

# Play Gloucestershire



## Annual Report 2019/20



## **Play Gloucestershire Annual Report 2019-20**

### **Play Gloucestershire Trustees Report – Achievements and Performance April 2019 to March 2020**

Our report begins at the end of this financial year – March 2020 and lockdown. We had no idea that words such as Coronavirus, Pandemic, Covid-19 and Furlough would dominate both our working and personal worlds so completely from this point onwards. Before we deal with the impact of Covid-19 we will first focus upon the achievements and challenges of 2019-20. It was a successful year on a number of fronts – a busy year of community play in both urban and rural areas across the county, continued growth in demand for our play nurture services, the second year of our “My Park” Project funded by iwill and Sport England’s Potentials Fund, and we closed the financial challenge of covering our core costs so essential to running the charity successfully and ensuring safe and successful play delivery recording an overall surplus for the year of £18.7k.

Play Gloucestershire has taken play out into 39 communities during this financial year, whilst providing 180 school-based play sessions in 7 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 4,032 people, who have made 25,562 play visits this year. The statistics show we have provided 130 play days, 278 after school sessions and more than 1,499 hours of outdoor play.

The pandemic has reaffirmed our belief that outdoor play is an essential part of a happy and healthy childhood and makes a vital contribution to both physical and mental wellbeing. 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. We held a strategic planning day in October 2019 to look ahead to the future and the changing needs of our communities and the children we serve. We recognised both the continued importance of our community play delivery as well as the rising number of children with a deeper need more appropriate for our Play Nurture service and higher levels of care. Whilst Community Play becomes harder to fund, the need and demand for our Play Nurture continues to rise and enables us to reach out to the deep areas of need for our communities. Our team are passionate about the communities we serve and being flexible in how we deliver to accommodate these needs. Whilst we made no hard and fast decisions, our thinking and planning left us very well faced for the challenges that 2020 was to bring.

We continue to focus on our key work areas. Our Community Play Rangers take play out to where children live in our fleet of vans. They encourage them to meet up in their local green space for active, creative and sociable fun. Funding comes from parish, town, district and county councils – all valuing the important contribution playing outdoors makes to children, their families and their communities.

## Play Gloucestershire Annual Report 2019-20

Our Play Nurture work continues to expand – both in The Play Sanctuary and in schools, with funders valuing the contribution it makes to both mental and physical health. Our Young Volunteers continue to support play in their home community whilst developing key life skills with many progressing to paid work with us as apprentices and then fully fledged (home grown) Play Rangers. During this year, 34 young people have provided 1,270 hours of volunteering. We calculate the value of that as an incredible £5,271. To us they are priceless!

Our relationship with Gloucester Services and Gloucestershire Gateway Trust goes from strength to strength. As well as vital support for our core costs, we collaborate with the other community partners as well as sharing our play expertise at events such as the Gloucester Services Christmas Party. We are also grateful to the Henry Smith Charity for core cost support. Funding is always a challenge and this year we have been kindly supported by 51 funders as well as donations from individuals and events such as the Cheltenham Three Peaks Challenge raising £2,335. We continue to invest in our staff - this year five of our most experienced staff have undertaken Place 2 Be training in Counselling and Therapeutic Play Skills, ensuring that they deliver high quality Play Nurture sessions for those most in need.



Looking back 2019/20 was a remarkable success story rounded off by returning a financial surplus of £18.7k for the year. However, March 2020 was also the moment that our world changed. National Lockdown was announced and sadly, for us to date, the last time that we were able to deliver open access community play – the very core of our charity. This was a devastating blow for the Play Rangers and rocked the equilibrium of many of our team. Being unable to support children using the power of play, just when they needed it most was difficult for us to reconcile.

Matthew Arthur, Chair of Trustees: November 2020

# 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 It

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:**

**130 Play Days**  
**278 After School Sessions**  
**180 In-School Sessions**  
**1,499 Hours of Play**  
**25,562 Play Visits**  
**4,032 Children /Families**  
**39 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

# Play Gloucestershire Annual Report 2019-20

## Play Venues 2019 to 2020

### **Cheltenham:**

Springbank

### **Cotswolds:**

Blockley

Bourton on the Water

Baunton (Cirencester)

Kings Meadow (Cirencester)

Chesterton (Cirencester)

Kingshill (Cirencester)

St Michael's Park (Cirencester)

Abbey Grounds (Cirencester)

Duke of Gloucester Barracks

Longborough

Mickleton

Willersey

### **Forest of Dean:**

Berry Hill

Blakeney

Bream

Littledean

Newnham

Parkend

Ruspidge

Sling

Yorkley

### **Gloucester:**

Ayland Gardens

Coney Hill

Longlevens

Matson

Podsmead

### **Stroud District:**

Archway Gardens (Stroud)

Bussage

Coaley

Dursley

Leonard Stanley

Mason Road (Stroud)

Nailsworth

Stonehouse

Uley



### **Tewkesbury Borough:**

Bishops Cleeve

Northway

Tewkesbury (Priors Park)

### **Out of County**

Bredon

### **Schools:**

Harewood Infants School

Harewood Junior School

Milestone Academy

Moat Primary Academy

Hester's Way Primary School

Park Junior School

### **Holiday Play Nurture:**

University of Gloucestershire (Oxstalls)

**Highlights of the Year**

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 and Zurich Community Trust support running costs



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.



## Play Gloucestershire Annual Report 2019-20

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 space 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





## Play Gloucestershire Annual Report 2019-20

### Play Gloucestershire Summary of Accounts Year Ending 31st March 2020

	2020	2019
<b>Incoming Resources</b>		
Voluntary Income	£144,427	£115,857
Income from Charitable Activities	£77,467	£80,878
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>£221,894</b>	<b>£196,735</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>		
Direct Costs for Play	£172,607	£165,275
Support Costs	£29,209	£27,373
Governance Costs	£1,350	£1,350
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b>£203,166</b>	<b>£193,998</b>
Net Incoming Resources Before Transfers	£18,728	£2,737
Total Funds Brought Forward 1st April	£114,423	£111,686
<b>Total Funds Carried Forward 31 March</b>	<b>£133,151</b>	<b>£114,423</b>
Fixed Assets	£19,091	£23,680
Net Current Assets	£114,060	£90,743
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	£133,151	£114,423
<b>Reserves</b>		
Restricted Funds	£43,367	£31,020
Unrestricted Funds Designated	£40,325	£40,325
Unrestricted Funds General	£49,459	£43,078

**Trustees Statement:** The summary of accounts contained in this report are extracted from the financial statements prepared by the Charitable Company and reviewed by their Independent Examiners, Third Sector Accountancy Ltd. 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 2019-20**

### **Play Gloucestershire Kindly Supported By:**

Active Gloucestershire  
Awards for All  
Bishops Cleeve Parish Council  
Blockley Parish Council  
Bredon Play  
Bussage CofE Primary School  
Chalford Parish Council  
Cotswold District Council  
Friends of Play Gloucestershire  
Gloucester City Council  
Gloucestershire Gateway Trust  
Glos. County Council Growing our Communities:  
Chesterton - Cllr Joe Harris  
Coney Hill - Cllr Kate Haigh  
Ruspidge - Cllr Graham Morgan  
Cirencester Town Council  
Ethical Giving  
Erasmus: PAClife  
Harewood Infants School  
Harewood Junior School  
Hesters Way Neighbourhood Partnership  
Longborough Parish Council  
Mickleton Youth Project  
Midcounties Co-op  
Milestone Academy  
Nailsworth Town Council  
Nailsworth Youth Fund  
Northway Parish Council  
Podsmead Big Local  
Office of Police and Crime Commissioner  
Rotary Gloucester  
Sedbury Trust  
Sport England Potentials Fund  
Stroud Town Council  
Tewkesbury Town Council  
The Henry Smith Charity  
The Virtual School  
Tredworth Infants School  
Waitrose, Stroud  
West Dean Parish Council  
WHSmith Trust  
Willersey Parish Council  
Zurich Community Trust

## Play Gloucestershire Annual Report 2019-20

### Contact Us

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Montage above, on display at Gloucester Services Northbound  
Artwork by Alan Rutherford

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