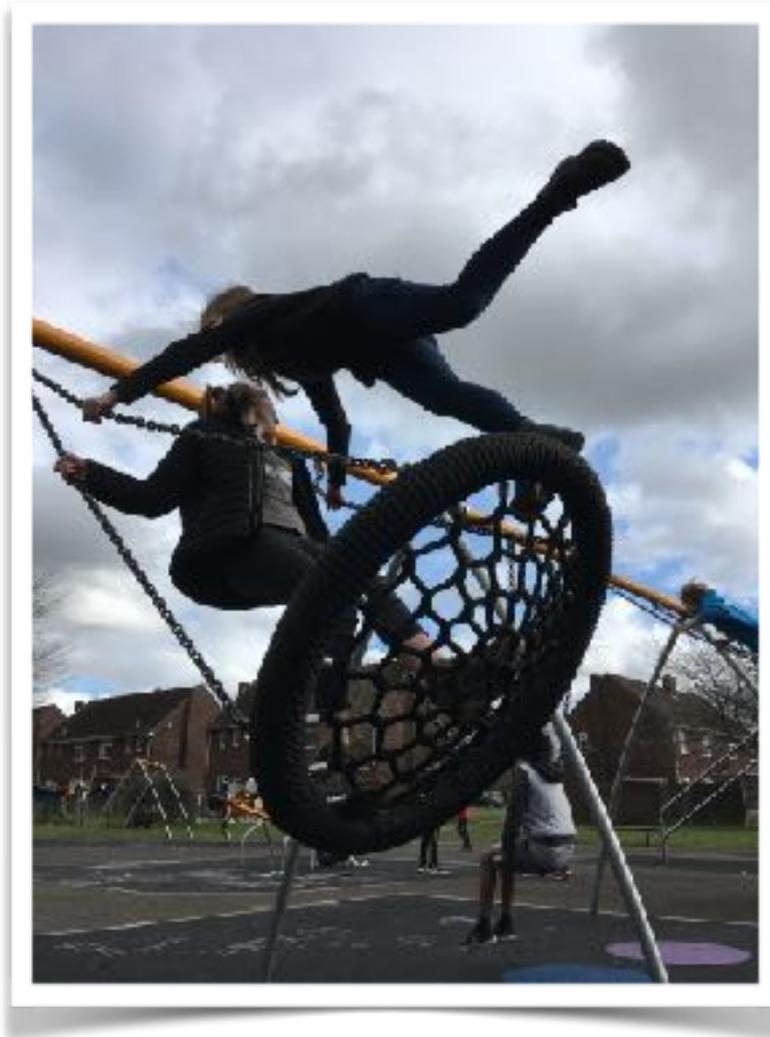


# Play Gloucestershire



## Annual Report 2018/19



## **Play Gloucestershire Annual Report 2018-19**

### **Play Gloucestershire Trustees Report – Achievements and Performance April 2018 to March 2019**

Play Gloucestershire are proud to have taken play out into 32 communities during this financial year, whilst providing 199 school-based play sessions in six primary schools and therapeutic playwork for both individuals and small groups during term-time and in the school holidays. Our Play Rangers take outdoor play into the heart of both urban and rural communities, in both schools and communities. Working across the six Gloucestershire districts of Cheltenham, Cotswold, Forest of Dean, Gloucester, Stroud and Tewkesbury, we have provided adventure, friendship and fun for more than 3,490 people, who have made 28,951 play visits this year. The statistics show we have provided 143 play days and 354 after school sessions and more than 1,852 hours of outdoor play.

We are very clear about our purpose – using the transformational power of outdoor play to support children, families, schools and communities. In particular we focus on disadvantaged and rurally isolated communities, and children impacted by adverse childhood experiences. Our charity has a shared belief that outdoor play is an essential part of a happy and healthy childhood, making a vital contribution to both physical and mental wellbeing.

Over recent years, we have a growing appreciation for the therapeutic power of play. Some children have high need for intensive help which has been impossible to support during community play at critical moments in their lives. Building on our established community play heritage, we have developed our therapeutic playwork by providing Play Nurture for vulnerable children in school curriculum time, after school and in school holidays. Strategic investment by our Trustees in staff training - and support by the Summerfield Trust to develop our work - has resulted in good outcomes for more than 200 vulnerable children since 2014.

The next step for us on this journey to support more disadvantaged young people has been to create 'The Play Sanctuary'. This is a safe, private and nurturing play space where vulnerable children can connect with our Play Rangers to thrive physically, emotionally and socially through our award-winning Play Nurture. It will provide respite from life's ups and downs and will be a place that children go to relax, recharge and build their resilience. Uniquely, we will provide animal nurture alongside our Play Nurture, with our newly qualified 'Pets as Therapy' dogs.

Having planned The Play Sanctuary, with the pro bono professional support of Kay Lillington, a landscape architect and trusted advisor of Play Gloucestershire, we set about fundraising to turn our dreams to reality. With in-kind support from Clarkson Evans who provided the electrical installation, and volunteer workforces from Gloucester Services and GCHQ, within a six-month period we secured grants from the Summerfield Trust, the Postcode Local Trust, Ethical Giving and donations from individuals to complete renovation work on both the indoor warehouse space and outdoor play space. The Play Sanctuary is now open for business and we look forward to welcoming children and families to our 'little hub of happiness' over the next decade.

## **Play Gloucestershire Annual Report 2018-19**

As we always say, people make play and it is a combination of our dedicated core team, our amazing sessional Play Rangers and of course our wonderful young volunteers that enable us to provide excellent play activities all year round. These people are why we have won our fourth National Playwork Award in 2019 – this time for our 'Frontline Playwork'. We take immense satisfaction from the fact that in the last five years, nearly half our 20 sessional Play Rangers have graduated from our Young Volunteer scheme. This continues to provide young people with meaningful volunteering opportunities, enabling them to support play in their home community whilst developing key life skills. During this year, 32 young people have provided 1,340 hours of volunteering. We calculate the value of that as an incredible £4,958. To us they are priceless!

With research continuing to show that small and medium charities have been hardest hit by cuts in public funding, it is testament to Play Gloucestershire's trustees, staff, volunteers and supporters that we continue to achieve so much. Our preventative services are vital for children and families struggling to cope with life's ups and downs, and our core team work effectively and efficiently ensuring that as much investment as possible goes into frontline services. Our core funding is vitally important to our sustainability. We are proud charity partner of Gloucestershire Gateway Trust and Gloucester Services, and will benefit from their financial investment over the next five years. We also benefit from vital core funding from The Gilbert Lane Trust and The Henry Smith Charity.

Our key work areas remain our Community Play Rangers (taking play to where children live); Young Volunteering (providing opportunities for 10 to 16 years old to volunteer in their home community and beyond); School Play (including active lunchtimes); Play Nurture (helping children impacted by adverse childhood experiences with therapeutic playwork) and Play Advocacy (reminding people just how important it is to provide time and space for play).

Our three year 'My Park' project, funded by iwill and Sport England's Potentials Fund is based in Hesters Way, Matson and Stonehouse. The project helps 10-14 year-olds find ways to make their local green spaces great places for sport and physical activity through volunteering and campaigning. To date, 29 Park Activists have supported active play for over 850 beneficiaries.

This has been another successful year for Play Gloucestershire and a real turning point in our future. We have now successfully launched The Play Sanctuary and play nurture service, as a core part of our strategic plan to refocus into the children and communities with the highest need across Gloucestershire. We will do this whilst still protecting the relationships we have built in our first 12 years. We are making real headway in covering core costs and have an excellent and resilient team who always put the needs of our children and communities first, setting the highest standards in play and nurture every day. 2019/20 will see us take a further step in re-balancing our work, reaching children with the highest nurture needs whilst ensuring the relevance and importance of community play is maintained for children living in high need neighbourhoods across Gloucestershire. A huge thank you to all our funders, play partners, dedicated team and of course, the children and communities for their continued support.

Matthew Arthur, Chair of Trustees: November 2019

# Creating The Play Sanctuary



# What We Do

Play Gloucestershire's Play Rangers deliver outdoor active and creative play in the Cheltenham, Cotswold, Forest of Dean, Gloucester, Stroud and Tewkesbury districts of Gloucestershire. Activities are both school and community based. Since April 2008 the Rangers have recorded more than 160,695 play visits in 88 urban and rural communities. Working year round, whatever the weather, 19,945 hours of free play has been provided to children and families living in disadvantaged and rurally isolated communities, and those living in challenging circumstances.

Play Gloucestershire's Play Rangers are trained playworkers who take play out into schools and communities across the county. All activities are free at the point of delivery, and our community play for most is easy to access, being a short walk or bike ride from where children live. This means they do not need to rely on adults providing money or transport to take part – they can simply choose to get to their local open space and join in.

The range of positive activities that Play Gloucestershire's Play Rangers provide is huge. Our customised and branded vans contain lots of equipment including den building, fire pits, arts material, sports kit and many other exciting 'loose parts' that lets children's imagination and creativity run wild. Our range of activities includes active play such as tag, manhunt, den building, rope swings, sling shots and rockets; informal sports including frisbee, football, skipping, tag rugby; arty creativity using recycled scrap materials from Gloucestershire Resource Centre; healthy lifestyles - campfire cookery, healthy snacks with active play, playing with the elements and playing in the dark!



# Why We Do What We Do

Play is good for children, good for families and good for communities. We know this from our work, and research provides the theory to back this up. At Play Gloucestershire we believe that outdoor play is an essential part of a healthy and happy childhood. So many good things happen to children when they are given the time and space for play. And yet today's children are spending less and less time outside, and are suffering from more mental and physical health problems. Play Gloucestershire support local children and their families, particularly the most disadvantaged and vulnerable, through the power of play. We evidence our impact through our outputs (how much we do) and our outcomes (the difference we make):



## **Outputs:**

**143 Play Days**

**354 After School Sessions**

**199 In-School Sessions**

**1,852 Hours of Play**

**28,951 Play Visits**

**by 3,490 People**

**32 Urban & Rural Communities**

**100% Reliability**

## **Outcomes:**

- More children playing outdoors more often
- Whole families are taking part in activities supporting wellbeing
- Improved resilience through outdoor play
- Positive social behaviour with families feeling safer in public spaces
- Improved social connections 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

**National Playwork Award Winners for Frontline Playwork** at the annual play sector conference in Eastbourne. The award is given to the organisation delivering 'brilliant playwork for children, young people and families'. It was recognised how our staff and young volunteers deliver playful, reliable, exciting and high quality play all year round, advocate for play in the wider community and ensure that children from all backgrounds and abilities are included. As one of our local funders recently said, "Play Rangers is just about the **lowest maintenance and best performing element to everything the Council does, which I've appreciated hugely!**"

**NATIONAL  
PLAYWORK  
AWARDS  
2019  
WINNER**



### **My Park Project**

Our three year 'My Park' project, funded by iwill and Sport England's Potentials Fund is based in Hesters Way, Matson and Stonehouse. The project helps 10-14 year-olds find ways to make their local green spaces great places for sport and physical activity through volunteering and campaigning. To date, 29 Park Activists have supported active play for over 850 beneficiaries.

### **Community Partner of Gloucester Services**

Play Gloucestershire's Play Rangers showcased some of their favourite active and creative play activities at Gloucester Services during November, 2018. Pop-up play included hackable hopscotch, giant bubbles and scrap model making, and the range of events celebrated Play Gloucestershire's special charity partnership with Gloucester Services and Gloucestershire Gateway Trust. As well as two pop-up play days for customers, there were events for staff and a photo exhibition.



## Play Gloucestershire Annual Report 2018-19

### Pets As Therapy Dogs Join our Play Team

We are proud that we now have two play dogs in our team who have passed their 'Pets As Therapy' assessment and are able to work in schools as well as at community play sessions. Rafa the Spaniel and Steve the Pug are experts in non-verbal communication and bring comfort and joy to children and adults alike. Animals help with anxiety and stress, providing companionship and unconditional love. Our play dogs are amazing!



**Eid Celebration** - We've been deeply moved seeing the plight of refugees in the news. When we were asked to help put smiles on the faces of 50 children through play at an Eid Celebration for Gloucestershire refugee families at The Friendship Cafe, we jumped at the chance. A team of five Rangers volunteered their time, and we had a fabulous afternoon using the universal language of play to make friends, and help immerse these children in some much needed child led play.

### Young Volunteers Train with our Park Activists

Young people from across the county gathered at The Play Sanctuary to share ideas for youth social action and volunteering. As well as developing their life skills, making new friends and having fun, they utilised their talents and set to clearing the stream of plastics that pollute the oceans and the planet.



# Play Gloucestershire Annual Report 2018-19

## Play Venues 2018 to 2019

### **Cheltenham:**

Springbank

### **Cotswolds:**

Blockley

Bourton on the Water

Baunton (Cirencester)

Chesterton (Cirencester)

Kingshill (Cirencester)

Watermoor (Cirencester)

Abbey Grounds (Cirencester)

Duke of Gloucester Barracks

Longborough

Mickleton

Willersey

### **Forest of Dean:**

Ruspidge

### **Gloucester:**

Abbeydale

Ayland Gardens

Coney Hill

Longlevens

Matson

Podsmead

Tuffley

### **Stroud District:**

Archway Gardens (Stroud)

Bussage

Mason Road (Stroud)

Nailsworth

Stonehouse

### **Tewkesbury Borough:**

Longlands – Bishops Cleeve

Sunrise Avenue – Bishops Cleeve

Finlay Way – Bishops Cleeve

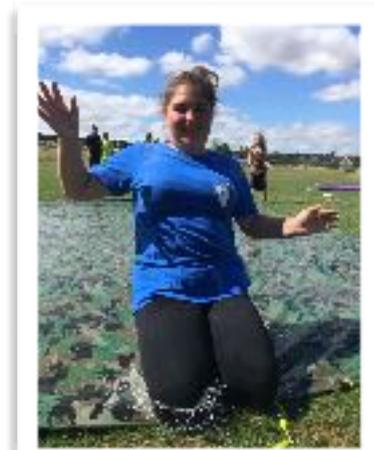
Millham Road – Bishops Cleeve

Grangefield - Bishops Cleeve

Northway

### **Out of County**

Bredon



### **Schools:**

Harewood Infants School

Harewood Junior School

Moat Primary Academy

Hester's Way Primary School

Park Junior School

### **Holiday Play Nurture:**

University of Gloucestershire (Oxstalls)

### **Special Events:**

National Play Day

Eco Fun Day, Springbank

Gloucester Services Staff C'mas Party

Stonehouse Goodwill

Young Volunteer/Park Activist Training

All Pulling Together Fun Day

## Play Gloucestershire Annual Report 2018-19

### Play Gloucestershire Summary of Accounts Year Ending 31st March 2019

	2019	2018
<b>Incoming Resources</b>		
Voluntary Income	£115,857	£126,127
Income from Charitable Activities	£80,878	£66,699
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>£196,735</b>	<b>£192,826</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>		
Direct Costs for Play	£165,275	£151,052
Support Costs	£27,373	£25,282
Governance Costs	£1,350	£1,963
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b>£193,998</b>	<b>£178,297</b>
Net Incoming Resources Before Transfers	£2,737	-£14,529
Total Funds Brought Forward 1st April	£111,686	£97,157
<b>Total Funds Carried Forward 31 March</b>	<b>£114,423</b>	<b>£111,686</b>
Fixed Assets	£23,680	£6,670
Net Current Assets	£90,743	£105,016
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	£114,423	£111,686
<b>Reserves</b>		
Restricted Funds	£31,020	£49,255
Unrestricted Funds Designated	£40,325	£40,325
Unrestricted Funds General	£43,078	£22,106

**Trustees Statement:** The summary of accounts contained in this report are extracted from the financial statements prepared by the Charitable Company and reviewed by John Price, Chartered Accountant, and their Independent Examiner. The summary of accounts may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of Play Gloucestershire Limited. For further information the Annual Financial Statements should be consulted. Copies can be obtained from the charity/ company registered office: Unit R7-9, City Works, Alfred Street, Gloucester GL1 4DF - **Matthew Arthur (Chair of Trustees)**

**Play Gloucestershire Annual Report 2018-19**

**Play Gloucestershire Kindly Supported By:**

Bishop's Cleeve Parish Council  
Blockley Parish Council  
Bourton on the Water Parish Council  
Bredon Play  
Chalford and Bussage Parish Council  
Cirencester Town Council  
Cotswold District Council  
Ethical Giving  
Gloucestershire Gateway Trust  
Gloucestershire County Council: Growing Our Communities  
Cllr Kate Haigh (Coney Hill)  
Cllr Richard Boyles (Blakeney & Bream)  
Cllr Suzanne Williams (Hesters Way & Springbank)  
Cllr Loraine Patrick (Dursley)  
Cllr Steve Robinson (Nailsworth)  
Cllr Kathy Williams (Longlevens)  
Cllr Graham Morgan (Cinderford)  
Harewood Infants School  
Harewood Junior School  
Longborough Parish Council  
Mickleton Youth Group  
Milestone School  
Nailsworth Town Council  
Nailsworth Fund  
Nailsworth Youth Club  
Northway Parish Council  
Postcode Local Trust  
Podsmead Big Local  
Sport England Potentials Fund  
Stroud Town Council  
The Freemasons Fund  
Henry Smith Charity  
Summerfield Trust  
The Virtual School  
Willersey Parish Council

## Play Gloucestershire Annual Report 2018-19

### Contact Us

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[www.facebook.com/playgloucestershire](https://www.facebook.com/playgloucestershire)

[www.instagram.com/playgloucestershire/](https://www.instagram.com/playgloucestershire/)

Follow us on Twitter @Play\_Glos

Donate to us on [www.virginmoneygiving.com](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com)



Montage above, on display at Gloucester Services Northbound  
Artwork kindly donated by Alan Rutherford: Hand Over Fist Press

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and Company Limited by Guarantee 6260058