

Annual Report

2021-22

www.hackneyplay.org

HACKNEY
PLAY
ASSOCIATION

Celebrating
50 years



HPA Registered Charity Number – 1145960
Company Number – 05957488

ABOUT US

Hackney Play Association was founded in 1972, as a charity to promote opportunities for local children and young people to access play, which is free at the point of delivery.

Our goal is to improve children and young people's health, well-being and quality of life, through play.

Hackney Play Association's (HPA) aim is to make Hackney a great place for play - particularly for children facing barriers due to poverty, disability, gender and race.

We provide:

- FREE (open access) after school, holiday and youth clubs for children and young people at Homerton Grove Adventure Playground, Pearson Street Adventure Playground and Clapton Park Play and Youth Project
- Weekly family play drop in sessions
- Development and support for Hackney Play Streets
- Training and qualification courses in playwork and related skills for staff, volunteers, trustees and young people
- Information and advice on all aspects of play provision
- Advocacy for quality play and play provision
- Support for disabled children and their families to participate in play provision





MESSAGE FROM JACKIE OUR HPA CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

After the challenging years of the pandemic all our services are fully up and running again.

We have a great team of staff at Hackney Play Association, all of whom are hard working and dedicated. On behalf of the management committee we'd like to say thank you to all of you who make it possible for us to provide such great services.

Moving forwards we have a number of exciting plans to develop our services. However, as with most organisations, funding remains a challenge and we will need to double our efforts to secure the finances that will enable us to progress.

Jackie Hoptger





MESSAGE FROM KAY OUR HPA DIRECTOR

It has been a good year, putting some of the challenges of Covid lockdowns behind us!

We have run an extensive range of services to children and their families in Hackney, such as family stay and play sessions for our youngest users and their parents, growing the next generation of adventure playground users.

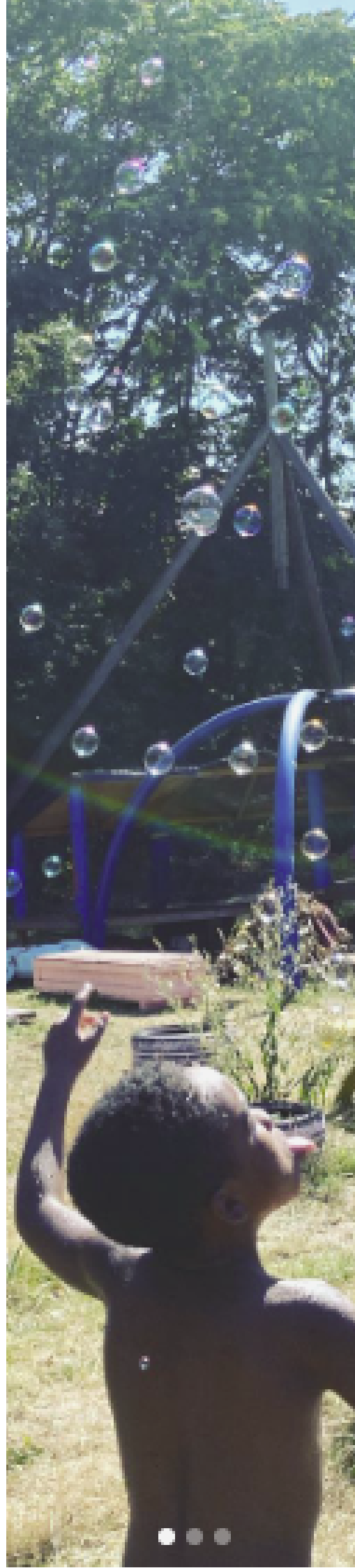
Recognising the importance of young people's mental health, we extended our youth offer with a weekly Good for Girls session and a "Too blessed to be stressed!" project.

We have worked collaboratively with partners from Public Health, on our Street play project and have hosted many visitors, academics and play professionals from across the world, from Weston super mare to Western Australia!

We are proud of the work all staff have delivered, over the last year, and our sincere thanks go out to them, for their hard work, passion and commitment in support of children, young people and families in Hackney.

We look forward to another exciting year, one in which we celebrate our 50th as a play association, with photo exhibitions, events and more.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kay O'Brien". The signature is fluid and cursive.



YOUNG PERSON ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS



Homerton Grove and Pearson Street Challenge Days - 22 young people helped plan and host the fun challenge days. The events attracted over 200 people (across both playgrounds) who got to make fruit kebabs, participate in fun challenges, have a go at African drumming and steel pans and learn more about local opportunities to support health and wellbeing. In the lead up to and on the event day the 22 young people contributed over 100 volunteering hours collectively.



Good for Girls - The initial concept of a girls' session came from an online group (for girls only) that was set up during the winter lockdown of 2021. The girls had expressed that they wanted to evolve the session and with their input we managed to secure funding from London Youth as part of their Good4girls initiative.

The Good4Girls programme of 24 sessions (which started in Jan 2021) is a mental health and wellbeing themed initiative that offers young people opportunities to cover topics (e.g., staying safe online, sharing something about themselves) through talking circles and engage in sport/arts activities (e.g., yoga, self-defence workshop, trainer personalisation). The young people also got the chance to initiate, plan and deliver a Social Action Project (supported by the staff lead) in line with a theme chosen by themselves. The Good4 Girls session currently runs weekly at Pearson Street Adventure playground

London Youth Quality Mark - We achieved the London Youth Bronze Quality Mark in April 2022. The bronze level focuses on the policies and procedures that organisations need to have in place to ensure they operate legally and provide a safe environment for young people. We are currently working towards the Silver mark.



SCHOOLS OUT



Schools Out, a time when children have the chance to play, explore, try new things, learn new skills, laugh, smile, have fun, get active, meet their friends or make new friends, take risks and feel safe.

Pearson Street and Homerton Grove Adventure Playgrounds hosted 10 weeks of playscheme and Clapton Park Project ran over the Easter and summer holidays during 2021.

Our schools out offer was enhanced during the summer and Christmas of 2021 as we secured Holiday Activities and Food Funding (HAF), from Hackney council, which ensured we could offer daily meals, enriching activities, trips out and promote healthier eating awareness.

The range of fun enriching activities, that children and young people got the chance to experience, included African drumming, steel pans, circus skills, healthy eating club, eco active arts and crafts, gardening and more.

During the winter playscheme children got to enjoy a panto at the Hoxton Hall, a Caribbean themed Christmas dinner and there were also gifts from the East London Business Alliance (ELBA).

'In the summer I love the waterslide and playing with my friends and I have learnt how to safely start and put out a fire and to cook outdoors'
Child/Young Person

PLAY STREETS

What are Play Streets?

Residents close off their streets to through traffic for a few hours weekly or monthly, so that children can play out more safely and neighbours come together - making streets friendlier for all.

Play Streets Project 21-22

Our project, which is funded by Public Health at Hackney Council, continued to grow with 19 different locations and over 100 play streets in the last year

We offered face-to-face training sessions throughout the year in Haggerston and Homerton, that were well attended by prospective play street organisers.

The training covered, how to run your play street, the benefits of playing out to children and their communities, safe stewarding, risk assessment and games and activities.

The funding for this project will be ending in 2023 and it is our hope that residents will get support from Hackney Council to run their play streets going forward.



IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS 2021-22



8,302

Attendances by
children & young
people



1460

Holiday Meals served



300

Young Person
Volunteering Hours



2600

Hours of play



75%

of children/young
people said they were
happy when at the
playground



65%

of children/young
people said the
playground allows
them to get active,
learn new skills and
let off steam.

'The Pearson street event day was amazing. I really like being in charge of a station and having the responsibility. Very good experience enjoyed myself thoroughly. Felt like the whole community and playground was together.. I haven't planned an event like this before so it's great to get that experience. I can't wait to take part in future events'
Young Person Volunteer

HPA FINANCE

Statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account) year end 31 March 2022.

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and Legacies	8,964	35,620	44,584	80,369
Charitable Activities	261,369	-	261,369	249,578
Total	270,333	35,620	305,953	329,947
Expenditure on:				
Raising Funds	(12,455)	(700)	(13,155)	(6,621)
Charitable Activities	(301,135)	(43,207)	(344,342)	(247,000)
Total	(313,590)	(43,907)	(357,497)	(253,621)
Net Income	(43,257)	(8,287)	(51,544)	76,326
Reconciliation of funds				
Total Funds brought forward	256,971	27,128	284,099	207,773
Total Funds carried forward	213,714	18,841	232,555	284,099

A BIG Thanks to our Funders and Donors



SUPPORTED BY
MAYOR OF LONDON

HACKNEY
GI♥ING



TESCO
Community Grants



King's Park
MOVING
TOGETHER
AN ACTIVE COMMUNITY

OUR TRAINING OFFER

30

Training Courses

300

Participant
Attendances

10

Accredited
courses delivered

90%

of participants
found the courses
beneficial

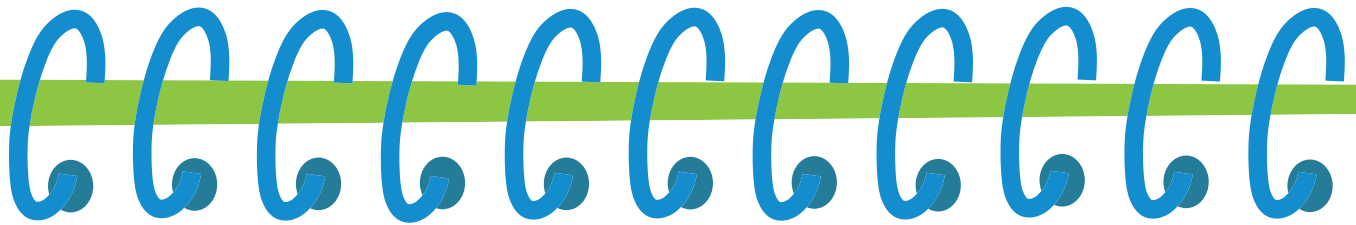
Our training programme, alongside playwork training, has covered topics such as:-

- Preventing teenage suicide
- Inclusive games and activities
- Supporting teens who identify as LGBTQ+
- Substance misuse and vaping
- Responding to behaviour that challenges
- Paediatric First Aid
- Fire Safety course
- Safeguarding level two.

After requests from other local authorities, we have offered our training courses, tailored to their specific needs (e.g., Playwork Qualifications)

If you would like to find out more about the training we can offer you or your organisation, please email kay@hackneyplay.org





The final word from our HPA users with some of their comments

'It's a safe community where I am able to express myself in many different ways and help younger generations with different skills'

Child/Young Person

'I like playing with my friends from school and meeting new friends to play with'

Child/young person

'I am extremely grateful for the service at Pearson Street. All the staff are amazing, dedicated and are friendly people. I am aware that these types of services are very limited, which is very unfortunate, as I believe children benefit and develop their social skills more when engaging in these services'

Pearson Street Adventure Playground parent/carer

'To have this space on our door step and I'm sure it is the best one in London! Thankyou to all the staff for making it such a magical space. Thankyou for looking after our children and promoting community, charity and learning through play'

Homerton Grove Adventure Playground parent/carer

"This is a great space for my son to play, he is autistic and needs the space that I just don't have to offer him at home, so many, many thanks

**MANY
THANKS**

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To celebrate our 50th year we are seeking to raise £5K to help towards enriching the play experiences offered at each of our playgrounds for children, young people and families

If you would like to make any donation, however small, to Hackney Play Association then scan the QR Code or visit www.hackneyplay.org/donate/



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