

Islington Play Association

Business Plan Summary

"All children need a place to play. They need space, informality and freedom to run around and make a noise, to express themselves, to experiment and investigate. In surroundings which stimulate their imagination and challenge them to face and overcome risks, they will be helped to build up their self-confidence and independence."

Lady Allen of Hurtwood

Our Vision:

We want Islington to be a borough where children and young people are regularly seen playing outside. We want children to have time, space and permission to play. We want people to understand and recognize the value of play to children and communities.

In order to achieve our vision we will ensure that our aims are valued.

Our Aims:

- Support:** to encourage and enable providers to deliver play opportunities.
- Create:** use innovative ways to increase play for children.
- Promote:** ensure that children and families can access all opportunities.
- Preserve:** maintain and increase excellent play for children.

Our Working Practices are:

Campaigning for children's right to play

The IPA strives to increase, improve and protect play opportunities for children. We therefore aim to ensure that play is on everyone's agenda; working actively with communities, service users and partners to promote the value of play and to raise its profile at a local, regional and national level.

Securing and protecting play provision

Children's play opportunities need space and other resources. In austere times these are more under threat than ever. IPA aims to protect all children's play space in Islington from sale, closure or change of use.

Delivering play and childcare services

We aim to deliver excellent play services and to support other play providers in Islington. IPA will offer child-centred, play-focused children's play across children centres and adventure playgrounds.

Supporting adventure playgrounds and other play providers

We aim to promote excellence in Islington's adventure playgrounds by providing information, support and training in good practice to enable settings to provide the best possible experience for children. We also aim to enable and support partners to offer creative, inclusive, challenging and fun play opportunities for all children in Islington's schools, parks and public spaces.

Sharing knowledge, experience and good practice in play

We aim to be a learning organisation and to capture the knowledge and experience embodied in our work. The IPA will innovate, pilot, evaluate and disseminate methods and models in effective and sustainable play provision so that they can be shared and utilised by others.

Our Values are:

We believe:

- All children and young people should have access to free play.
- Accessibility and inclusion are core to the play offer.
- Free play is essential to the health and well-being of children and young people.
- We should constantly reflect on our practice.
- Teamwork is vital. 😊
- Valuing everybody is key to our working practice.
- Partnership working benefits our organisation and those who we collaborate with.
- Being child-centered and considering children in every decision is crucial.

Over the next three years we will be:

- Investing in IPA infrastructure
- Continuing to deliver a good to excellent children's centre
- Designing and delivering excellent adventure playgrounds
- Encouraging a playful approach everywhere
- Sharing the learning locally and nationally
- implementing innovative approaches in play