

Impact Report 2025



www.hackneyplay.org



HPA Registered Charity Number - 1145960
Company Number - 05957488

ABOUT US

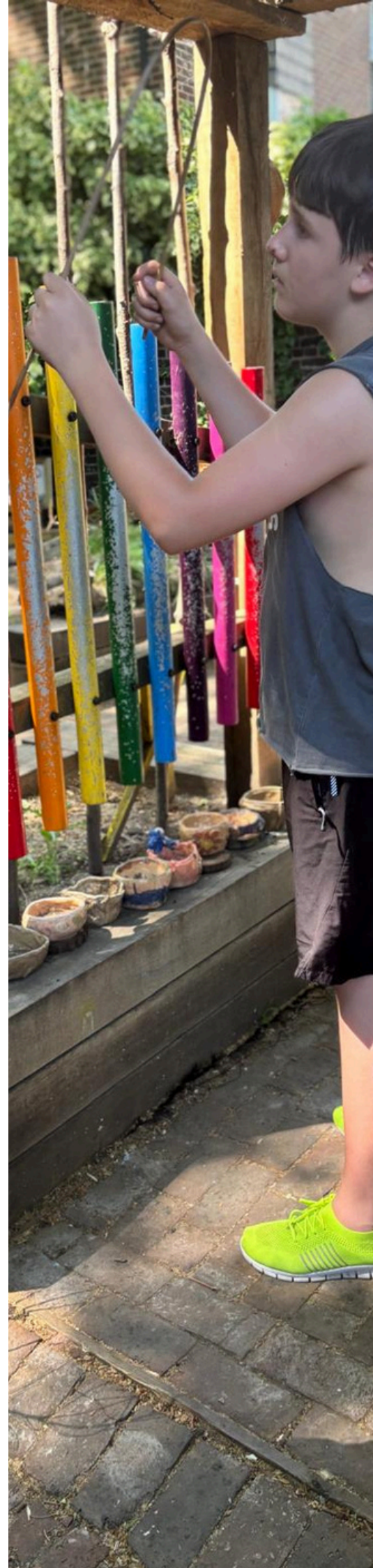
Hackney Play Association was founded in 1972, as a charity to promote opportunities for local children and young people to access play, which is free at the point of delivery.

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 good year with our adventure playgrounds being busier than ever which shows how important these services are for the local community.

The management committee would like to thank all the staff at HPA for their hard work and dedication. Also, thanks to Hackney Council and all our other funders whose support allow us to run our services.

As ever funding is a real challenge and we are looking at innovative ways to keep all our services running so we can carry on providing quality play opportunities for local children.

Jackie Hoptger





MESSAGE FROM KAY OUR HPA DIRECTOR

Why Adventure Playgrounds Matter!

Adventure playgrounds are under greater threat than ever. As funding becomes harder to secure, playgrounds across London and the wider country are closing their gates to a new generation of children.

At Hackney Play Association, we recognise the importance of partnership working so we can respond to these challenges together. Play is too often treated as a disposable luxury rather than as a child's human right. Yet it enables children to grow, build confidence, express creativity and develop resilience in an increasingly complex world.

This year, as part of the International Day of Play, we led a children's play march to Parliament to highlight the importance of play. Together, we called for greater investment and for play to be recognised as a right for all children under Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

We are grateful to all our partners and friends for their support, especially Arch Insurance, whose continued sponsorship has been invaluable during a challenging year. While funding remains difficult, we are exploring new income opportunities, including sponsorship, birthday party hires and space rentals.

Our priority remains the children and families of Hackney. We continue to provide after-school clubs, holiday playschemes, youth sessions and HAF projects, including hot, healthy meals for around 70 children each day.

Finally, thank you to our incredible staff team, whose dedication, skills and passion make our work possible every day.

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



IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS 2025



9531

Attendances by
children & young
people



4300

Holiday Meals served



1

London Adventure
Playground of the year 2025
award - Homerton Grove



2800

Hours of play



77%

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



82%

of children/young
people told us that
they think having staff
to work with on the
playgrounds was
important

Children and Young Peoples' comments about the best thing at their playground:

"Meeting new friends that go to different schools on the swings" Aged 8

" Doing 'Bake off' at Pearson Street" Aged 12

"The climbing bars at the back, so we can exercise and do push ups" Aged 12

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.

Homerton Grove and Pearson Street Adventure playgrounds hosted 10 weeks of playscheme ran over the Easter and summer holidays and after school during 2025.

Our schools out offer was enhanced during the Easter and summer of 2025 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, ice skating, dance, circus skills, roller skating, cooking club, arts and crafts, gardening and more.

Our Youth sessions continue to offer creative expression through art and group activities, such as T Shirt design and printing, jewellery making and poster design. Ashnica could give you more information at youthgroups@hackneyplay.org

Our ever popular children's birthday parties can be booked by emailing Homerton@hackneyplay.org for parties at Homerton Grove Adventure Playground and Pearsonstreethires@hackneyplay.org for parties at Pearson Street Adventure Playground



SPOTLIGHT ON PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

HPA are proud of the strong partnerships and collaborations we have built with businesses, charities and community organisations that share our commitment to children and play. We are incredibly grateful for the time, skills and support our partners provide, whether through corporate volunteering, fundraising or sharing their expertise. These partnerships are invaluable and play a vital role in helping us achieve our mission and widening experiences for the children and young people we support through play.



corporate team days



partnership projects



adventure playground revamp

The range of partnership collaborations have included



NHS Nature Connections



**Core Arts -
Homerton community horticultural project**



**Museum of Home -
The discovery garden**



**Build Up -
new structures**



Corporate Team Days



**Splash Project -
Pearson Street Adventure
Playground revamp**

NHS Nature Connections at Pearson Street - Targeted Health Outreach service have really enjoyed working in partnership with Hackney Play. The venue has been perfect for our Nature Connection group for autistic young people with emotionally based school non-attendance. There is enough space for people to experience the benefits of being in nature, lighting fires and learning bushcraft skills whilst also having privacy for the group members & parents and facilities on hand. Group members have also benefitted from play equipment available at the playground. Collaboration on applying for funding and overseeing the budget & staffing has been great throughout the project -
Miranda Gavin NHS Targeted Health Outreach Worker

OUR TRAINING OFFER

14

Training Courses

200

**Participant
Attendances**

10

**Accredited
courses delivered**

4

**External
Playwork/
management
courses delivered
across London**

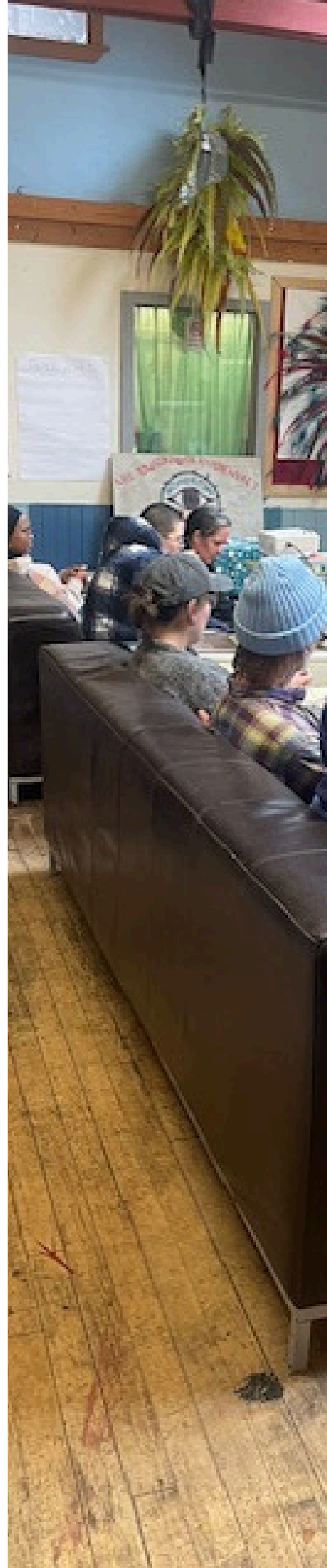
Our training programme, alongside playwork training, has covered topics such as:-

- Public speaking for playworkers
- Using power tools safely
- Conflict management/ behaviour that challenges
- Paediatric First Aid
- Safeguarding level two.
- PlayWay - an introduction to Playwork

We continue to offer Playway training to other local authorities, Camden, Tower Hamlets, Kensington & Chelsea and Southwark,

We are still committed to delivering courses to playworkers and youthworkers in Hackney. The training supports local play settings with qualified staff and enables them to maintain high quality play provision.

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



HPA FINANCE YEAR ENDED MARCH 2025

Statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account)
year end 31 March 2025.

Income and Endowments from:	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 £	2024 £
Donations and Legacies	63,749	39,619	103,368	56,563
Charitable Activities	220,786	7,180	227,966	265,572
Total	284,535	46,799	331,334	322,135

Expenditure on

Raising Funds		-		(1,350)
Charitable Activities	(296,464)	(64,174)	(360,638)	(382,063)
Total	(296,464)	(64,174)	(360,638)	(383,413)

Net Income/Expenditure	(11,929)	(17,375)	(29,304)	(61,278)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total Funds brought forward	82,680	17,375	100,055	161,333
Total Funds carried forward	70,751	-	70,751	100,055

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



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR COLLABORATION WITH SPLASH PROJECTS



Splash Projects, working collaboratively with Hackney Play Association and the project sponsors, Qube Research Technology (London), delivered a major revamp to the Pearson Street adventure playground.

Over two intense days, 300 volunteers from QRT carried, dug, cut, constructed and sanded over 5 tonnes of timber into new play structures for the children. This amazing effort should see the space be available for safe and imaginative adventure play for the next decade or so.

This is exactly what Splash was set up to achieve, and we are looking forward to working with QRT once again to transform the Homerton Grove site again in 2026.

Steve Hughes – Splash Projects



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/



SCAN ME

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www.hackneyplay.org

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