



# Play Gloucestershire's Annual Impact Report 2015

Play Gloucestershire is the local charity that helps children to *Get Out and Play*. We combine play delivery with play advocacy and community play development. Our Play Rangers provide active and creative play in urban and rural communities in the Cheltenham, Cotswold, Forest of Dean, Gloucester, Stroud and Tewkesbury districts. Activities are both school and community based, providing memorable days of adventure, friendship and fun for hundreds of children and young people each year.

School aged children, young people and their families are the beneficiaries of our work. We particularly support children from disadvantaged and rurally isolated communities and those living in challenging circumstances.

## Our Play Outputs:

- 19,515 play visits in 33 urban & rural communities
- 1,652 individuals (not everyone chooses to register)
- 127 holiday play days & 355 after-school sessions
- 87 School sessions
- 1,687 hours of play delivery
- 3,390 Volunteer Hours
- Reliability rating of 100%

## What our users said:

**"Play can turn a bad day into a good day."** *Lolly, 15*

**"This fruit is making my bones grow!"** *CJ, 5*

**"I've never had this much fun playing football before!"** *Karl, 14*

**"My boys go and help, they love it, all the children do. This is a great organisation, and the people that run it can be commended. When the children see the Rangers coming they all cheer, a sight to behold!"** *Paul, Dad of boys aged 10 & 13*

**"We went to the Play Rangers & my boys absolutely loved it! The Leaders were fab with the children...we've never spent 5 hours in the park before."** *Claire, Mum of 2*

## Outcomes: (The difference we have made to children, young people and families)

- More children playing outdoors than ever before in 2015 - good news for children, for families and for communities
- Whole families are taking part in activities supporting wellbeing – good for mind & good for body
- Improved resilience in children through outdoor play
- Positive social behaviour with families feeling safer in public spaces
- Enhanced sense of community through friendships and volunteering
- Free, accessible play supporting low-income families helping to mitigate the effects of poverty
- Better connection to the natural environment by playing outdoors year round

## Highlights of 2015:

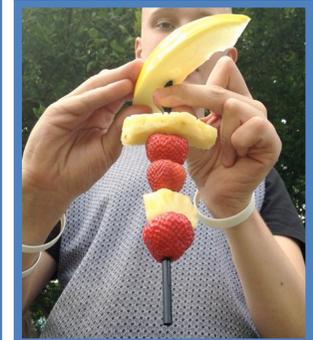
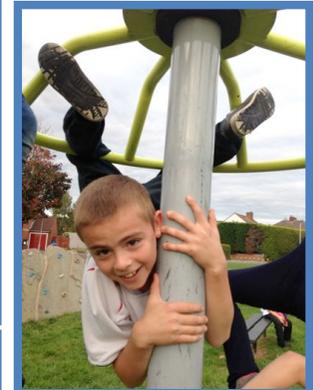
- Young Volunteers training day and awards ceremony in June at the University of Gloucestershire
- Gloucestershire County Council's Healthy Together programme funds 'Move More, Eat Well' project in Stroud District supporting 125 young people
- Rural play expands into Bussage and Longborough
- Play Rangers & Young Volunteers meet HRH Prince of Wales at opening of Gloucester Services
- Play Gloucestershire become a charity partner of Gloucester Services supported by Gloucestershire Gateway Trust
- Gilbert Lane Trust confirm 5 year support towards core costs
- Rugby World Cup celebration taking active and creative rugby activities out into the heart of disadvantaged Gloucester communities

**Community Play** continues to be the bedrock of our charity's work. Our Play Rangers take play out to where children live and make play happen. We recognise the importance of both urban and rural community play and during 2015, 33 communities have benefited from our work. Funding is mainly from Parish and Town Councils, who value our quality, reliability and ability to connect local communities and get people of all ages actively involved in outdoor play.

**Fit for Play** is our targeted response to the physical inactivity epidemic, and encourages children and whole families to get outdoors, get active and get fit for play. Community based sessions have been funded by Gloucestershire County Council's Active Together programme during 2015 with more than 477 people getting their recommended daily dose of physical activity alongside our Play Rangers. School based **Fit for Play** sessions have taken place twice weekly in 2015 during lunchtimes at Tredworth Infants School in Gloucester. More than 70 children get active alongside our Rangers at every session.

**Play Nurture Groups (PNG)** is how we support vulnerable Gloucestershire children through therapeutic outdoor playwork. Four primary schools have commissioned PNG this year using Pupil Premium funding and our evidence shows that this targeted approach has helped build resilience in children living in challenging circumstances with 38 children participating.

**Young Volunteering** This year, 34 young people have volunteered in their local community donating more than 3,390 hours of their time, energy and kindness. As we say 'doing good makes you feel good!' We have invested time and resources in our wonderful group of young volunteers kindly supported by The Henry Smith Charity and The High Sheriff of Gloucestershire's Fund.



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