

Islington Play Association Annual Report 2008



Directors Report

Welcome to this annual report for the Year 2007/08, which has been another busy and successful year for the charity. Islington Play Association (IPA) has been able to rise to the challenge of delivering key statutory services on behalf of the local authority in the shape of our Children's Centre at Paradise Park, and has continued the tradition of implementing new and innovative projects for the children in Islington.

Islington Play Association completed the project, funded by the Baring Foundation, to support and evaluate the implementation of the voluntary sector children's centres in the borough. The report has been published and is available on our website: www.islingtonplay.org.uk. We continue to work closely with our partners in the third sector who are also directly delivering children's centre services for the local authority.

Support has been focussed throughout the year on issues affecting smaller voluntary sector organisations. The IPA has a rolling programme of training that directly responds to the needs of play providers in the borough and our regular newsletters are distributed widely by email, post and are available from our website. IPA has been working with the Council to look at future funding arrangements for play providers in Islington and will continue to work to ensure that all organisations are best placed to respond to what is an ever-changing funding environment.

IPA believes that well-run adventure playgrounds provide the very best urban location for children to play in. We are proud of how we have been able to work so successfully with the Council to make our local adventure playgrounds some of the best in London!

I would like to thank Jo Barker who has left us to concentrate on her music and arts promotion business, Julie Roberts who has gone freelance and continues to work with us in the Children's Centre and Paul Hocker who was a successful and able Director in my absence and has now joined the management committee.

Anita Grant - Director

Financial Report

Based on the previous financial year, IPA's income increased by almost a third, reflecting the changing nature of our services and delivery in the borough. Paradise Park Children's Centre is an important strand of work for the organisation with our plans for a model of excellent play based practice becoming a reality. IPA have brought more than £130,000 extra investment into Islington for services for children during 2007/08.

Throughout the year a number of funding streams finished and three projects came to an end. However, the average number of staff remained constant at 25, and expected to rise to 33 in 2008.

The following year, 2008/09, expects to see a further increase in the overall income/expenditure for IPA with the full budget responsibility for Paradise Park Children's Centre and the successful fundraising for additional work, for example through the Play Strategy and Big Lottery.

IPA is grateful to the Bridge House Trust for enabling us to support play providers with finance and grant applications.

Gary Ewer
Finance & Administration Manager



Adventure Playgrounds



IPA continued its ongoing programme of intensive support for play practice on the adventure playgrounds in Islington and in March successfully completed the final 12 months of its three-year 'Active Kids' project. Significantly, this work was funded by Sport England, a national sports body that recognises the importance of play to children's overall fitness and health.

The project helped improve children's well-being by increasing the levels of physical activity on all 12 adventure playgrounds through:

- * Measuring physical activity levels
- * Modifying the playgrounds' environment to increase numbers of children attending and levels of physical activity
- * Involving playworkers, volunteers and children in the changes to the playground
- * Working with playworkers to improve professional practice and exchange skills and ideas

Modifications included new structures such as rope bridges, climbing frames, swings, zip wires, a firefighter's pole as well as accessible 'bed swings' and giant see-saws, and in the case of King Henry's Walk, large stone sculpture pieces were added. Working in partnership with the charity Community Service Volunteers and with corporate partners, over

700 hours of voluntary work were undertaken, bringing the total of volunteer labour throughout the project to over 1500 hours. The evaluations show that on some playgrounds levels of activity rose by as much as 56% after the project! The work on play improvement will continue through the inclusion strand of the Play Strategy that the IPA will deliver in 2008/09.

In November 2007, IPA was awarded a bursary from the Lady Allen of Hurtwood travel awards and visited Kulturinsel Einsiedal in Germany, a woodland adventure playground. Based on that amazing experience, IPA has been successful with a quarter of a million pound Playful Ideas bid to the Big Lottery to work with children and playworkers in Islington to create dens, hideaways and treehouses. A follow-up visit to Germany with Council and voluntary sector adventure playground staff is planned for October 2008.

Adventure playgrounds are enjoying a renaissance, with government policy and money helping to create thirty new adventure playgrounds this coming year (including five in London). Islington's long-standing policy of providing a comprehensive adventure play service - the second largest in London - has been vindicated. IPA believes that it is time to build on this success so we will be:

- * Developing a programme to bring children closer to nature by involving them in promoting and exploring bio-diversity on adventure playgrounds
- * Promoting inclusion and increasing the number of children accessing playgrounds
- * Using research to develop a rigorous evidence base to inform future interventions

Max Mueller and Bob Hughes –
Adventure Playground Development Workers

Paradise Park Children's Centre

It has been an exciting (and challenging!) year for the Children's Centre. The centre is now fully staffed and delivering services for the families with children under five in the area.

The award winning building provides a safe and secure environment for children and families and there is a strong family friendly feel as you enter with the newly painted cafe open to the public from 10am to 3pm. We have been successful in getting funds from Arsenal football club to realise the vision of a mini adventure playground in the nursery garden. We have reorganised and restocked the nursery area in preparation for the new Early Years Foundation Stage and a regular nursery newsletter is available to keep parents and carers informed and involved in their children's learning.

The centre regularly hosts events and meetings for many organisations including Islington Parents Forum, the local councillor's surgery and Friends of Paradise Park.

The full children's centre programme is available on the website at www.islington.gov.uk/Education/childrenscentres/centre_activities/

John Bradford - Centre Manager



Children's Centre Consortium

IPA was one of a handful of organisations internationally to be picked by the Baring Foundation to deliver a key part of their "Strengthening the Voluntary Sector" programme.

The IPA bid was based around evaluating the experience of voluntary sector organisations managing statutory provision on behalf of the local authority and its effects on independence.

The project served to:

- * Build a consortium of local voluntary sector managed children's centres
- * Share experience nationally

The consortium included all the voluntary sector children centres in Islington, who met together regularly to share experiences and good practice. The project led to a published report and a presentation to a national children's centre conference.

The funding from the Baring foundation was timely and effective leading to IPA's ability to better implement the children's centre and learn from the challenges that it presented.

Suzanne Murray

Family Support

The continuation of IPA's Children's Fund project delivering Parent Support finished this year with the project delivering to all targets, including helping parents to gain an improved understanding of the impact of their parenting on young people's behaviour, supporting young people at key transition points in their lives and providing different types of support to whole families.

The expertise created through this funding will continue to benefit Islington families as Julie is delivering the strengthening families programme for IPA and family support remains a key priority for the Paradise Park Children's Centre.

Julie Roberts - Teenzone Co-ordinator

Support for Play Provision



The Play Development post funded by the Big Lottery came to an end in March. During the last year of this project, IPA was able to offer support, advice and assistance to approximately 25 voluntary sector groups within Islington. This support included the creation of several holiday playschemes, fundraising, playwork recruitment, training courses and general day to day running advice. As well as offering this vital support to groups, IPA ran a very successful mixed economy, open access and childcare Summer Holiday playscheme at Priory Heights Children's Centre and created a new Junior Club which offered open access, free sessions after school, providing arts, sports and creative drop in sessions for children aged 8-13. This was funded by BBC Children in Need and the Local Network Fund in recognition of the great need in the area

Jo Barker - Play and Childcare Development Worker

IPA Play and Childcare Provider Toolkit

IPA's Playscheme and Afterschool Club Toolkit has been produced with support from the Big Lottery and Islington Council and is available as CD-Rom for any groups running play or childcare provision. It contains valuable advice on Ofsted Inspections and good practice tips for providing fun, safe and stimulating play opportunities, with model policies covering all 14 of the National Standards as well as articles from some of the countries leading play experts. Please contact the IPA to get your copy of the toolkit for £12.

"Very useful, straightforward and user friendly"

"Good to have it all in one place"

"We use it on an ongoing basis, dipping into it as and when we need to"

"Perfect, much easier to use and quicker than other tools"



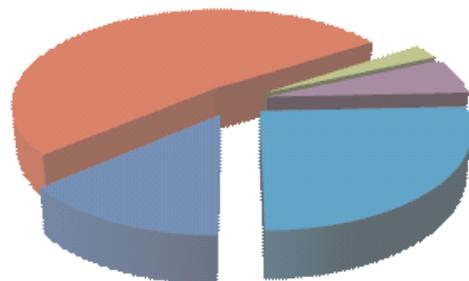
Funding Sources

The IPA would like to thank the following organisations for their support over the last year:

BBC Children in Need
Slaughter and May Charitable Trust
29th May 1961 Charitable Trust
Bridgehouse Trust
Local Network Fund
Douglas Scarff Trust
The Big Lottery
Sport England
Children's Fund

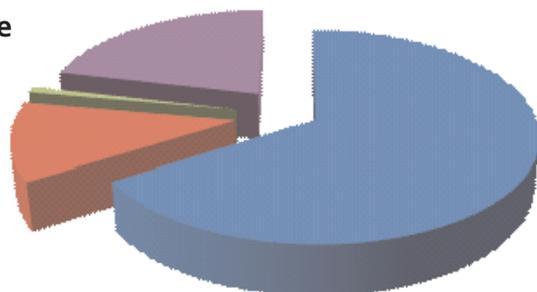
Financial Breakdown

Income
£770,009



- Infrastructure Support
- Paradise Park Children's Centre
- Big Lottery
- Charitable Trusts & Donations
- Consultancy, Training & Sales

Expenditure
£766,494



- Staffing, recruitment & Training
- All premises costs & overheads
- Administration, Fees & Audit
- Project costs

Full accounts are available on request

Auditor: Conor Warin. Trinity House, Foxes Parade, Waltham Abbey. EN9 1PH

Bankers: The Co-operative Bank, Barclays Bank and the COIF Charities Deposit Fund

The IPA is a registered charity; number 1086165 and a not-for-profit limited company; number 3989283

Staff List

IPA Staff

Director
Acting Director during maternity leave
Finance & Administration Manager
Children Centre Consortium Co-ordinator
Play Development Worker
Active Kids Project workers
Parent Support Worker
Finance Volunteer

Anita Grant
Paul Hocker
Gary Ewer
Suzanne Murray
Jo Barker
Max Muller & Bob Hughes
Julie Roberts
Linda Vaso

Paradise Park Children's Centre

Head of Centre
Services Co-ordinator
Social Worker
Administration
Café Manager
Café Staff

John Bradford
Patricia Alert
Kemi Lawal (seconded from LBI)
Belinda Carmichael
Sarah Ghartey
Hattice Arik, Husne Beyter,
Margaret Gaskin, & Frank Holmes

Nursery Staff team

Jermaine Payne, Stacey Jeakins, Fatima Bahmani, Shakhera Aktar, Patricia Okwan, Marie Forde, Letisha Hunt, Laurent Matthew, Matthew Campbell, Hattice Arik, Marcia Anderson (seconded from LBI), Viv Thompson (until June 2007) & Maria Mott (until August 2007)

Other staff working from Paradise Park Children's Centre

Clinical Psychologist - Dawn Cutler, Family Health Adviser - Josh Baker, Maternity Support Worker - Aoidin Oluwalogdon, Cranio-Sacral Therapist - Andrea Wiessner, Reflexologist - Isabel Thompson - NCT Trainer - Julie Sumner, Health Visitor - Norma Fagbuyi & Janet Macmaster, Community Staff Nurse - Nina Kenynon, Midwives - Jayne Gould, Jane Padmore-Wood & Sara Grace

Crèche team

Gennet Teclé, Florence Adeniran, Lydia Bailey & Keesha Green

Priory Heights Junior Club`

Annie Cook, Sauraya Chanter & Matthew Campbell

Cleaner - Virginia Beckles

Volunteers

IPA would like to thank the other many volunteers involved in our work. In particular Emma Green at CSV

Management Committee

Chair	Jonah Grunsell
Vice chair	Kassandra Liburd
Treasurer	Lucia Garratt
Trustee	Alan Sutton
Trustee	Chris Hignett
Trustee	Kelle Dittmar
Trustee	Dawn Jennings
Secretary to the committee	Gary Ewer



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Children's Centre

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