

# Impact Report 2024



[www.hackneyplay.org](http://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 and Pearson Street Adventure Playground
- 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 year, but funding continues to be an issue, as support becomes harder to secure. We are looking at a range of sponsorship options and innovative ways to generate income. I would like to thank our sponsor Arch Insurance for their continued support in this challenging time.

Our services to children and their families in Hackney continues to be our priority, running after schools clubs and holidays playschemes, alongside mental health themed youth sessions, and HAF projects: where we provide hot healthy meals to around 70 children per day.

One of our mental health themed youth sessions included a weekly Good for Boys session, where young men get the chance to express themselves and get support for their mental health through discussion, activities and trips out.

We led a children's play march to parliament as part of **International Day of Play on 11<sup>th</sup> June**, highlighting the importance of play in childhood and made a noise for more funding to be made available and play to be recognised as a right for all children (Article 31 United Nations Convention of the Rights of the child)

We look forward to another exciting year, where we have plans to develop the sites, with the help of our corporate volunteers, develop our staff, through training and development opportunities and extend our offer to new schools and other community partners

*Kay O'Brien*





# SPOTLIGHT ON YOUNG PERSON PROJECT - MENTAL HEALTH THEMED YOUTH SESSIONS

HPA were funded by Hackney Council (Children and Young Person Community Grant) to deliver mental health themed sessions for young people at Homerton Grove (Too Blessed to be Stressed) and Pearson Street (Good for Boys)



**120 hours of mental health youth sessions**



**424 young person session attendances**



**40 young people volunteered**

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



**Trips out**



**Young Person led check in discussions**



**Social Action Projects**



**Mental Health themed workshops**



**Group Activities**



**Cooking and Eating together**

**'I am 11 years old and I am here to tell you why youth has helped me and my friends! Youth is a place where me and other children feel welcomed it helps me feel more confident to help others and speak up for myself. We get to cook the food and then sit down and talk about our day and I like to ask everyone about their day and how they feel and talk about our problems and worries and this has inspired many children to be confident and happier to talk about problems. Children come here with big smiles on their face and I am one of them' - Homerton Grove young person comment.**

**'I feel the check in sessions are very good is very good for our mental health, to socialise with people and talk to other people about their day. I think the boys groups is good place to make friends, talk to other people and better your social skills' - Pearson Street young person comment.**

## 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 ran over the Easter and summer holidays and after school during 2024.

Our schools out offer was enhanced during the Easter and summer of 2024 as we once again 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 2024, oh yes they did!





## IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS 2024



**14,607**

Attendances by  
children & young  
people



**4200**

Holiday Meals served



**250**

Youth Person  
Volunteering Hours



**2750**

Hours of play



**83%**

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



**81%**

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

**'I like being here, all my friends are here'**  
**'I'm not really allowed out anywhere else after school but I'm allowed here'**  
**'Its really good for my mental health because it means I'm not on my phone'**  
Child/Young Person comments

**'Its the only place my son feels free, he loves the water slide and all the other  
children just let him be him, which is wonderful for me to see'**  
Parent comment

## OUR TRAINING OFFER

36

Training Courses

432

Participant  
Attendances

9

Accredited  
courses delivered

4

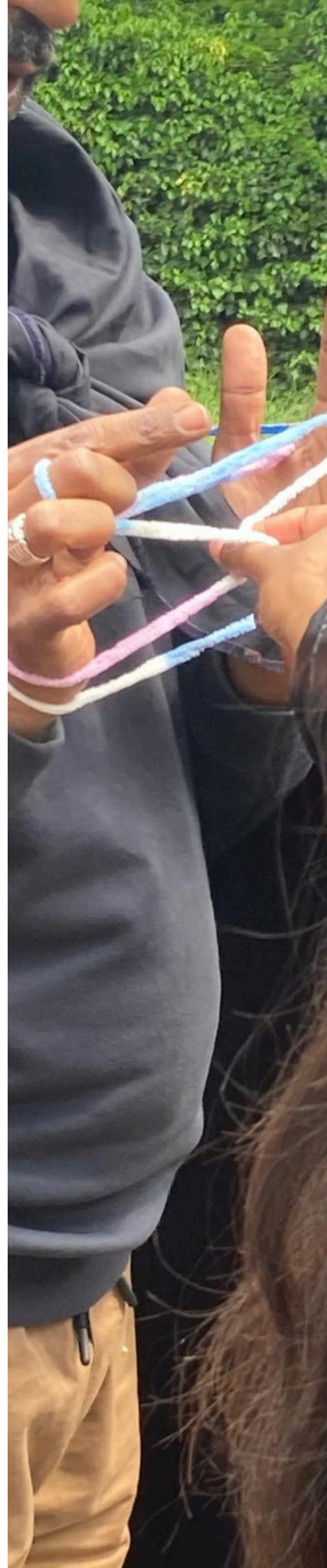
External Playwork  
courses delivered  
across London

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

- Public speaking for playworkers
- Using power tools safely
- Incels , misogyny and the manosphere
- Cooking on a budget for playworkers
- Conflict management/ behaviour that challenges
- Paediatric First Aid
- Safeguarding level two.
- PlayWay - an introduction to Playwork

After requests from other local authorities, Tower Hamlets, Lambeth, Kensington & Chelsea and Southwark, we have offered our training courses, tailored to their specific needs in their local play-settings. This is an example of our income generation. We continue to offer the course to playworkers and youthworkers in Hackney to support local quality play settings, with play qualified staff.

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





## HPA FINANCE YEAR ENDED APRIL 2024

Statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account) year end 31 March 2024.

Income and Endowments from:	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 £	2023 £
Donations and Legacies	33,383	23,180	56,563	52,658
Charitable Activities	248,021	17,551	265,572	257,843
<b>Total</b>	<b>281,404</b>	<b>58,008</b>	<b>322,135</b>	<b>310,501</b>

### Expenditure on

Raising Funds	(1,350)	-	(1,350)	(1,600)
Charitable Activities	(338,082)	(43,981)	(382,063)	(380,123)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(339,432)</b>	<b>(43,981)</b>	<b>(383,413)</b>	<b>(381,723)</b>

<b>Net Income/Expenditure</b>	<b>(58,028)</b>	<b>(3,250)</b>	<b>(61,278)</b>	<b>(71,222)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Total Funds brought forward	140,708	20,625	161,333	232,555
<b>Total Funds carried forward</b>	<b>82,680</b>	<b>17,375</b>	<b>100,055</b>	<b>161,333</b>

**A BIG Thanks to our Funders  
and Donors and TRUSTEES!!!!**



## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES PLAY IN THEIR OWN WORDS



"The Ice Skating was so fun and I got to experience something I have never done before." Boys group Participant

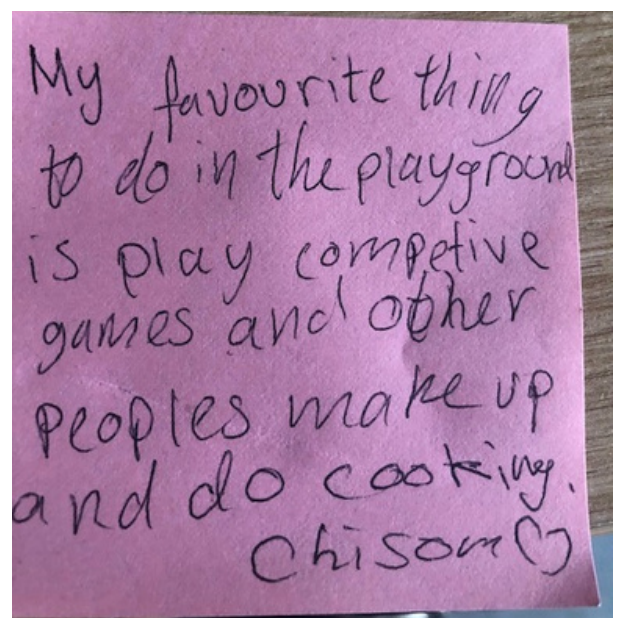
"To meet new friends and have fun getting involved in a big lot of things I wont do at home"

"We sometimes play a game called Uno, I'm good at it actually"

"I learnt to crochet here and i never did that before"

"I've been going to the boys session, we designed our own T Shirts and took them home with us. I wear mine"

"If i wasn't here, i probably would just go straight home from school and not see anyone"





## SUPPORT HACKNEY PLAY ASSOCIATION



### Would you or your place of work, like to become one of our sponsors?

As traditional fundraising for our work becomes ever more challenging to secure, we are looking at a range of innovative ways to sustain and to develop our vital work with children in Hackney.

Alongside using the playgrounds for community events, children's birthday parties and site use for special schools, we have developed a sponsorship proposal pack for corporates and individual donors.

If you, or an individual responsible for corporate charity giving within your organisation and would like to know more, scan the QR code to and check out our sponsorship proposal and the benefits you get from being a Hackney Play Association sponsors.

**'Arch has established a deeply impactful partnership with Hackney Play Association that extends beyond financial support. We are immensely proud to support HPA in their mission to continue and expand their vital services for children and families across Hackney'**

**'This collaboration has brought about tangible benefits for both organisations. Arch staff have actively participated in multiple corporate volunteer days at HPA's adventure playgrounds, contributing to the creation of more adventurous, challenging, and safe environments for local children. Our team's enthusiasm for these initiatives exemplifies how a productive and enjoyable corporate social responsibility partnership can create lasting positive impacts in our local communities'**

**Marcella McLean Chief Human Resources Officer – Arch Insurance International**



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Your donation really makes a difference to Hackney Play Association, please scan the QR Code or visit [www.hackneyplay.org/donate/](http://www.hackneyplay.org/donate/)



SCAN ME

**Hackney Play Association**  
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**HACKNEY**  
**PLAY**  
ASSOCIATION