odins Road  
Odd Down  
BATH  
BA2 2TL**

**Registered Charity No. 1013897**

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

