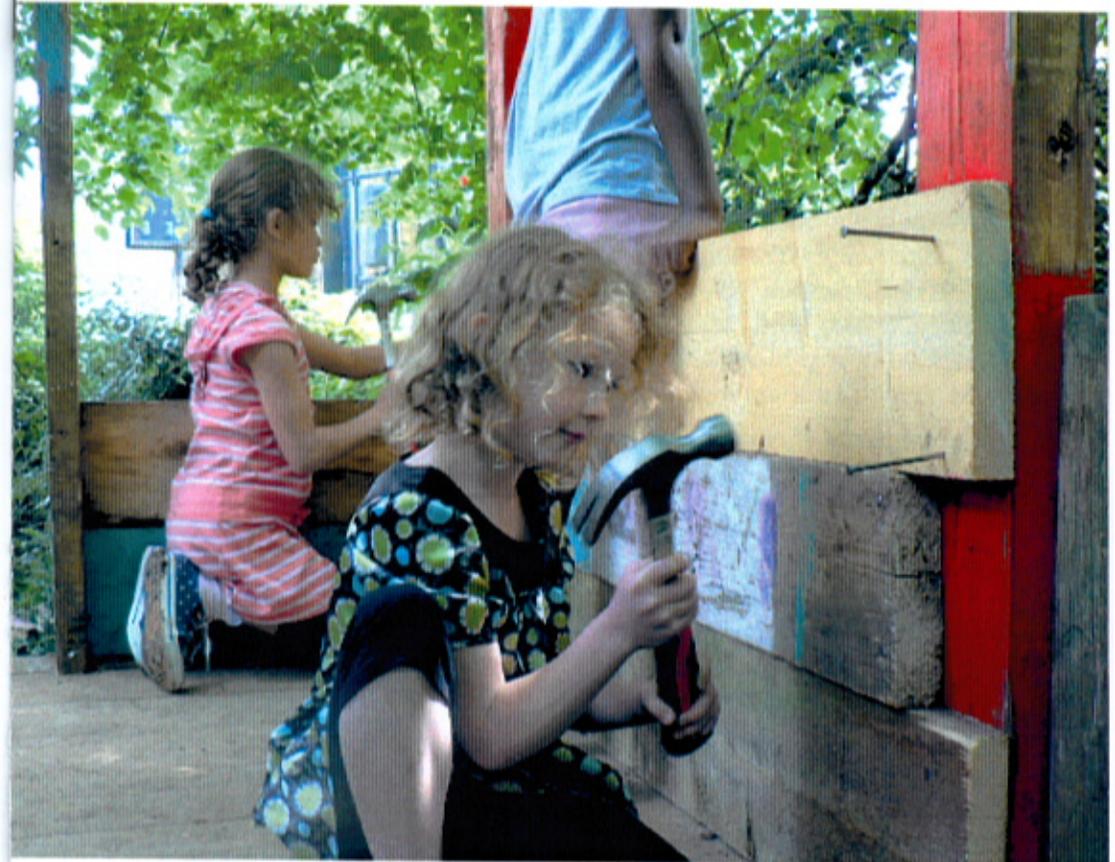


**ISLINGTON PLAY ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2010**



Directors Report

Welcome to the annual report for 2009/10.

Islington Play Association (IPA) has had a very busy year with many projects running, all aiming to improve play opportunities for children in the borough.

We had a full team of enthusiastic playworkers and the office has been buzzing with ideas - our new Treehouse project started, funded by the Big Lottery Fund, and many, many sites in Islington have applied to join us in allowing children to create, build and change their environment using real tools and materials.



IPA has been successful in winning the chance to rebuild Waterside Adventure playground on the Packington Estate and we are looking forward to the playful culmination of this creative and exciting opportunity!

We ran a full programme of Summer activities at Priory Heights Centre which were well attended from the local estates and we continued to deliver a full service from the Children's Centre at Paradise Park.

The Children's Centre remains a priority for us as we work to deliver a play focused, child-centred service for families with children under five. The completely refurbished outside space, done with funding from Arsenal last year, has continued to offer a mini adventure playground, with its firepit and tree walkways, for the children and families accessing the centre.

We have been successful in a bid for a new addition to the IPA library with the Community Games book, part funded by Esmee Fairburn which will aim to raise awareness and foster understanding of the rich diversity of cultures that contribute to the success of Islington and help to ensure activities and games on offer are not mono-cultural. We have an excellent team visiting schools and community groups to gather ideas as well as running community events to

harness the many different games and ways of playing that Islington people know about.

March 2010 saw the end of the Play Improvement Programme that had been run in partnership with Islington Council (LBI) as a core part of the borough's Play strategy, funded by the government through the BIG lottery children's play programme, and we have produced an in depth report on the issues faced by children in the borough and how play services can work better to ensure full access. This work will continue to influence the play strategy in Islington.

The relationship with LBI has been a core one and important for us in the many partnership projects that have taken place, including the intergenerational project based at Paradise Park Children's Centre, which saw families of all ages playing and eating together through the Summer.

Next year will see more play-focused projects starting, a continuation of our close partnership with Islington council and a clear focus on protecting and improving children's play in a borough with massive poverty facing half of the children living here.



Paradise Park Children's Centre



Paradise Park Children's Centre has been recognised for its success with very positive user feedback, evaluation and review outcomes with LBI. This year has seen a focus on a play-centred approach being developed across the centre, with changes to the staff team and embedding of core IPA staff in the delivery of the centre. The focus on play in the centre's services (including education, child and family health services and family support) enables children's physical, cognitive, emotional and social development, and the children who attend regularly quickly become more confident explorers of their worlds, using their imaginations to change a tree stump into a race car, or to become a spider on a giant web.

Following a redesign and rebuild of the nursery garden last year, with funding from Arsenal, Paradise Park's nursery garden opened to the public on Sundays, 11am-3pm, funded by LBI's Intergenerational Project. Staffed at all times by an experienced Inclusive Playworker, Sundays offer local children, their siblings and families a unique opportunity to freely explore a natural, outdoor environment through play. Children of all ages and abilities are encouraged to come and explore the space, with a sand and water feature, the children's gardening plot, and even a tree house. Children can dig, build, splash, climb, run and slide in a play area that is adventurous but safe, and carefully designed to support their development and play. Each Sunday featured an additional play offer, such as face painting, den building and musical instruments, to add to the site's remarkable potential for children's enjoyment and growth.

Play Improvement Project

The Play Improvement Project was part of the London Borough of Islington's Play Strategy being delivered by the Islington Play Association.

The project worked to develop an Inclusion Strategy, aimed at increasing the access of under-represented groups across all twelve of Islington's Adventure Playgrounds.



For this project, "access" was understood in a broad sense, and the focus was on ways of supporting every child's access to high quality and open play provision.

The project ran for two years, from April 2008 until March 2010.

The project, in working to help all 12 Adventure Playgrounds to become more inclusive, involved building fire pits and swings, planting sunflowers and bringing children from one playground to another so they can give us more informed opinions on what they would like to see change.

In the last month of the project, there was an exhibition of the remarkably beautiful, touching and often hilarious photographs taken by children on Islington's Adventure Playgrounds.



Waterside Adventure Playground

IPA were invited to design and create a fantastic new adventure playground for the children of Islington.

We will be working hard to complete the outdoor play space at the Waterside Play and Youth Project in time for the launch in July 2010.

The playground will incorporate all the elements, including real (felled and re-installed) trees for treehouse-making, a performance stage, a bonfire pit, a sand and water area with alpine stream and a 50-yard underground tunnel maze.

The focus is on process as well as product so children's involvement has been and will continue to be vital throughout the design and build (including mud huts and dens), and as such this project is delivered as a play activity as much as is possible.

The project is a partnership venture between funders Hyde Housing, Islington Council, and the IPA, who have been commissioned to undertake the construction work on behalf of the partners.



Treehouse Project

We have appointed a specialist play-worker to deliver our long-awaited 'Treehouses for Kids' project, funded by the Big Lottery. Our very own Wendy Jeeves, from Three Corners Adventure Playground in Clerkenwell, started the three year project to build treehouses, dens and shelters with children at Islington's 12 adventure playgrounds (as well as 12 other sites).

The project was conceived after a trip to Germany, which was funded by Lady Allen Memorial Trust, to see an entire park made up of amazing treehouse structures.

Wendy is working closely with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) to make sure we minimise hazards whilst offering excitement and acceptable risk.

As the project is led by children, we are not working from pre-conceived designs. The adults' role is to supervise the safe use of tools and intervene only if necessary. As such, we are hoping to establish a culture of free play and constantly changing children's spaces.

We still believe that play spaces need to be adaptable by children, even if that means that they take down (and re-build) their creations when they think they become boring.



The children are building in trees wherever they are present on playgrounds and other sites. Where there are no trees, we will allow the children to think about spaces they want to create and how we can help them do it.

We are also working closely with Greenspace and other partners to make sure that we use the correct techniques to minimise damage to any of the trees that will house the children's constructs.

Community Games Project

Islington Play received funding from the Esmee Fairburn Foundation to:

- Raise awareness and foster understanding of the rich diversity of cultures that contribute to the success of Islington and the UK; and
- Promote good practice in the playwork sector to ensure activities and games on offer are not mono-cultural.

From Summer 2009 IPA worked in partnership with local primary school age children and their families to collect and celebrate childhood games from minority cultures within Islington. IPA accessed further funding, through LBI's Intergenerational Project, to organise a programme of exchange visits for older residents to visit adventure playgrounds, see how children play on those sites and interact with those children. Visits were followed up with further discussion about their own play experiences and their beliefs around how children played in the past and how they play now, and whether the visits have had any impact on older people's perceptions of younger people or how they play.

This work resulted in a world games book:



THE CALLY KIDS PLAY WORLD GAMES



by the team at Islington Play Association 2010
with thanks to all the children and
families involved

This book is more than just a collection of games from around the world. It is a record and celebration of the games that people have brought to Islington from countries far away, or that they learned right here, when the borough was very different.

When you play a game you embark on a journey ending somewhere you did not begin. This book is evidence of many journeys. Journeys undertaken by families arriving into the UK, bringing with them games refined and improved over generations that act as reminders of a homeland.

Priory Heights

Priory Heights Centre ran a holiday Playscheme in the Spring and Summer of 2009. The Summer programme, funded by Awards For All, started with a sparkle after a team of volunteers joined us to spruce up and paint the centre. We ran an exciting and varied Summer programme of workshops drawing on the expertise of the IPA team, including den building, arts and crafts and sports.

The centre also continued to be a venue for training and adult learning, hosting Health and Safety workshops, playwork training and policy and practice meetings, as well as many other activities.

The Caledonian ward remains a priority area for working with children suffering the effects of poverty. IPA is a key member of the area partnership and feeds into strategic decision making groups looking at services provided for local children and families.

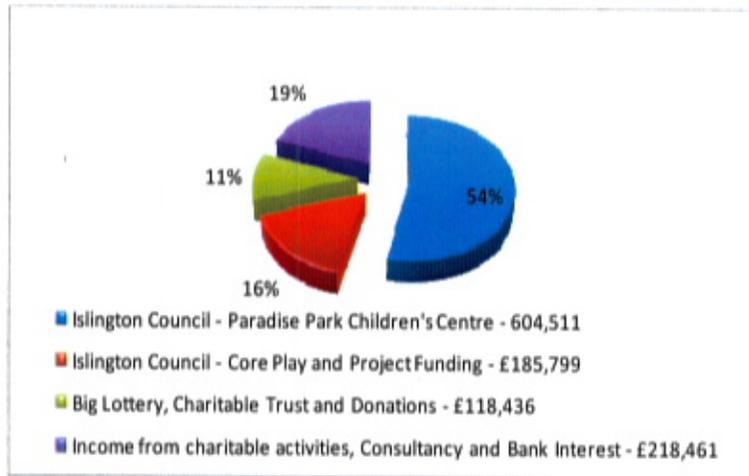


IPA is grateful to the following funders for their support in 2009-10:

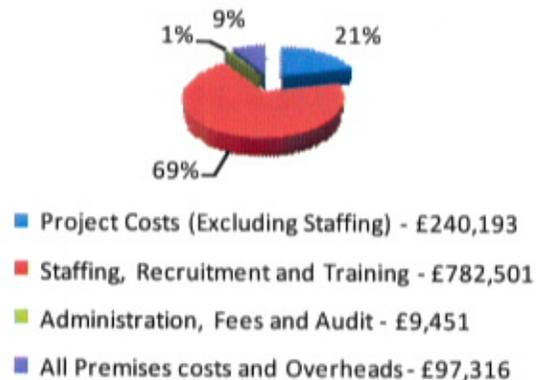
- Awards for All
- Children in Need
- Big Lottery Fund
- Esmee Fairburn
- Hyde Housing
- Islington Council
- Southern Housing Group
- 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust

Financial Information

INCOME £1,127,207



EXPENDITURE £1,129,461



Difference matched by resources carried forward.
Full accounts are available on request.

Auditor: Chapmans Associates Limited, 3 Coombe Road, London NW10 0EB
Bankers: Barclays Bank, The Co-operative Bank and the COIF Charities Deposit Fund

The IPA is a registered charity: 1086165
and a not for profit limited company: 3989283

Staff Lists

Head Office staff:

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Director | Anita Grant |
| Deputy Director | Suzanne Murray |
| Development Worker | Max Mueller |
| Access Developer | Morgan Leichter-Saxby |
| Inclusive Playworker | Ilias Speis |
| Outreach Playworker | Kathleen Fitzgerald |
| Treehouse Project Worker | Wendy Jeeves |
| Finance & Admin Manager | Biniam Ghebreyesus |
| Finance Worker | Bruna Ibraj |

Paradise Park Children's Centre lead staff:

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Head of Centre | Anita Grant |
| Deputy Head of Centre | Suzanne Murray |
| Leader of Learning | Helen Richards |
| Family Support Worker | Kemi Lawal |
| Family Support Worker | Joy Ayeni |
| Administrative Worker | Nick Carley |
| Centre Reception and Admin | Sarah Ghartey |

Nursery team:

Jermaine Payne, Stacey Jeakins, Fatima Bahmani, Shakhera Akhtar, Patricia Okwan, Marie Forde, Onyi Anyanwu, Julita John, Pauline Atkinson, Tracey Everitt, Tracey Hollis, Emma Smith, Sharon Gill, Anna Kirby, Danielle Dyer, Chelsea Freed, Cherise Walker, Shirley Smedley, Letisha Hunte, Hatice Arik

Priory Heights team:

Annie Cook, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Chelsea Freed, Fatima Shooble, Billy Riches

Volunteers:

We would like to thank the many volunteers that make our work possible including our fantastic Trustees

Management Committee

| | |
|-----------|---------------------|
| Chair | Jonah Grunsell |
| Treasurer | Lucia Garratt |
| Secretary | Christopher Hignett |
| Trustee | Jennifer Chan |
| Trustee | Kelle Dittmar |
| Trustee | Linda Dyer |
| Trustee | Dawn Jennings |
| Trustee | Paul Hocker |
| Trustee | Alan Sutton |



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