



Annual Impact Summary 2019

Play Gloucestershire
is the local charity that helps
children to **Get Out and Play!**
Our mission is to transform
children's lives using the power
of outdoor play.

We believe that outdoor play is an essential part of a happy and healthy childhood, and benefits children, families, schools and communities. Our Play Rangers provide active and creative play in urban and rural communities in the Cheltenham, Cotswolds, Forest of Dean, Gloucester, Stroud and Tewkesbury districts. Activities are both school and community based, providing adventure, friendship and fun for hundreds of young people each year. School aged children and their families are the beneficiaries of our work. We particularly support children from disadvantaged and rurally isolated communities, and those impacted by adverse childhood experiences.

Our Outcomes

The difference we have made in 2019

- ★ More children are playing outdoors and it's good news for children, families, schools and communities
- ★ Whole families take part in activities supporting wellbeing – good for mind, good for body, good for soul
- ★ Young people developing key life skills such as confidence, self-esteem, independence and resilience
- ★ Positive behaviour with people of all ages feeling safer in their local park
- ★ Enhanced sense of community through play gatherings developing friendships and volunteering
- ★ Free, accessible play supporting low-income families and helping to mitigate effects of poverty
- ★ Better connection to the natural environment by playing outdoors all year round in local green spaces



Our Play Outputs

2019 in statistics

- ★ 30,088 play visits by 3,494 individuals in 42 rural and urban communities
- ★ 131 holiday play days
- ★ 316 after-school sessions
- ★ 179 In School sessions
- ★ 1,581 hours of play delivery
- ★ 998 volunteer hours by 28 Young Volunteers
- ★ Reliability rating of 100%

Highlights of 2019

- ★ As part of Gloucestershire County Council's councillor led **Growing Our Communities** programme, we add play tours across the Dursley, Blakeney and Bream divisions and work with West Dean Parish Council for the first time.
- ★ Celebrate **National Play Day** and the theme – Play Builds Children – with children and families in Cirencester, Bourton on the Water, Gloucester and Cheltenham.
- ★ The **Play Sanctuary** is completed with outdoor play space for den building, hammocks, sand pit, mud kitchen and fire pit plus an indoor play room for shelter, social and creative space.
- ★ Volunteer workforces from **Gloucester Services** and **GCHQ** help with painting, decorating and groundwork at **The Play Sanctuary**. **Ethical Giving** donate vital funds to help replace the leaking Play Sanctuary roof.
- ★ Training day for Young Volunteers and Park Activists held in April, developing their volunteering knowledge and skills. Young people also clear stream at **City Works** of plastics as part of their social activism.
- ★ Four of our senior playwork practitioners complete their Counselling Skills for Working with Children training with the Place2Be, enabling them to provide emotional support and therapeutic play skills for young people impacted by adverse childhood experiences.
- ★ Our Chair of Trustees, Director of Play and Rafa our Play Dog complete Cheltenham's Three Peaks Challenge with group of friends to raise vital funds for Play Gloucestershire.
- ★ **Ayland Gardens Open Space** in Gloucester gets its first ever play area thanks to our persistent play advocacy with and on behalf of children and families since 2012. **Awards for All** provide a grant for our Play Rangers to provide the 'software' to compliment this new 'hardware'.
- ★ Our **My Park** team recruit 29 Park Activists, who take part in a range of social actions throughout the year that help make their local parks in Springbank (Cheltenham), Matson (Gloucester) and Stonehouse great places for physical activity.
- ★ Continued collaboration with **The Virtual School** providing **Play Nurture** and emotional support for children in care at the **Milestone School** and at **The Play Sanctuary** during school holidays.

Get Out & Play

Our Community Play Rangers

take play out to where children live and make play happen. We understand the importance of both urban and rural community play and during 2019, 42 communities have benefited from our work. Most of the funding for community play comes from Parish and Town Councils, who value our quality, reliability and ability to develop social connections at our play gatherings.

"The Play Rangers are remarkable and give me hope for the future. You are my heroes!"

Les Jevins, Podsmead Big Local

"You're great value for money, there's always so much going on and your Rangers are great at engaging with children and families."

Cirencester Town Council

"People can be really harsh with each other here, and it can be quite scary. Some people only come out when you're in the park. You encourage us to be kinder because you are kind."

Chloe, 12



Fit for Play is our targeted response to the global physical inactivity epidemic, and gets young people and whole families outdoors, active and fit for play. Using the 'Apple' model of physical literacy to support our work, we have trained our staff and young volunteers to promote active play both in school and community settings. **My Park** is the result of our innovative work and is a Potentials Fund project funded by Sport England, the iwill fund, the National Lottery and DCMS. It is a social action project for 10 to 14 year olds, who as **Park Activists**, aim to make local parks in Matson, Springbank and Stonehouse great places for physical activity and play.

"Being a Park Activist has changed my life. I want to make my park accessible for people of all ages."

James, Park Activist

"I used to be moody and bossy. Ever since I started here I'm actually a bit kinder."

Salima, Park Activist

Play Nurture is how we support vulnerable children through therapeutic playwork. Outdoor sessions take place both in school curriculum time and during school holidays. The sessions aim to build resilience in children by helping them to manage feelings, feel good, make sense of difficult things, use their imagination and creativity, develop life skills and meet and make friends. This is targeted support for both individuals and groups. This year, we have started working in **The Play Sanctuary**, our own dedicated space where children can play through life's ups and downs.

"Play Nurture helps me with my anxiety. I know I can trust you and come here and be myself. I feel safe."

K, Young Carer

"Play Nurture has helped children find healthy ways to cope with the stresses and strains of life. Their emotional wellbeing has visibly improved, as has their engagement in learning. Thank you to the whole Play Gloucestershire Team."

Andrea Mills,
Head Teacher



Our Young Volunteering

scheme provides opportunities for 10 to 16 year olds to volunteer in their home community and beyond. The purpose is to develop strengths and utilise the talents that young people have in abundance. This year, 28 young people have donated more than 998 hours of their time, energy and kindness at a value of £4,142. To us they are priceless! More than half our current **Play Ranger** team has graduated into paid sessional work through our **Young Volunteering scheme** – something we are really proud of.



"When I lost my Mum, I sort of shut myself away from the world. Becoming a Young Volunteer allowed me to open up again. Volunteering with Play Gloucestershire has been like therapy for me."

Molly, now a Play Ranger Apprentice

"If we can invest in our communities through schemes like this, it gives young people opportunities and possibilities they may not get living in a deprived area."

Chris Jenkinson, Police Community Support Officer

How you can help support our great work:

To support us please go to www.VirginMoneyGiving and add our name into the 'Make a Donation' search.

Thank You.

(Please add Gift Aid if you can!)

Play Gloucestershire

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