

Impact Report 2023



www.hackneyplay.org



HPA Registered Charity Number – 1145960
Company Number – 05957488

ABOUT US

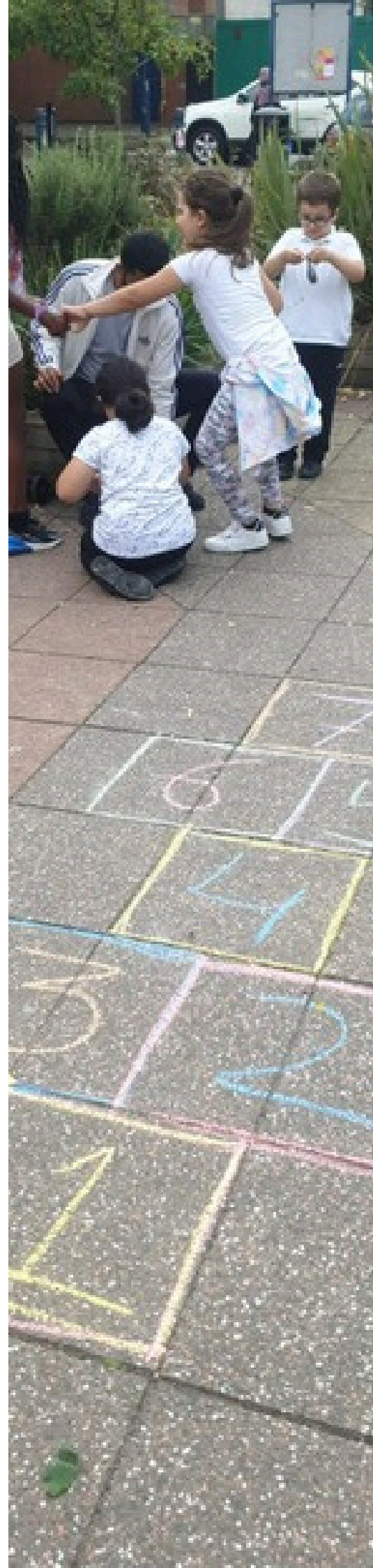
Hackney Play Association was founded in 1972, as a charity to promote opportunities for local children and young people to access play, which is free at the point of delivery.

Our goal is to improve children and young people's health, wellbeing 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 Rangers Project
- Weekly family play drop in sessions for Under 6's
- 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
- Regular support for all play providers in Hackney
- Support for disabled children and their families to participate in play provision.





MESSAGE FROM JACKIE OUR HPA CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

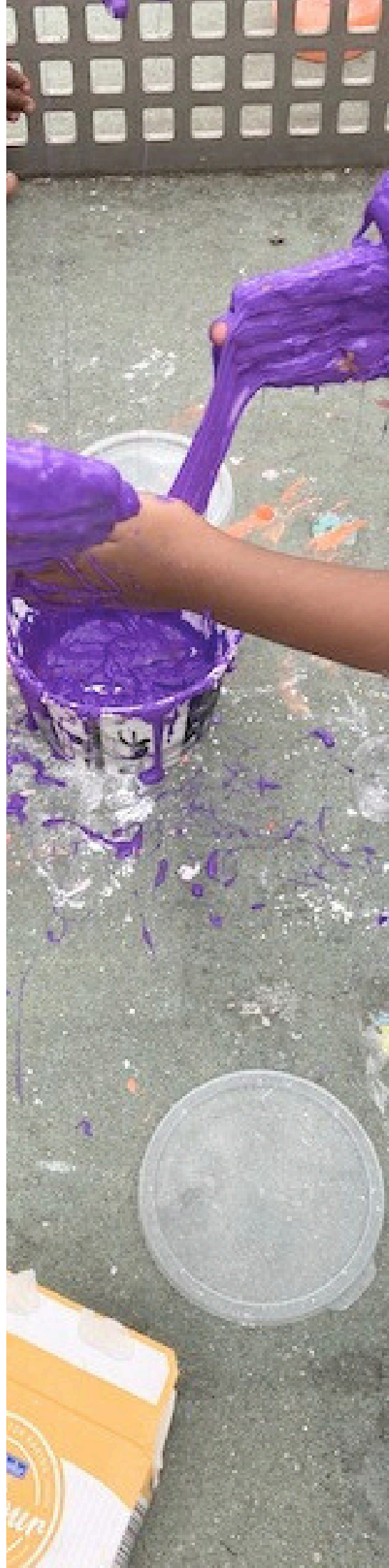
We have had a positive year with all our services running well thanks to our dedicated staff team. A big thanks to all HPA staff from the management committee.

As ever ongoing funding is a big challenge and we need to look at a variety of innovative ways to increase our income. I would like to thank Hackney Council & all our other funders for the support they provide.

We are lucky in Hackney to have so many great adventure playgrounds; we need to ensure we carry on promoting the importance and benefits of play.

Here's to another good year!

Jackie Hoptger





MESSAGE FROM KAY OUR HPA DIRECTOR

It has been a good, if challenging year, as funding continues to be an issue and the securing of leases has taken our time and resources.

We continue to run an extensive range of services to children and their families in Hackney, such as Saturday drop ins, mental health themed youth sessions, and HAF projects, supporting over 60 children each week during school holidays, with a healthy hot meal.

Recognising the importance of young people's mental health, we extended our youth offer with a weekly Good for Girls session and have plans for a Boys only session from the end of 2023.

We have worked collaboratively with partners such as Kings Park Moving Together, Pedro Boxing Club and have hosted many visitors, academics and play professionals from across the world, from Hong Kong, Japan and the USA.

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, where we have plans to develop the sites, with the help of our corporate partners, develop our staff, through training and development opportunities.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kay O'Brien".



SPOTLIGHT ON YOUNG PERSON PROJECT

HPA were funded by Hackney Council (Children and Young Person Community Grant) to employ trainee playworkers, grow existing young playworkers and offer children and young people the opportunity to experience volunteering.



**25 young people
volunteered**



**300 volunteering
hours**



**15 volunteering
opportunities**

The range of volunteering opportunities children and young people engaged with included:-



Administration



Food prep & serving



Presenting at AGM



**Community
Volunteering**



**Play Events and
Activities**



**Playground
Maintenance**

**'I felt happy and knowing the children liked the food and gave me confidence to cook for the children.
I have more knowledge on food hygiene and what to and not do in the kitchen'**

'I feel more kids should volunteer and gain the experience and use it in their later life'

**'It made me feel proud because I get to experience what it is like. It made me feel emotional,
in a good way, when I presented in front of all those children and adults at the AGM'**
Children and Young Person Comments

SCHOOLS OUT



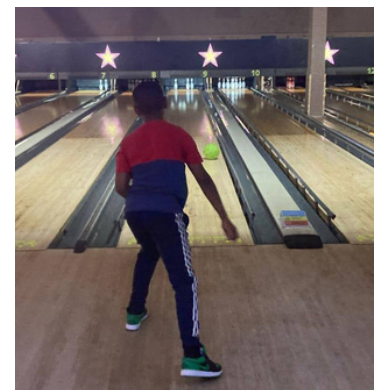
Schools Out, a time when children have the chance to play, explore, try new things, learn new skills, laugh, smile, have fun, get active, meet their friends or make new friends, take risks and feel safe.

Pearson Street and Homerton Grove Adventure Playgrounds hosted 10 weeks of playscheme and Clapton Park Project ran over the Easter and summer holidays and after school during 2023.

Our schools out offer was enhanced during the Easter and summer of 2023 as we secured Holiday Activities and Food Funding (HAF), from Hackney Council, which ensured we could offer daily meals, more 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 dance, circus skills, non-contact boxing sessions, healthy eating club, arts and crafts, gardening and more.

Children from Homerton Grove also got to enjoy a panto at the Hackney Empire in the winter of 2023, oh yes they did!



HOMERTON GROVE SUMMER RESIDENTIAL TRIP 2023 – ANGEL CANAL BOAT TRIP



On the last week of summer play scheme Homerton Grove AP had the opportunity to take a mixed group of 10 young people on a 4 day and night residential on a canal boat called Angel II of Islington. This was an amazing experience for our young people as none of them had been on a canal boat let alone a residential.

During our 4-day residential we cruised down the River Lea staying at various sites along the way. On the first night we moored up by the Leaside trust on the bank of Springfield park. Even though we were not far from the playground the young people felt like they were in another world, the benefits of being in nature and on the water we as staff could instantly see them enjoy, relax and immerse themselves in their surroundings.

On our residential the young people foraged food, learnt how to build a fire, prepped, cooked and ate together as a group. Day by day the young people became more mindful of their impact in nature and also said they want to become more eco aware and started recycling and being less wasteful and appreciative of nature and spending time outdoors with less technology use.

We spoke as a group around topics such as sleep hygiene, technology use and positive mental health tips. All of the young people agreed that being away from home gave them a better sense of self reflection and a positive mindset being out in nature.

On our return the young people came back very relaxed and more prepared for the start of a new school term.

All in all, this residential was a great opportunity and experience for our children of Homerton Grove AP.

Child/Young Person Comments

'I've really enjoyed having this time with other people, rather than on my phone all the time'

'I have more space on this boat than I do at home, I feel free'

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS 2023



14,903

Attendances by
children & young
people



4096

Holiday Meals served



300

Youth Person
Volunteering Hours



2600

Hours of play



87%

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



84%

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

'I like the staff here cause their thoughtful about other people and because they put other people before themselves'

'It's a good place to play with other children and get involved with children in the community'

'My favourite things about being at the playground is playing with my friends and meeting new people and learning new things'
Child/Young Person Comments

HPA FINANCE YEAR ENDED APRIL 2023

Statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account) year end 31 March 2023.

Income and Endowments from:	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 £	2022 £
Donations and Legacies	6,675	45,983	52,658	44,584
Charitable Activities	245,818	12,025	257,843	261,369
Total	252,493	58,008	310,501	305,953

Expenditure on

Raising Funds	(1,600)		(1,600)	(13,155)
Charitable Activities	(323,899)	(56,224)	(380,123)	(344,342)
Total	(325,499)	(56,224)	(381,723)	(357,497)

Net Income/Expenditure	(73,006)	1,784	(71,222)	(51,544)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total Funds brought forward	213,714	18,841	232,555	284,099
Total Funds carried forward	140,708	20,625	161,333	232,555

A BIG Thanks to our Funders and Donors



OUR TRAINING OFFER

32

Training Courses

270

Participant
Attendances

10

Accredited
courses delivered

5

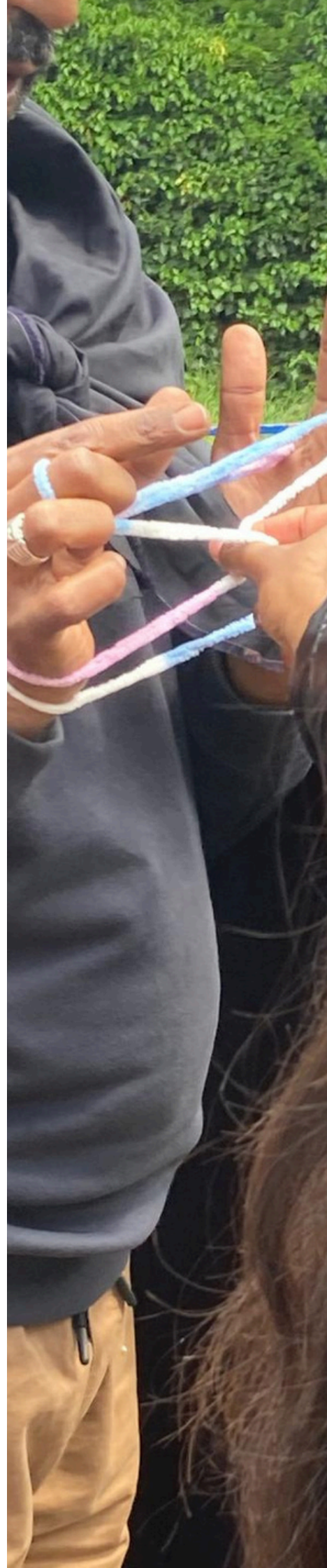
External Playwork
courses delivered
across London

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

- Presentation skills courses
- Using and blending essential oils
- Preventing knife crime (for youthworkers)
- Helping to build resilience in young people
- Responding to behaviour that challenges
- Paediatric First Aid
- Mentoring young people
- Safeguarding level two.
- PlayWay - an introduction to Playwork

After requests from other local authorities, Tower Hamlets, Lambeth, Southwark, we have offered our training courses, tailored to their specific needs in their own local play-settings. This is an example of our income generation.

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



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES PLAY IN THEIR OWN WORDS



"When I play, I feel like I'm in a whole different world (an amazing world). It really helps with my mental health and if I did not have any adventure playgrounds, I would really be lost without it."

"I think the adventure playground is very fun and it gets your mind off of negative things and focus on the positive thing that we have in life. You can become more active and also get to meet new people."

"It's important, because of most of my friends come here, so it's a place for me to express myself and have a relaxed time"

"Personally I think we have the right to play, and that's not always recognised, so we really need more playgrounds around the world"

"Without the adventure playground I would just be at home, watching TV, being bored, so honestly I would be lost"

My favourite thing
is the foot ball pitch

My favourite thing
is that I get to
try new things and
make new friends

I like doing flips
because it improves
my skills and my
chances of landing
a flip

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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/



SCAN ME

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HACKNEY
PLAY
ASSOCIATION