

# Playaway

## Annual Report 2021

[www.playawaychildren.co.uk](http://www.playawaychildren.co.uk)

Playaway has been established for 21 years to provide specialist programmes during the holiday period to continue the physical and cognitive development children with complex motor disorders require. These programmes are structured to focus on the child developmental goals in a fun but challenging way. In 2022 we were once again able to run 2 non-residential programmes and one residential programme offering a total of 39 places to children with complex motor disorders.

The children who attend these programmes are all profoundly disabled and every aspect of their lives is a challenge – as a result they often miss out on having fun – Playaway gives them a small opportunity to be themselves, to laugh, show off, make friends and try something new.

We are able to work individually with each child to ensure they can all access every element of the programme. In the background these programmes allow the children to socialise with each other and enjoy the holidays in a way that their non-disabled siblings take for granted. The programmes also provide much needed respite for the parents, allowing them to juggle other priorities over the summer. The direct involvement of the parents in part of the residential programme has allowed them to understand more about their child but most importantly allowed them to talk to other parents and a strong supportive friendship group has formed.

To achieve this the programmes are staffed by a multi-disciplinary team of trained professionals including specially trained teachers, physiotherapists, occupational and speech and language therapists. The children we support need very specialist support and these programmes help to prevent the evident deterioration during the long holiday period of the skills they learn at school. There is clear demand for the programmes we run for children from 2 to 23 years of age and Playaway strives to expand the scope to meet demand.

The overall programme has cost a total of £30 392 to deliver of which £10 164 was covered by parental contribution (c35%). We have fundraised for the rest and are blessed with the support we receive from a small group of grant making charities. We continue to focus on keeping costs to the minimum – administrative costs remain at less than 9% (the majority of which is Insurance cover) and real-time costs have not risen for 7 years.

Fundraising remains challenging and our reserve has now reduced to c£2000 – ideally we would like to grow this to cover the majority of costs covered by fundraising for one year – c£20000. In addition our overall costs have increased

to cater for protective equipment and higher staffing levels to ensure the programmes are delivered safely in line with DfH guidance.

Jolyon Harrington  
Chair of Trustees



