

LONDON PLAY

England & Wales · Charity number 1104731

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	04055882
Registered	2004-07-02
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	International House 64 Nile Street London N1 7SR
Phone	02033848510
Email	info@londonplay.org.uk
Website	www.londonplay.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ENHANCE THE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION OF CHILDREN IN THE GREATER LONDON AREA BY DEVELOPING AND SUPPORTING THE PROVISION OF CHILDREN'S PLAY PRIMARILY BY:-1. IMPROVING THE QUALITY , DIVERSITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF PROVISION AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR PLAY IN LONDON;2. SECURING GREATER RECOGNITION OF THE FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE OF PLAY IN THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF LONDON 'S CHILDREN;3. PROMOTING CO-OPERATION AND CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN PLAY PROVIDERS AND PLAY SPECIALISTS IN LONDON, AND TO DEVELOP A NETWORK OF LOCAL CO-ORDINATION AND SUPPORT AGENCIES FOR PLAY IN EVERY LONDON BOROUGH.

Activities: London Play wants every child in London to have quality, accessible and inclusive play opportunities. We campaign for more and better play spaces and support playwork in the capital. Our information and advice service, policy analyses and media comments help raise awareness of the right to play and of how important play is in the growth, development and well-being of children and young people.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Disability, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Amateur Sport, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** GREATER LONDON
- Throughout London

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£148,326	£141,219	-	-
2024-03-31	£145,313	£160,256	-	-
2023-03-31	£165,661	£231,342	-	-
2022-03-31	£228,433	£243,515	-	-
2021-03-31	£377,533	£346,549	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
MELIAN BARBARA MANSFIELD	Chair	2003-10-23
Amy Quinn		2024-06-14
Carlo Beschi		2024-12-05
Caroline Needham		2013-01-30
Dr KEITH CRANWELL		2003-10-23
Harry Davidson		2019-12-04
Louise Atkins		2026-01-30
NICHOLAS HALL		2013-01-29
Sara Martins		2023-03-10
Ugonna Ezeyi		2026-01-30

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Accounts



London Play

Charity number: 1104731

Registered company number: 04055882 (England and Wales)

Report and financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2025

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London Play

Reference and administrative information

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Charity number 1104731

Company number 4055882

Registered office International House
64 Nile Street
London N1 7SR

Trustees Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of writing this report were as follows:

Amy Quinn (appointed 14 June 2024)
Barry Walden, (Co-Vice chair)
Carlo Beschi (appointed 05 December 2024)
Caroline Needham
Hal Davidson (Co-Vice Chair)
Keith Cranwell
Melian Mansfield, Chair
Nicholas Hall
Rafael Portillo (resigned 05 December 2024)
Sara Martins (Treasurer)
Sereena Keymatlian (appointed 14 June 2024)
Zareen Islam (appointed 14 June 2024, resigned 25 November 2024)

Key management personnel Fiona Sutherland Director

Bankers CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner Mary E Ryan FCCA, DChA, Cert FPS
Ark Accountancy Limited
56-58 High Street
Ewell
Surrey
KT17 1RW

The trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

1 OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

1.1 Objectives and aims

Charitable objects as stated in the Articles of Association dated 10 June 2017 are to enhance the development and education of children in the Greater London area by developing and supporting the provision of children's play; primarily by:

- improving the quality, diversity and accessibility of provision and opportunities for play in London;
- securing greater recognition of the fundamental importance of play in the growth and development of London's children; and
- promoting co-operation and co-ordination between play providers and play specialists in London and developing a network of local co-ordination and support agencies for play in every London borough.

London Play exists to ensure that all children have access to high quality, accessible play opportunities in London - whether in supervised settings or in the wider public realm. Through its activities it aims both to protect and improve existing play provision; and increase the amount of provision.

The charity's main objectives for the year were to:

- a. Improve multi-agency partnership working across statutory, voluntary, community and private sectors to increase children's access to play and physical activity.
- b. Increase the ability of play providers to influence strategic plans and local and national policy for children's play
- c. Increase in the sharing of information/knowledge amongst the sector, support with funding advice and promotion of best practice.
- d. Actively promote equality for disadvantaged groups through the service delivery

London Play continues to support and work with a broad range of individuals and organisations who are interested in promoting, facilitating, and providing play opportunities for children in London. In addition to working with professional play workers and service managers, the charity collaborates with and supports parents, teachers, residents, community and 'Friends' groups and other 'lay people' and volunteers to promote the benefits of play and support them to improve and expand play opportunities for children in their communities.

1.2 Details of significant activities

Significant activities over the 2024-25 year included:

- In June 2024, **launching the inaugural London Parade for Play** on the first ever International Day of Play, mobilising hundreds of children in central London to celebrate the importance of play in their lives and to call on politicians and decision makers to prioritise their right to play.
- A new two-year **partnership with The Royal Parks** starting in August 2024, to deliver Play in the Park II, working with local groups and communities to create nature-inspired play opportunities in and around The Regents and Greenwich Parks.
- Inspiring and supporting 13,800 residents on 187 streets across London to transform their streets with play for **Car Free Day** in September 2024, funded by Transport for London and the Mayor of London.

- **A culture of resident-led playing out established and growing on two housing estates in Tower Hamlets** following the conclusion of a two-year council-commissioned project in October 2024.
- The successful conclusion of the Trust for London- funded **Communities Unite for Play** initiative in November 2024, having supported grassroots and emerging campaign groups across the capital to bring about real change and developing an online campaign toolkit in the process.
- A new cohort of groups in neighbourhoods across the capital recruited in early 2025 to participate in the second year of **Jelly Sports**, a two-year project funded by the London Marathon Foundation to inspire active doorstep play on some of London's least affluent streets and housing estates.
- In March 2025, the launch of **APEX**, a nine-month project to facilitate and document reciprocal visits between groups of children and playworkers from 8 London adventure playgrounds, funded by the National Lottery Community Fund.
- The growth of our **Playful High Streets initiative** demonstrating the power of play to transform shopping streets and other public spaces into joyful social places to bring communities together.

1.3 Public benefit

The trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

Public benefits ultimately arising from London Play's activity include more active, healthy, happy children; better connected, more friendly, safe and cohesive communities; more skilled and empowered professional play workers, laypeople and volunteers; cleaner street environments and reduced antisocial behaviour. Additionally, free-to-access adventure playgrounds in some of London's least affluent neighbourhoods offer local parents a real alternative to paid childcare and free them up to pursue work or training opportunities to improve their life chances; and those of their children too.

All the benefits derived from the activities and achievements of London Play are ultimately to the benefit of all London's children. Benefits are focused on children in London only, but are not restricted in terms of charitable need, personal characteristics, access to facilities, membership, trustees' discretion, or ability to pay. No detriment or harm has arisen from carrying out the charity's activities.

1.4 Volunteers

- Our **board of ten trustees** are volunteers who attend trustee meetings every quarter, and London Play events as well as carrying out significant amounts of work to support the organisation at other times. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 8 to the accounts. (At least 50 volunteer days this year).

Much of London Play's work involves supporting the efforts of volunteers to provide, improve or promote more and better play opportunities where they live or work.

- **Play streets and play on estates** initiated during 2024-25 involved volunteers facilitating the temporary transformation of streets and estate spaces with playful activity for children living in their neighbourhoods. Over the year London Play supported two play estates involving approximately 16 volunteers (eight per location) with at least six events each. Car Free Day volunteers (187 streets) numbered between 2 and 6 in each location. Conservative estimate of volunteer days: 850

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For the year ended 31 March 2025

- **Play campaigns:** approximately 24 volunteer campaigners were part of London Play's Communities Unite for Play project over this period. (minimum 48 volunteer days).
- **Support for London Play events:** volunteer support for the Parade for Play, Go Kart Build and Race and the Adventure Play Awards (8 volunteer days)
- **Corporate volunteers:** a team from Gardiner and Theobald spent a day at London Play's office inventorising and auditing play, building, camping equipment ahead of the summer activities. (10 volunteer days)

Total volunteer days across all London Play projects: approx 1,000

1.5 Members and supporters

Membership of London Play is stable at around 50 and the number of supporters continues to grow.

2 ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

London Play worked on six grant-funded projects and delivered a number of contracts and commissions during the year. Between April 2024 and March 2025 London Play directly generated at least 9,500 play opportunities for London's children and thousands more indirectly through its activities. Key activities and achievements by the organisation during the period are outlined below.

2.1 Grant-funded projects

Communities Unite for Play (Trust for London)

November 2022 – October 2024

This two-year project achieved tangible results in its aims to support local people to campaign for better play provision in their areas. Groups in Southwark and Lewisham nominated in the second annual 'London's Saddest Playground' campaign in February saw subsequent success with substantial (NCIL) funding awards for improvements. Elsewhere (most notably Hammersmith and Fulham, and Newham) councils have stepped up their game on repairs and pledged to give higher priority to play. Other groups have developed 'Friends of' initiatives to build local support and amplify voices. As well as a campaigning workshop event, support offered to groups included helping make council deputations, running consultation events and generating publicity; as well as developing online tools to help campaigners better make the case for play in their areas.

Estimated number of play opportunities generated (24/25 year): hundreds of children enjoying regular visits to improved play areas in multiple locations.

Adventure Play for the Community, by the Community (Awards for All/Lottery)

September 2023 – August 2024

The conclusion of this year-long project saw six adventure playgrounds awarded a small amount of funding to staging community celebration events which were filmed, and compiled into a film highlighting the community value of these vital community hubs and celebrating 75 years of adventure play in London.

Estimated number of play opportunities generated: 300

Jelly Sports (London Marathon Foundation)

January 2024 – December 2025

This project, as its name suggests occupies the wobbly and exciting – yet largely unexplored – space between play and sport. The initiative is transforming the space on people's doorsteps, on their streets or estates, into

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For the year ended 31 March 2025

hyper-local opportunities to have fun and get active for the whole family. Communities in five neighbourhoods in Southall, Tower Hamlets, Lewisham and Hackney took part in Y1, involving over 30 play street and estate sessions attended by more than 1100 children and adults. A new cohort was recruited in early 2025 in five communities in Lewisham, Brent, Greenwich and Barking and Dagenham. Jelly relays, hurdles and other games are being played and more invented by high energy children on their doorsteps. A digital booklet of the games created will be published at the end of the project.

Estimated number of play opportunities generated (24/25 year): approx. 835

Go Kart Build and Race, August 2024

We were pleased to secure funding from the Barbara Ward Children's Foundation to run our popular London Go Kart Build and Race event for three years. The 2024 event was held on 01 August at Mudchute Farm and saw over 100 children building and racing go karts from scratch. 25 volunteer students were on hand to help and BBC Radio London reported live from the event. Most teams took their finished karts back to their adventure playgrounds to continue enjoying their creations and sharing the thrill of driving with more friends.

Play opportunities created: 100 on the day with many more back at adventure playgrounds

Adventurers Play Exchange (APEX) project (Awards for All/Lottery) March – December 2025

This project was launched at a meeting of adventure playworkers in March and brings together children and playworkers from eight adventure playgrounds (APs) in London, by arranging reciprocal visits over the spring and summer of 2025. This will build new connections within and between communities, inspiring the exchange of games and ideas and sharing food. Visits will be documented and a short film and booklet celebrating London's unique adventure playgrounds will be produced at the end of the project. The film will be shown at the 2025 London Adventure Play Awards.

2.3 Contracts and Commissions

Play on Streets and Estates in Tower Hamlets September 2022 – August 2024

The conclusion of our two-year commission from Tower Hamlets Council to inspire and support residents to start and run regular play sessions on streets and estates in the borough saw the revival of a culture of playing out on two housing estates in the borough. In the final year of the project over 17 play estate sessions were delivered, attended by over 440 children and young people and 160 adults.

Children's play opportunities (Apr-Aug 2024 only) created: approx 440.

Car Free Day 2024

London Play was pleased to again be commissioned by the Mayor of London and Transport for London to inspire and support people across the capital to try out a play street on Car Free Day via our popular 'Swap your car for a Spacehopper' campaign. Around 187 streets and over 13,500 people (6,400 children) took part, with nearly three quarters of participants reporting that the experience would lead them to consider applying to run more regular play sessions on their street.

Over Car Free Day weekend London Play was also commissioned separately by Lewisham Council to repeat the previous year's popular play takeover of Deptford High Street; and by Camden Council to run a similar session in Camden's Phoenix Road as part of a trial 'greening' of a previously traffic-dominated space. Giant hopscotch, junk modelling, street games and spacehopper races transformed both spaces for a few hours demonstrating their potential as places for communities to come together – joyfully and informally.

Play opportunities for children: approx 6,600

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For the year ended 31 March 2025

Playful High Street commissions

Between April 2024 and March 2025 London Play undertook seven Playful High Street commissions. This included the Car Free Day events listed above; three school 'play street showcase' events, Whitecross Street Party and a commission from The Barbican, inspired by our Parade for Play to create a play street in the Curve Gallery.

Play opportunities for children (additional to Car Free Day events counted above): approx 800

Play in the Park II – partnership with The Royal Parks

September 2024 – August 2026

Following a previous successful three-year partnership with the Royal Parks which concluded in November 2023, London Play was awarded the contract for the second phase of this parks outreach project in August 2024. London Play's focus is working with communities in and around The Regents and Greenwich Parks to create inclusive, nature-inspired play opportunities. A slow start saw momentum building by March 2025 with outreach in communities in and around Somers Town in Camden and on a housing estate in Greenwich.

Newham Vision for Play March 2025

London Play has been commissioned to develop a 'Vision for Play' for the London Borough of Newham. This will involve bringing together data already collected and carrying out targeted engagement to address some of the gaps. It is hoped to provide a starting point for the council to embark on developing a full borough-wide play strategy.

2.4 Publications

London Playwire e-newsletter

The London Play *wire* e-newsletter continued to bring news and practical information of interest to anyone who facilitates play – including professional playworkers, teachers, community groups, parents and carers. It was sent to around 1,350 subscribers (over 3,500 readers) twice during the year.

Campaign toolkit

As part of the Communities United for Play project an online toolkit to support local play campaigners is now available on our website. It is the hope to build on this in future with additional modules and case studies.

Manifesto for a Playful London

Our #fivewaystoaplayfullondon manifesto was published ahead of the May Mayoral elections outline five ways the new Mayor of London could use their power to promote and prioritise play in the capital.

2.5 Events

People for Play campaign workshop and picnic, September 2024

The second annual workshop and picnic for local play campaigners and their families was held at Coram's Fields as part of the Trust for London project. Attendees heard from Fair Play Barnet about the successful campaign to fund and build the 'most accessible playground' in the country. Participants shared insights from their own campaign journeys (at different stages) and reported that they felt inspired by attending to strive for change in their areas.

Play opportunities: 6 children played outside with junk and loose parts while parents and carers took part in the event.

Adventure Play Awards, October 2024

This popular annual event found a new home at the Rich Mix Cinema in Shoreditch and this year coincided with Halloween. It was attended by 11 groups and more than 160 children who took part in games including

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For the year ended 31 March 2025

spinning a 'web' across the cinema and fashioning their playworkers with toilet paper for the mummy 'cat walk'. Islington's Three Corners Adventure Playground was named 2024's London Adventure Playground of the Year. Other winners were 'Playworker Dream Team' won by Merton's Acacia Adventure Playground; Best Flick went to Lambeth's Lollard Street Adventure Playground and Hackney Marsh Adventure Playground got 'Weird and Wonderful'. Lewisham's Reaston Play Street won the Janet Dalglish Play Street of the Year Award

Play opportunities: 160 children attended the event (with many more involved at playgrounds taking part in making films over the summer)

2.6 Policy and campaigning

October 2024: Commission on Play

London Play made a submission to the *Raising the Nation Play Commission*, chaired by social entrepreneur and author Paul Lindley OBE in partnership with the Centre for Young Lives. The Commission used the testimony received to produce a report making recommendations for post-election government policy in June 2025. It aims to move play up the political agenda and lead a 'national conversation' about how to encourage and support children to play more.

https://londonplay.org.uk/our_news/london-plays-commission-submission/

July 2024: London Mayoral election – Five Ways to a More Playful London

London Play produced a manifesto for play ahead of the London Mayoral elections calling on the next Mayor to commit to making London the best city in the world to grow up in. It outlined five ways that the mayor has it in his power to improve play, children's access to play and include their views.

2.7 Other

Advice, support and guidance

London Play continued to offer advice, support and guidance freely via phone, email and in person in response to demand.

Support requested by an increasing number of **adventure playground organisations** has sadly been a feature of the year as they struggle variously with expiring/short leases, funding cuts and general threats to their future viability and sustainability. Support provided has been limited by our own capacity constraints but has included attending meetings to support playworkers and organisations and help them make the case to decision makers; bringing playworkers together to share successes and challenges; working to collect evidence to demonstrate the value of adventure playgrounds to children and communities; and writing letters to decision makers and funders.

We have also continued to support residents and councils across London to get children **playing out in the streets and estates** where they live. This has included providing advice and guidance on legislation and practicalities, attending public meetings to talk about the benefits of play streets, promotion and linking groups with one another. **Support for play campaigners** was also offered as part of the Communities Unite for Play initiative.

Social media

London Play continued to have a strong social media presence during the year – with a gradual shift towards Instagram which grew to over 2,000 and away from Twitter/X where followers dropped to 4,200. Our Facebook following was approximately 35,000.

3 INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL FACTORS

The environment in which London Play and other charities operate remained highly challenging throughout 2024/25.

External factors

Politically, the re-election of Sadiq Khan as Mayor of London in May 2024, followed by the national elections in July, created a rare alignment between regional and national politics. Hopes that this would ease austerity measures – or reverse some of the policy decisions behind the rise in child poverty – have yet to materialise.

London boroughs, despite a 6.6% increase in core spending power, face a collective funding gap of £500m. Rising demand for statutory services – particularly adult and children's social care and homelessness support – combined with escalating delivery costs, has driven overspending across many councils. At least seven boroughs are expected to seek Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) from government.

Beyond this immediate funding pressure, wider external forces also shaped our operating environment. The cost-of-living crisis placed further strain on families, increasing demand for free and accessible play opportunities at the same time as inflation drove up the cost of delivery. Inequalities across London remained stark, with children in disadvantaged boroughs facing the greatest barriers to safe, high-quality play. Alongside these pressures, growing recognition of children's mental health and wellbeing has created opportunities to highlight the vital role of play in supporting resilience and healthy development.

Within the wider charity sector, competition for grant funding remained intense, particularly as many funders prioritised themes such as health inequalities and climate change. While this narrowed some opportunities, it also encouraged cross-sector collaboration, with potential to strengthen advocacy for play by connecting it to broader agendas in health, sport, and community development.

Internal factors

Internally, London Play continued to adapt to the pressures of delivering more with fewer resources. Our staff team reduced slightly in size following the departure of a long-serving colleague in February, whose replacement joined the team but on fewer hours. Despite this, the team has demonstrated remarkable adaptability, resilience, and creativity in sustaining programmes and developing new initiatives. The recruitment of a casual pool of playworker crew to support events has been crucial to manage peak periods. Trustees remain deeply appreciative of the team's commitment and tenacity.

The development of the Playful High Streets strand proved particularly valuable in strengthening our financial resilience. By generating a modest surplus to support core activities, it enabled us to continue advocacy and campaigning work that might otherwise have been vulnerable to funding cuts. This diversification of income has become a crucial factor in maintaining independence and pursuing our mission.

Governance remained strong, with trustees actively engaged in shaping strategy and pursuing our goal of diversifying and invigorating leadership in line with the 2023–26 strategic plan. Collaborations and exploring potential partnerships with organisations such as Playing Out, London Sport, London Funders, Young Ealing Foundation, Starlight, and several London boroughs played an essential role in extending our reach.

Looking ahead, our greatest internal strengths lie in the creativity of our team, the commitment of our trustees, and the growing recognition of London Play as a trusted voice for children's right to play. However, sustaining this momentum will depend on our continued ability to attract new supporters and funders to back our innovative work.

4 FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income for the financial year 2024/25 totalled £148k, a small increase of 2% on the year to March 2024. The landscape of investment in the play agenda continues to be challenging during and since covid, which makes our determination stronger as agents in its advocacy. London Play has demonstrated flexibility in the context of rising costs, and reducing our operational costs by 12%, to a total expenditure of £141k, has resulted in a surplus of just over £7k. This reduction in expenditure has been achieved largely due to reduction in staff costs.

At March 2025 our reserves stand at £56,862 of which £37,593 are unrestricted. Trustees and staff are focused on increasing this over the coming year through the active pursuit of core grant funding, partnerships and surpluses earned on contracted projects.

Reserves policy

The Board of Trustees have reviewed the financial target set by our reserves policy in light of guidance from the Charity Commission. The reserves should be adequate to cover:

- additional staff time for fundraising and development to cover periods of drops income
- statutory obligations under employment contracts

As a result of the review, The Trustees believe that the Charity should hold free reserves of between £39k and £50k. As at March 2025 unrestricted reserves are £37,593 which brings us close to this target and represents a healthy increase on the previous year (when they totalled just £16,902). The chair and financial committee trustees are keeping a close watch on the situation, meeting regularly to review ongoing forecasts. At the time of writing the financial forecast suggests we will meet the reserves target by the end of the 2025/26 financial year.

5 Future plans

Looking ahead, London Play remains steadfast in its mission to defend and expand children's right to play across the capital. Despite financial and political challenges, our trustees and staff are committed to working for London's children and young people's right to play and to supporting the organisations and people that enable them to realise that right.

The generous support of our existing funders, including a two-year core grant from Garfield Weston, provides vital stability and a platform for growth. Our Jelly Sports programme (funded by the London Marathon Foundation) will continue through 2025, with efforts to extend and expand its reach. Likewise, our valued partnership with The Royal Parks will run until 2026, enabling us to develop more inclusive, nature-inspired play opportunities.

Our priorities over the coming year will be to:

- Strengthen collaboration with London Play Design to launch joint projects that also improve the long-term sustainability of adventure playgrounds.
- Empower communities to advocate for better local play provision, with a particular focus on housing estates and working with housing providers.
- Expand Playful High Streets, demonstrating the power of play to transform public spaces and generating unrestricted income through commissions from councils, BIDs and other partners.
- Champion policy change, contributing to the growing national movement for a new Play Strategy and Play Sufficiency legislation, building on momentum from the Play Commission and the newly established All-Party Parliamentary Group on Play.

For the year ended 31 March 2025

- Support local authorities, offering expertise to help them develop or review play strategies. Building on our work in Lewisham and Newham, we will extend this support to more boroughs across London.
- Influence city-wide policy, continuing to work with the Mayor of London to ensure the capital becomes the best city in the world in which to grow up. This includes monitoring and pressing for effective implementation of the London Plan's requirements on play.

Meanwhile, in the policy realms momentum is accelerating nationally for a National Play Strategy in England, complete with a statutory Play Sufficiency Duty for local authorities, backed by new funding commitments.

The Play Commission has called for bold measures, including embedding play into planning, education, and community systems. London Play is well positioned to respond to this shift. As councils anticipate future statutory requirements, we will actively position ourselves as the leading source of expertise for those wanting to act early. Drawing on our successful partnerships in Lewisham and Newham, we will offer tailored support to boroughs to carry out play sufficiency assessments; invite playful resident engagement and consultation; embed play into local planning frameworks; and co-design inclusive, resilient play strategies with communities. This is not only an opportunity to influence policy but also to ensure that children across London benefit from high-quality, accessible play opportunities, now and in the future.

By fostering partnerships, amplifying young voices, and showcasing the power of play to transform communities, we will continue to act as a beacon for London's play sector. Our goal remains clear: to make London the best city in the world in which to grow up: a city where every child has the freedom, space, and opportunity to play.

6 Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Appointment of Trustees

The charity is governed by a Board of Trustees which is elected from the membership at the Annual General Meeting; additional trustees can be co-opted by the Board during the year and formally appointed at the following AGM. On appointment new trustees are sent an induction pack and are offered induction opportunities with staff and trustees; as well as being offered training opportunities as they arise during the year.

Two trustees resigned in November and December 2024. Three new trustees were appointed: two co-opted in June 2024 and another in December 2024 at our AGM.

Trustees met approximately every six to eight weeks to make strategic, policy, and financial decisions on the basis of reports submitted by the director. These meetings alternate online and in person.

Organisational structure

Since 1 April 2005, London Play has been operating as an incorporated charity (Charity No.1104731, Company No.4055882), following a transfer from the old charity (No. 1075508) under its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Throughout the year operational management has been the responsibility of director Fiona Sutherland – under the direction of trustees. Staff have the opportunity to discuss their work with their line manager through a system of regular supervision.

Statement of responsibilities of the Trustees

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Independent examiner

Mary Ryan of Ark Accountancy was re-appointed as the charity's independent examiner during the year and has expressed her willingness to continue in that capacity.

The Trustees' annual report has been approved by Trustees on

2025 and signed on their behalf by

Melian Mansfield

Chair

London Play

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 March 2025

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Mary Ryan

Mary Ryan FCCA, DChA, Cert FPS
Ark Accountancy Limited
56-58 High Street
Ewell, Surrey
KT17 1RW

Date: 19/11/25

London Play

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 March 2025

		2025			2024		
	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Income from:							
Donations and Legacies	2	5,187	-	5,187	14,468	-	14,468
Charitable activities	3&6	84,996	50,750	135,746	39,880	82,590	122,470
Other trading activities	4	6,202	-	6,202	7,520	-	7,520
Investments	5	1,191	-	1,191	855	-	855
Total income		97,576	50,750	148,326	62,723	82,590	145,313
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds		2,236	-	2,236	39,944	-	39,944
Charitable activities		74,649	64,334	138,983	63,729	56,583	120,312
Other		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure	7	76,885	64,334	141,219	103,673	56,583	160,256
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		20,691	(13,584)	7,107	(40,950)	26,007	(14,943)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	17	20,691	(13,584)	7,107	(40,950)	26,007	(14,943)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		16,902	32,853	49,755	57,852	6,846	64,698
Total funds carried forward		37,593	19,269	56,862	16,902	32,853	49,755

All income and expenditure have arisen from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.

London Play

Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2025

	Note	£	2025 £	£	2024 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	11		-		-
			-		-
Current assets:					
Debtors	13	35,713		9,403	
Cash at bank and in hand		55,592		53,597	
		91,305		63,000	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	7,906		13,245	
Deferred Income		26,537		-	
Total liabilities		34,443			
Net current assets / (liabilities)			56,862		49,755
Total assets less current liabilities			56,862		49,755
Total net assets / (liabilities)	15		56,862		49,755
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted income funds			19,269		32,853
Unrestricted income funds:					
General funds			37,593		16,902
Total charity funds	17		56,862		49,755

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to charitable small companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on
2025 and were signed on their behalf by:

M B Mansfield, Chair

London Play

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':

- the requirement of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows
- the requirement of Section 33 Related Party Disclosure paragraph 33.7.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer equipment: 33% on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs

The charity makes payments under defined contribution pension schemes. Contributions payable are charged to the Statement of Financial Activity in the period to which they relate.

London Play

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

2. Income from donations and legacies

	2025			2024		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations	5,187	-	5,187	14,468	-	14,468
	5,187	-	5,187	14,468	-	14,468

3. Income from charitable activities

	2025			2024		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grants	10,000	-	10,000	-	-	-
Contracts	74,996	-	74,996	39,880	-	39,880
Activity charges	-	-	-	-	-	-
	84,996	-	84,996	39,880	-	39,880

4. Income from other trading activities

	2025			2024		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Advertising	1,140	-	1,140	970	-	970
Sponsorship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Consultancy	4,700	-	4,700	6,538	-	6,538
Merchandise	362	-	362	12	-	12
	6,202	-	6,202	7,520	-	7,520

5. Income from investments

	2025			2024		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Interest earned on deposits	1,191	-	1,191	855	-	855
	1,191	-	1,191	855	-	855

6. Other Income

	2025			2024		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grants for core activities	-	50,750	50,750	-	82,590	82,590
	-	50,750	50,750	-	82,590	82,590

London Play

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

7. Expense Analysis

	2025					2024			
	Raising Funds	Charitable Activities	Governance & Support	Total		Raising Funds	Charitable Activities	Governance & Support	Total
	£	£	£	£		£	£		£
Salaries	1,601	83,975	12,077	97,653		31,273	67,784	14,200	113,257
Other personnel costs	-	-	154	154		-	-	-	-
Contractors	-	7,064	-	7,064		-	14,644	6,344	20,988
Evaluation	-	2,100	-	2,100		-	2,100	-	2,100
Materials and Equipment	-	15,792	477	16,269		-	6,564	17	6,581
Venue Hire	-	1,300	-	1,300		-	1,889	-	1,889
Catering and Travel Costs	-	2,901	497	3,398		-	1,360	253	1,613
Printing and Publicity	-	456	339	795		-	201	146	347
Accommodation costs	40	2,292	542	2,874		784	1,712	-	2,496
IT and Communications	-	1,000	3,464	4,464		-	-	3,704	3,704
Office costs	240	31	2,120	2,391		-	302	3,698	4,000
Travel and Meetings	-	36	24	60		-	-	581	581
Accounting and IE	-	-	2,300	2,300		-	-	2,100	2,100
Other professional fees	-	-	300	300		-	-	540	540
Finance costs	-	-	97	97		-	-	60	60
Sub-total	1,881	116,947	22,391	141,219		32,057	96,556	31,643	160,256
Support and Governance	355	22,036	(22,391)	-		7,887	23,756	(31,643)	-
Total Expenditure	2,236	138,983	-	141,219		39,944	120,312	-	160,256

8. Net expenditure for the year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trustee expenses	-	-
Operating lease rentals:		
Property	2,652	2,496
Other	-	-
Depreciation	-	-
Independent examiner's remuneration (excluding VAT)	1,000	1,100

9. Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

	2025 £	2024 £
Salaries and wages	86,739	104,840
Social security costs	3,768	3,439
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	7,146	4,978
Total	97,653	113,257

No employee earned more than £60,000 during the year (2024: nil).

The total employee benefits (including pension contributions and employer's national insurance) of personnel were £97,653 (2024: £113,257).

No charity trustee was paid for employment with the charity in the year (2024: £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2024: £nil).

No reimbursement was made to any trustee (2024: £nil) for travel and other expenses in the year.

London Play

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

10. Staff numbers

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
	No.	No.
Charitable activities	2	3
Support	-	-
Total	2	3

11. Tangible fixed assets

Fixed assets were fully depreciated.

12. Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	35,185	9,222
Other debtors	528	181
	35,713	9,403

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	3,882	7,099
Taxation and social security	1,338	1,966
Other creditors	1,481	2,080
Accruals	1,200	2,100
	7,906	13,245

14. Analysis of net assets between funds – this year

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total funds
	£	£	£
Debtors	35,713	-	35,713
Cash at bank and in hand	36,323	19,269	55,592
Creditors	(34,443)	-	(34,443)
Net assets at the end of the year	37,593	19,269	56,862

London Play

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

15. Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total funds £
Debtors	9,403	-	9,403
Cash at bank and in hand	20,744	32,853	53,597
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	(13,245)	-	(13,245)
Net assets at the end of the year	16,902	32,853	49,755

16. Movements in funds

	At the start of the year £	Incoming resources & gains £	Outgoing resources & losses £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:					
Communities Unite for Play	15,176	27,500	(43,721)	1,045	-
Jelly Sports	17,677	23,250	(21,659)	-	19,269
Total restricted funds	32,853	50,750	(65,380)	1,045	19,269
Total unrestricted funds	16,902	97,576	(75,839)	(1,045)	37,593
Total funds	49,755	148,326	(141,219)	-	56,862

Purposes of restricted funds:

- **Communities United for Play** - this is the final year of a 2 year project to support local people to campaign for better play provision in their areas.
- **Jelly Sports** - A 2 year project to transform the space on people's doorsteps, on their streets or estates, into hyper-local opportunities to have fun and get active for the whole family.

17. Movements in funds – prior year

	At the start of the year £	Incoming resources & gains £	Outgoing resources & losses £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:					
Communities Unite for Play	6,846	49,500	(41,170)	-	15,176
Adventure Play for the Community	-	9,840	(11,488)	1,648	-
Jelly Sports	-	23,250	(5,573)	-	17,677
Total Restricted Funds	6,846	82,590	(58,231)	1,648	32,853
Total Unrestricted Funds	57,852	62,724	(102,026)	(1,648)	16,902
Total Funds	64,698	145,314	(160,257)	-	49,755

18. Operating lease commitments

There were no operating leases.

LONDON PLAY

England & Wales - Charity number 1104731

Accounts



London Play

Charity number: 1104731

Registered company number: 04055882 (England and Wales)

Report and financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2024

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London Play

Reference and administrative information

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Charity number 1104731

Company number 4055882

Registered office International House
64 Nile Street
London N1 7SR

Trustees Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Keith Cranwell
Hal Davidson
Nicholas Hall
Shalena Haughton-Peters (resigned 6 December 2023)
Zareen Islam (appointed 14 June 2024, resigned 25 November 2024)
Sereena Keymatlian (appointed 14 June 2024)
Melian Mansfield, Chair
Sara Martins
Caroline Needham
Rafael Portillo
Amy Quinn ((appointed 14 June 2024)
Colin Simmons (resigned 6 December 2023)
Barry Walden, Vice chair

Key management personnel	Fiona Sutherland	Director/deputy director
	Paul Hocker	Director (left 30 June 2023)

Bankers CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner Mary E Ryan FCCA, DCha
Ark Accountancy Ltd
31 Cheam Road
Epsom
Surrey
KT17 1QX

London Play

Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Charitable objects as stated in the Articles of Association dated 10 June 2017 are:

To enhance the development and education of children in the Greater London area by developing and supporting the provision of children's play; primarily by:

- improving the quality, diversity and accessibility of provision and opportunities for play in London;
- securing greater recognition of the fundamental importance of play in the growth and development of London's children; and
- promoting co-operation and co-ordination between play providers and play specialists in London and developing a network of local co-ordination and support agencies for play in every London borough.

London Play exists to ensure that all children have access to high quality, accessible play opportunities in London - whether in supervised settings or in the wider public realm. Through its activities it aims both to protect and improve existing play provision; and increase the amount of provision.

Significant activities

The charity's main objectives for the year were to:

- a. Improve multi-agency partnership working across statutory, voluntary, community and private sectors to increase children's access to play and physical activity.
- b. Increase the ability of play providers to influence strategic plans and local and national policy for children's play
- c. Increase in the sharing of information/knowledge amongst the sector, support with funding advice and promotion of best practice.
- d. Actively promote equality for disadvantaged groups through the service delivery

London Play continues to support and work with a broad range of individuals and organisations who are interested in promoting, facilitating, and providing play opportunities for children in London. In addition to working with professional play workers and service managers, the charity collaborates with and supports parents, teachers, residents, community and 'Friends' groups and other 'lay people' and volunteers to promote the benefits of play and support them to improve and expand play opportunities for children in their communities.

Details of significant activities

Significant activities over the 2023-24 year included:

- The launch of **Jelly Sports**, a two-year project funded by the London Marathon Foundation to inspire active fun on some of London's least affluent streets and housing estates.
- Support for grassroots and emerging campaign groups striving for better play provision in their areas as part of the Trust for London project, **Communities Unite for Play**,
- A culture of play growing on two **Tower Hamlets estates** and being taken up by residents, as part of a two-year council-commissioned project in the borough.
- Improved play street policy and procedures developed for Newham Council.

London Play

Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 March 2024

- Inspiring and supporting residents on over a hundred streets across London to transform with play for **Car Free Day 2023**, funded by Transport for London and the Mayor of London.
- The launch of **Playful High Streets**, a new initiative to demonstrate the power of shopping streets and larger thoroughfares as social playful spaces and to bring communities together.

Public benefit

The trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

Public benefits ultimately arising from London Play's activity include more active, healthy, happy children; better connected, more friendly, safe and cohesive communities; more skilled and empowered professional play workers, laypeople and volunteers; cleaner street environments and reduced antisocial behaviour. Additionally, free-to-access adventure playgrounds in some of London's least affluent neighbourhoods offer local parents a real alternative to paid childcare and free them up to pursue work or training opportunities to improve their life chances; and those of their children too.

All the benefits derived from the activities and achievements of London Play are ultimately to the benefit of all London's children. Benefits are focused on children in London only, but are not restricted in terms of charitable need, personal characteristics, access to facilities, membership, trustees' discretion, or ability to pay. No detriment or harm has arisen from carrying out the charity's activities.

Volunteers

All trustees give their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 8 to the accounts.

Much of London Play's work involves supporting the efforts of volunteers to provide, improve or promote more and better play opportunities where they live or work.

Play streets and play on estates initiated during 2023-24 involved volunteers facilitating the temporary transformation of streets and estate spaces with playful activity for children living in their neighbourhoods. Over the year London Play supported the launch of approx. five new regular play streets/estates involving approximately 25 volunteers (five per location) with an average of five events each. Car Free Day volunteers (over 100 streets) numbered in the hundreds. Conservative estimate of volunteer days: 600

Our board of eleven trustees are volunteers who attend trustee meetings every quarter, and London Play events as well as carrying out significant amounts of work to support the organisation at other times. (At least 60 volunteer days this year).

Play campaigns: approximately 12 volunteer campaigners were part of London Play's Communities United for Play project over this period. (minimum 24 volunteer days).

Total volunteer days across all London Play projects: 680+

Members and supporters

Membership of London Play is stable at around 50 and the number of supporters continues to grow.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

London Play worked on three major grant-funded projects and delivered a number of contracts during the year.

Between April 2023 and March 2024 London Play directly generated around 7,500 play opportunities for London's children and thousands more indirectly through its activities. Key activities and achievements by the organisation during the period are outlined below.

GRANT-FUNDED PROJECTS

Communities Unite for Play (Trust for London)

November 2022 – October 2024

The second year of this two-year project has generated further momentum and seen real impacts in its aims to support local people to campaign for better play provision in their areas. Around 2,000 people voted in the second annual campaign to find 'London's Saddest Playground'. The group in Lewisham that 'won' has used the accolade to raise awareness, engage the council and apply for funds. The inaugural 'People for Play' campaign workshop and family friendly picnic held at Coram's Fields in September 2023 was highly rated by attendees, and several participants have since made progress in prompting change in their local areas. London Play has variously supported groups to make deputations to their councils, run consultation events and generate publicity; as well as developing tools and case studies to help campaigners better make the case for play in their areas.

Play opportunities generated: 500+ potentially hundreds in each of five main locations

Adventure Play for the Community, by the Community (Awards for All/Lottery)

September 2023 – August 2024

This project aims to capture the value of London's adventure playgrounds to their communities and help them make the case for funding and support. Children from 16 of London's adventure playgrounds made films about their favourite place to play and were asked to identify community champions to bring to the adventure play awards event where they were honoured. Six adventure playgrounds received a small amount of funding to stage a community celebration event which was filmed, to be compiled into a film highlighting the community value of these vital community hubs. A film celebrating 75 years of adventure play in London is being created.

Estimated number of play opportunities generated: minimum 180

Jelly Sports (London Marathon Foundation)

January 2024 – December 2025

This project, as its name suggests occupies the wobbly and exciting – yet largely unexplored – space between play and sport. This two-year project is transforming the space on people's doorsteps, on their streets or estates, into hyper-local opportunities to have fun and get active for the whole family. Communities in five neighbourhoods in Southall, Tower Hamlets, Lewisham and Hackney have been joining in future Olympic events including Jelly & Spoon races and 'Basketball'.

Play opportunities created to March 2024 approx. 50 (beginning phases of the project)

London Play

Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 March 2024

CONTRACTS & COMMISSIONS

In addition to grant-funded work London Play undertook several contracts to support play in parks, on streets, in elderly care facilities and across a borough.

Play on Streets and Estates in Tower Hamlets September 2022 – August 2024

A two-year commission from Tower Hamlets Council to inspire and support residents to start and run regular play sessions on streets and estates in the borough. With significant controversy over low traffic neighbourhoods in the borough, the focus has mostly turned to play on estates. Here, working with resident groups a regular culture of playing out has been nurtured on two housing estates.

Play opportunities: approx 600

Car Free Day 2023

London Play was once again commissioned by the Mayor of London and Transport for London to inspire and support people across the capital to try out a play street on Car Free Day via our popular 'Swap your car for a Spacehopper' campaign. Over 100 streets and more than 10,000 people took part, with more than three quarters of participants reporting that the experience would lead them to consider applying to run more regular play sessions on their street.

Over Car Free Day weekend London Play was also commissioned by the Project Centre to reclaim Deptford High Street in Lewisham with play, as part of a consultation with residents about permanently pedestrianising the space. Giant hopscotch, junk modelling, street games and spacehopper races transformed a usually traffic-dominated space and proved a popular draw with local people.

Play opportunities (children): approx 5,500

Newham Play Policy Development Oct 2023 – March 2024

London Play was commissioned by Newham Council to support the development of its play street policy to ensure the application process and implementation is easy and practical for both residents and council officers to understand and navigate – and bring it in line with best practice.

Play opportunities: A majority of children in Newham aged 16 and under (approx. 76,000) could enjoy the benefits of play streets if their adult carers and communities are encouraged to start play streets.

Hallmark Play Garden Opened spring 2024

The Hallmark Foundation commissioned London Play to develop a pilot intergenerational 'play garden' where residents who have younger visitors can enjoy their company outdoors in a playful space drawing inspiration from the play memories of the older generations and the input of local young people. The new care home and garden opened in the spring and visits by a local nursery group are frequent.

Play opportunities generated: 200+

PUBLICATIONS

London Playwire e-newsletter

The quarterly London Play*wire* e-newsletter continued to bring news and practical information of interest to anyone who facilitates play – including professional playworkers, teachers, community groups, parents and carers. Sent to around 1,350 subscribers (over 3,500 readers).

EVENTS

Adventure Play Awards, October 2023

As part of the Awards for All project the awards event at the Prince Charles Cinema in London's West End was attended by 16 groups and more than 200 children. Hackney's Shakespeare Walk Adventure Playground was named London Adventure Playground of the Year for 2023. A new award for the 'Playworker Dream Team' was offered in response to children's frequently articulating the importance of playworkers in their lives and won by Barnard Adventure Playground in Islington. Best Flick was won by Lambeth's Triangle Adventure Playground and Haringey's Markfield Project took the prize for 'Weird and Wonderful'.

Play opportunities: 200 children attended the event (many more involved at playgrounds taking part)

People for Play campaign workshop and picnic, September 2023

A workshop and picnic for local play campaigners and their families was held at Coram's Fields as part of the Trust for London project. Attendees heard from Friends of Market Place playground about their successful campaign and fundraising for a unique and nature-inspired play space in Barnet; and a bid for CIL funding in Lewisham. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and we hope to make this at least an annual event. While campaigners listened and networked, children and other family members joined in the play outside and witnessed the transformative power of loose parts fabric and cardboard junk.

Play opportunities: 20 at the event, many more as a result of campaigns by local people

OTHER

Advice, support and guidance

London Play continued to offer advice, support and guidance freely via phone, email and in person in response to demand. This included supporting residents and councils across London on their (sometimes quite lengthy) journey to get children playing out in the streets where they live. Support provided included advice and guidance on legislation and practicalities, attending public meetings to talk about the benefits of play streets, promotion and linking groups with one another. Support for play campaigners was also offered as part of the Communities United for Play initiative.

Social media

London Play continued to build its social media presence during the year. As of July 2024, our Facebook following was approximately 36,000; Twitter followers numbered 4,330 and we had 1,700 on Instagram.

Policy and campaigning

London's Saddest Playground

Part of the Communities United for Play project, February 2024 saw the second annual campaign to raise awareness about substandard play facilities across the capital. A playground in Lewisham was voted the 'winner' and this prompted constructive dialogue with the council about its approach to maintaining and providing play infrastructure across the borough particularly in light of its recent adoption of a play strategy (developed with the support of London Play). London Play also supported residents in Southwark with a deputation to the full council where they secured a commitment to an audit of play in the borough; and also residents in Newham and Hammersmith and Fulham.

Government inquiry into children and the built environment

London Play was one of more than 100 organisations to submit evidence to this enquiry. Our submission detailed how a hostile built environment currently significantly restricts children's ability to play outside freely and move independently around their neighbourhood.

London Mayoral election – Five Ways to a More Playful London

London Play produced a manifesto for play ahead of the London Mayoral elections calling on the next Mayor to commit to making London the best city in the world to grow up in. It outlined five ways that the mayor has it in his power to improve play, children's access to play and include their views.

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL FACTORS

The environment that London Play and other charities across the country are operating in continued to be challenging during 2023/24. Political uncertainty was a feature of the year as both local and general elections loomed and decisions on spending were put on hold by the Mayor of London and other public bodies.

With some 30 of London's 32 boroughs reportedly using reserves to balance the books and half of all England's local authorities threatened with bankruptcy, councils are increasingly delivering skeleton-only statutory services. Play is not a statutory duty for public authorities to provide and it is no surprise that our own research supports various reports showing that neglect and decline are afflicting playgrounds and play services across London and beyond. Combined with the ongoing cost of living crisis, demand for our services and advocacy has grown, while we also face increased challenges in securing funds to support our work.

London Play's funding derives predominantly from grant bodies and local authority contracts. As above, local authority finances are under unprecedented strain which has inevitably driven up competition for grant funding. Feedback we have received from multiple funders attests to a huge rise in applications they are receiving. London Play is expending significant resources on developing and submitting funding applications with a lower rate of success than we have achieved previously.

An increased focus from funders on prioritising equity-led organisations (those led by and for marginalised communities) has also proved challenging for London Play – as a second-tier organisation somewhat removed from our ultimate beneficiaries (marginalised children and their families). However, our new three-year strategic plan includes the goal of increasing opportunities for our beneficiaries to influence our governance and direction by 'diversifying and reinvigorating' our leadership and 'centring children's voices'. The first year working to this strategy has seen a successful drive to recruit new trustees bringing additional skills, lived experience and diversity to the board including representation from adventure playworkers on the front line with children. We have also revamped our board meetings to include networking and peer support sessions for adventure playworkers to inform our work. These are staged at different adventure playgrounds where children are also invited to have an input.

Another strand of our strategic plan has focused on building new partnerships and identifying opportunities for collaboration. Among the organisations that we have developed new connections with include Young V&A, Hackney Museum, Barbican, The Royal Parks, Playwork Foundation, The Building Centre, Northeastern University (Boston, US), Bookizcon (Korea) and others.

Despite vigorous fundraising efforts, income has declined this year and as a result the London Play staff team has suffered cuts. Paid staff hours have fluctuated, and the director took redundancy in June 2023. We continue to be optimistic that we will attract new supporters for our developing and highly fundable ideas.

London Play trustees continue to be appreciative of the adaptability, tenacity and creativity shown by the staff team in responding to ongoing challenging times.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income for the year totalled £145k (2023 £165k), which was 12% down on the year to March 2023. Costs at £160k (2023 £231k) are materially down by 31% on last year largely due to reduction in staff costs. Total reserves stand at £50k (2023 £64k) of which £17k are unrestricted. Trustees and staff are focused on increasing this over the coming year through the active pursuit of core grant funding and surpluses earned on contracted projects.

RESERVES POLICY

The Board of Trustees have reviewed the reserves policy in light of guidance from the Charity Commission.

The reserves should be adequate to cover:

- additional staff time for fundraising and development to cover periods of drops income
- statutory obligations under employment contracts

As a result of the review, The Trustees believe that the Charity should hold free reserves of between £45k to £85k.

Total unrestricted reserves at year end of £16,902 fell short of this aspiration. Reserves were depleted by expending staff time on fundraising; and making a redundancy payout in June 2023. Trustees are focused on raising further unrestricted funds during the year ahead.

FUTURE PLANS

The path ahead is undoubtedly challenging but two longer-term projects are providing stability to the organisation as we move forward in the knowledge that some of the many seeds we have planted will germinate in the coming months.

At the time of writing London Play had just secured a two-year contract with The Royal Parks to continue the success of the previous Play in the Park project. Play in the Park II will see us focusing on bringing communities living around The Regent's and Greenwich parks into the parks with engaging and replicable nature-play activities. Jelly Sports, funded by the London Marathon Foundation will continue through 2024 and 2025 – supporting residents to transform their streets or housing estates with regular playful fun.

We are optimistic that a period of relative political stability – with both the Mayor of London and the national government more politically aligned and in place for the next few years, will be positive for London Play – and play in London. The impacts of the change in national government are yet to be seen and, in any case, unlikely to be felt immediately. However, there are hopeful signs including Labour's manifesto commitment to work with charities and others to develop an "ambitious strategy to reduce child poverty" and the announcement of a new 'Youth Futures' programme to support young people's mental health and avoid them being drawn into crime.

Meanwhile the newly (re)elected Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, stated his intention in his victory speech, to 'make London the best city in the world to grow up in'. London Play is already in discussions with his team to ensure that play – and London's unique adventure playgrounds are acknowledged as intrinsic to his vision. Our 'Five Ways to a Playful London' manifesto, published ahead of the elections is the starting point for these discussions which we hope will lead to fruitful partnerships and initiatives ahead.

London Play

Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 March 2024

The UN declared a new annual International Day of Play on 11 June, and London Play took the initiative to mobilise hundreds of children, parents and playworkers in the inaugural London Parade for Play in and around Parliament Square with children taking to the podium to share their views about how politicians can act to improve their lives. This created significant interest on social media and in raising awareness about children's right and need to play. We hope to make this an annual event and opportunity for children's voices to be heard.

Support for London's adventure playgrounds will continue to be a focus. We were successful in obtaining funding from the Barbara Ward Children's Foundation for our popular Go Kart Build and Race event which prioritises teams from adventure playgrounds. The London Adventure Play Awards will be held at a new location in October 2024. We are seeking new funding to support this annual highly valued and popular event. We are also awaiting the outcome of funding applications to launch a support network for London adventure playgrounds.

Our hope is also to continue developing support for community play campaigners that we have started via our successful Trust for London project, and we will be applying for further funding enabling us to build on the successes so far. We are also in talks with a number of councils interested in developing policies and action plans in relations to play provision in their localities.

We will continue to support residents and councils to transform streets with play. City Hall and TfL have indicated that Car Free Day and support for different ways of using streets including play streets will continue to be a priority for Sadiq Khan's administration. Additionally, our new 'Playful High Streets' initiative invites commissions from local authorities, business improvement districts, consultancies and others to temporarily transform high streets or other public spaces to showcase their playful potential. At the time of writing, commissions have been secured from The Project Centre, The Barbican, Whitecross Street Party, Hammersmith and Fulham Council and others are in the pipeline.

As well as raising our profile with new audiences, the Playful High Streets initiative is also generating unrestricted income, contributing to our aspiration of diversifying our sources of funding, which is a priority over the coming year. Along with fostering collaboration and continuing to promote the value of play to as wide and influential an audience as possible, we are confident that we can navigate the challenges ahead and continue to act as a beacon and support for the London play ecosystem, and for the benefit of all London's children.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Appointment of Trustees

The charity is governed by a Board of Trustees which is elected from the membership at the Annual General Meeting; additional trustees can be co-opted by the Board during the year and formally appointed at the following AGM. On appointment new trustees are sent an induction pack and are offered induction opportunities with staff and trustees; as well as being offered training opportunities as they arise during the year.

Two trustees resigned in December 2023, three new trustees were co-opted in June 2024.

Trustees met approximately every six to eight weeks to make strategic, policy, and financial decisions on the basis of reports submitted by the director. These meetings alternate online and in person.

Organisational structure

Since 1 April 2005, London Play has been operating as an incorporated charity (Charity No.1104731, Company No.4055882), following a transfer from the old charity (No. 1075508) under its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Throughout the year operational management has been the responsibility of the Senior Management Team - Paul Hocker and Fiona Sutherland – and since July 2023, Fiona alone – under the direction of trustees. Staff have the opportunity to discuss their work with their line manager through a system of regular supervision.

Statement of responsibilities of the Trustees

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Independent examiner

Mary Ryan of Ark Accountancy was re-appointed as the charity's independent examiner during the year and has expressed her willingness to continue in that capacity.

The Trustees' annual report has been approved by Trustees on
by

2024 and signed on their behalf

Melian Mansfield

Chair

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Mary Ryan
Ark Accountancy Ltd
Chartered Certified Accountant
31 Cheam Road
Ewell
Epsom
Surrey KT17 1QX

Date:

London Play

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 March 2024

		2024			2023		
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	Note	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:							
Donations and Legacies	2	14,468	-	14,468	6,563	-	6,563
Charitable activities	3	39,880	-	39,880	88,940	-	88,940
Other trading activities	4	7,520	-	7,520	964	-	964
Investments	5	855	-	855	456	-	456
Other	6	-	82,590	82,590	-	68,738	68,738
Total income		62,723	82,590	145,313	96,923	68,738	165,661
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds		39,944	-	39,944	34,031	-	34,031
Charitable activities		63,729	56,583	120,312	107,639	89,672	197,311
Other		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure	7	103,673	56,583	160,256	141,670	89,672	231,342
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		(40,950)	26,007	(14,943)	(44,747)	(20,934)	(65,681)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	17	(40,950)	26,007	(14,943)	(44,747)	(20,934)	(65,681)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		57,852	6,846	64,698	102,599	27,780	130,379
Total funds carried forward		16,902	32,853	49,755	57,852	6,846	64,698

All income and expenditure have arisen from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.

London Play

Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2024

	Note	£	2024 £	£	2023 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	11		-	-	-
			-	-	-
Current assets:					
Debtors	13	9,403		25,617	
Cash at bank and in hand		53,597		54,685	
		63,000		80,302	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(13,245)		(15,604)	
Net current assets / (liabilities)			49,755		64,698
Total assets less current liabilities			49,755		64,698
Total net assets / (liabilities)	15		49,755		64,698
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted income funds			32,853		6,846
Unrestricted income funds:					
Designated funds		-		-	
General funds		16,902		57,852	
Total unrestricted funds			16,902		57,852
Total charity funds	17		49,755		64,698

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to charitable small companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on
by:

2024 and were signed on their behalf

M B Mansfield, Chair

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':

- the requirement of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows
- the requirement of Section 33 Related Party Disclosure paragraph 33.7.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer equipment: 33% on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs

The charity makes payments under defined contribution pension schemes. Contributions payable are charged to the Statement of Financial Activity in the period to which they relate.

London Play

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

2. Income from donations and legacies

	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations	14,468	-	14,468	6,563	-	6,563
	14,468	-	14,468	6,563	-	6,563

3. Income from charitable activities

	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grants	-	-	-	23,600	-	23,600
Contracts	39,880	-	39,880	65,340	-	65,340
Activity charges	-	-	-	-	-	-
	39,880	-	39,880	89,940	-	88,940

4. Income from other trading activities

	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Advertising	970	-	970	892	-	892
Sponsorship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Consultancy	6,538	-	6,538	-	-	-
Merchandise	12	-	12	72	-	72
	7,520	-	7,520	964	-	964

5. Income from investments

	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Interest earned on deposits	855	-	855	456	-	456
	855	-	855	456	-	456

6. Other Income

	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grants for core activities	-	85,590	82,590	-	68,738	68,738
	-	82,590	82,590	-	68,738	63,738

London Play

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

7. Expense Analysis

	2024					2023			
	Raising Funds	Charitable Activities	Governance & Support	Total		Raising Funds	Charitable Activities	Governance & Support	Total
	£	£	£	£		£	£		£
Salaries	31,273	67,784	14,200	113,257		28,527	126,323	21,354	176,204
Other personnel costs	-	-	-	-		-	530	132	662
Contractors	-	14,644	6,344	20,988		-	19,248	-	19,248
Evaluation	-	2,100	-	2,100		-	-	-	-
Materials and Equipment	-	6,564	17	6,581		-	9,042	(6)	9,036
Venue Hire	-	1,889	-	1,889		-	2,025	390	2,415
Catering and Travel Costs	-	1,360	253	1,613		-	4,649	-	4,649
Printing and Publicity	-	201	146	347		-	99	-	99
Accommodation costs	784	1,712	-	2,496		395	1,807	294	2,496
IT and Communications	-	-	3,704	3,704		-	1,683	3,631	5,314
Office costs	-	302	3,698	4,000		240	454	3,430	4,124
Travel and Meetings	-	-	581	581		-	-	519	519
Accounting and IE	-	-	2,100	2,100		-	-	2,100	2,100
Other professional fees	-	-	540	540		-	2,500	1,105	3,605
Finance costs	-	-	60	60		-	-	150	150
	32,057	96,556	31,643	160,256		29,162	169,081	33,099	231,342
Support and Governance	7,887	23,756	(31,643)	-		4,869	28,230	(33,099)	-
Total Expenditure	39,944	120,312	-	160,256		34,031	197,311	-	231,342

8. Net expenditure for the year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trustee expenses	-	-
Operating lease rentals:		
Property	2,496	2,496
Other	-	-
Depreciation	-	-
Independent examiner's remuneration (excluding VAT)	1,100	1,100

9. Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

	2024	2023
	£	£
Salaries and wages	104,840	156,591
Social security costs	3,439	12,090
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	4,978	7,523
Total	113,257	176,204

No employee earned more than £60,000 during the year (2023: nil).

The total employee benefits (including pension contributions and employer's national insurance) of the key management personnel were £113,257 (2023: £176,204).

No charity trustee was paid for employment with the charity in the year (2023: £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2023: £nil).

No reimbursement was made to any trustee (2023: £nil) for travel and other expenses in the year.

London Play

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

10. Staff numbers

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the year was as follows:

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
Charitable activities	3	4
Support	-	1
Total	3	5

11. Tangible fixed assets

Fixed assets were fully depreciated.

12. Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	9,222	25,582
Other debtors	181	35
	9,403	25,617

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	7,099	6,620
Taxation and social security	1,966	6,451
Other creditors	2,080	202
Accruals	2,100	2,331
	13,245	15,604

14. Analysis of net assets between funds – this year

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total funds
	£	£	£
Debtors	9,403	-	9,403
Cash at bank and in hand	20,744	32,853	53,597
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	(13,245)	-	(13,245)
Net assets at the end of the year	16,902	32,853	49,755

London Play

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

15. Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total funds £
Debtors	25,617	-	25,617
Cash at bank and in hand	47,839	6,846	54,685
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	(15,604)	-	(15,604)
Net assets at the end of the year	57,852	6,846	64,698

16. Movements in funds

	At the start of the year £	Incoming resources & gains £	Outgoing resources & losses £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:					
Communities Unite for Play	6,846	49,500	(41,170)	-	15,176
Adventure Play for the Community	-	9,840	(11,488)	1,648	-
Jelly Sports	-	23,250	(5,573)	-	17,677
Total restricted funds	6,846	82,590	(58,231)	1,648	32,853
Total unrestricted funds	57,852	62,724	(102,026)	(1,648)	16,902
Total funds	64,698	145,314	(160,257)	-	49,755

Purposes of restricted funds:

- **Communities United for Play** - this is the final year of a 2 year project to support local people to campaign for better play provision in their areas.
- **Adventure Play for the Community** – this project aims to capture the value of Lonon’s adventure playgrounds to their communities.
- **Jelly Sports** - A 2 year project to transform the space on people’s doorsteps, on their streets or estates, into hyper-local opportunities to have fun and get active for the whole family.

London Play

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

17. Movements in funds – prior year

	At the start of the year £	Incoming resources & gains £	Outgoing resources & losses £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:					
Communities United for Play	-	22,000	(15,154)	-	6,846
Play Works II	2,671	-	(2,671)	-	-
Playful Communities	16,209	46,738	(61,479)	-	-
Days Out In Nature	9,900	-	(9,900)	-	-
Total Restricted Funds	27,780	68,739	(89,672)	-	6,846
Total Unrestricted Funds	102,599	96,923	(141,730)	-	57,852
Total Funds	130,379	165,661	(231,342)	-	64,698

LONDON PLAY

England & Wales - Charity number 1104731

Accounts



London Play

Charity number: 1104731

Registered company number: 04055882 (England and Wales)

Report and financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

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London Play

Reference and administrative information

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Charity number 1104731

Company number 4055882

Registered office International House
64 Nile Street
London N1 7SR

Trustees Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Keith Cranwell
Hal Davidson
Nicholas Hall
Shalena Haughton-Peters
Melian Mansfield Chair
Caroline Needham
Colin Simmons
Barry Walden Vice chair
Rafael Portillo (appointed March 2023)
Sara Martins (appointed March 2023)

Key management personnel Paul Hocker Director (left July 2023)
Fiona Sutherland Deputy Director

Bankers CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner Mary E Ryan FCCA DCha
t/a Ark Accountancy
31 Cheam Road
Ewell
Epsom
Surrey
KT17 1QX

The trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Charitable objects as stated in the Articles of Association dated 10 June 2017 are:

To enhance the development and education of children in the Greater London area by developing and supporting the provision of children's play; primarily by:

- improving the quality, diversity and accessibility of provision and opportunities for play in London;
- securing greater recognition of the fundamental importance of play in the growth and development of London's children; and
- promoting co-operation and co-ordination between play providers and play specialists in London and developing a network of local co-ordination and support agencies for play in every London borough.

London Play exists to ensure that all children have access to high quality, accessible play opportunities in London - whether in supervised settings or in the wider public realm. Through its activities it aims both to protect and improve existing play provision; and increase the amount of provision.

Significant activities

The charity's main objectives for the year were to:

- a. Improve multi-agency partnership working across statutory, voluntary, community and private sectors to increase children's access to play and physical activity.
- b. Increase the ability of play providers to influence strategic plans and local and national policy for children's play
- c. Increase in the sharing of information/knowledge amongst the sector, support with funding advice and promotion of best practice.
- d. Actively promote equality for disadvantaged groups through the service delivery

London Play continues to support and work with a broad range of individuals and organisations who are interested in promoting, facilitating, and providing play opportunities for children in London. In addition to working with professional play workers and service managers, the charity collaborates with and supports parents, teachers, residents, community and 'Friends' groups and other 'lay people' and volunteers to promote the benefits of play and support them to improve and expand play opportunities for children in their communities.

Details of significant activities

The 2022-23 year was a busy one for London Play. Significant activities over the year included:

- The completion, after more than four years, of our Lottery-funded **Playful Communities** project which saw the activation of new play streets in 12 London boroughs, thousands of hours of children's play and whose legacy includes the dedicated London Play Streets website.
- The publication of a new five-year play strategy for **Lewisham Council**.
- The launch of **Communities Unite for Play**, a two-year project aimed at supporting local people to influence local decisions about play provision in their areas, funded by Trust for London.
- A series of forest adventure experiences for children from adventure playgrounds and special needs groups.

London Play

Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 March 2023

- A commission from **Tower Hamlets council** to support the development of play streets and estates in the borough.
- The conclusion of the **Play in the Park** programme in partnership with The Royal Parks, reconnecting residents near Greenwich and Regents Parks, via engaging play opportunities.

Public benefit

The trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

Public benefits ultimately arising from London Play's activity include more active, healthy, happy children; better connected, more friendly, safe and cohesive communities; more skilled and empowered professional play workers, laypeople and volunteers; cleaner street environments and reduced antisocial behaviour. Additionally, free-to-access adventure playgrounds in some of London's least affluent neighbourhoods offer local parents a real alternative to paid childcare and free them up to pursue work or training opportunities to improve their life chances; and those of their children too.

All the benefits derived from the activities and achievements of London Play are ultimately to the benefit of all London's children. Benefits are focused on children in London only, but are not restricted in terms of charitable need, personal characteristics, access to facilities, membership, trustees' discretion, or ability to pay. No detriment or harm has arisen from carrying out the charity's activities.

Volunteers

All trustees give their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 8 to the accounts.

Much of London Play's work involves supporting the efforts of volunteers to provide, improve or promote more and better play opportunities where they live or work.

Play streets initiated during 2022-23 involved volunteers facilitating street play activity for children living in their neighbourhoods. Over the year London Play supported around 20 play streets involving approximately 100 volunteers (five per street) on one or more days (200 volunteer days).

Our board of ten trustees are volunteers who attend trustee meetings every six weeks and London Play events as well as carrying out significant amounts of work to support the organisation at other times. (At least 60 volunteer days this year).

Play campaigns: approximately 12 volunteer campaigners were part of London Play's Communities Unite for Play project over this period. (minimum 24 volunteer days)

Total volunteer days across all London Play projects: 280+

Members and supporters

Membership of London Play is stable at around 50 and the number of supporters continues to grow.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

London Play worked on three major grant-funded projects during the year.

Between April 2022 and March 2023 London Play directly generated more than 5,000 play opportunities for London's children and thousands more indirectly through its activities. Key activities and achievements by the organisation during the period are outlined below.

GRANT-FUNDED PROJECTS

Communities Unite for Play (Trust for London)

November 2022 – October 2024

London Play was pleased to receive funding from Trust for London to launch a two-year initiative supporting local people to campaign for better play provision in their areas. Public playgrounds are the number one place for children to play outside school and home, but this is the first time that London Play has had the capacity to work with resident volunteers to directly address inadequate provision. By March 2023 the project was off to a strong start with a campaign to find 'London's Saddest Playground' attracting both wide publicity and a cohort of would-be play activists to work alongside in the first year of the initiative. A research element to the project has also enabled London Play to gain a better picture of the state of play provision across the capital; and an online toolbox for future campaigners is being developed.

Play opportunities generated: none yet but potentially hundreds if play facilities are improved or simply better used.

Playful Communities (The National Lottery Community Fund)

September 2018 – October 2022

This four-year project spanned a period when it literally became illegal for children to play with their friends. The final year (Nov 2021 to Oct 2022) took the focus of support to the boroughs of Hammersmith and Fulham, Islington, Lewisham and Tower Hamlets. At a time when the tail end of the pandemic was still being felt the return to play on the street was slow. A lack of confidence prevented council and residents from making plans for public gatherings; controversy over the introduction of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods polarised opinions around the use of street space; and capacity within councils to support and process play street applications was also found to have declined. Nevertheless, in the final year of the project more than 1,250 children and young people attended play streets and two Play Starter 'apprentices' were recruited to support work in the Y4 boroughs.

Estimated number of play opportunities generated: approx. 1,250

Days Out in Nature (Awards for All/Lottery)

April – Dec 2022

This project saw London Play bringing children from London adventure playgrounds and special needs groups to a forested sanctuary in the wilds of Surrey to forage, make art and cook pizzas in an outdoor oven. Feedback from the sessions suggests that these experiences had a significant positive impact on the wellbeing of children that have few opportunities of this nature.

Play opportunities created: approx. 120 (average 30 children on each of four trips)

CONTRACTS & COMMISSIONS

In addition to grant funded work London Play undertook a number of contracts to support play in parks, on streets, in elderly care facilities and across an entire borough.

Play on Streets and Estates in Tower Hamlets

September 2022 – August 2024

Following on from the end of the Playful Communities initiative, London Play was commissioned by Tower Hamlets Council to inspire and support residents to start and run regular play sessions on streets and estates in the borough. Although working in a difficult political climate, dominated by significant controversy over low traffic neighbourhoods, a number of playful interventions had taken place on people's doorsteps by March 2023 and future sessions were in the planning.

Play opportunities to March: approx 200

Royal Parks Outreach Project

**February 2019 – October 2022
Continuation to March 2023**

London Play concluded its work with **The Royal Parks** on a three-year programme funded by the **London Marathon Trust** in October 2022 and then continued activities into the spring of 2023. London Play's role was to engage children, young people and families who live in the vicinity of newly built playgrounds in Greenwich Park and The Regent's Park, via schools and through public events, ensure that they benefit fully from these new, state of the art public play areas. Over nearly four years (with a gap in the middle during Covid when things went online for a period), more than 6,500 people attended events and play sessions in the parks, 3,800 of whom were children. The Royal Parks and London Play continue to work together where possible to promote and support more and better play opportunities in some of London's most iconic parks.

Play opportunities: approx. 1,890 children and 1,577 adults attended events in the final year of the project.

Lewisham Play Strategy

Published October 2022

London Play was commissioned by Lewisham Council in early 2022 to develop a five year Play Strategy, which was agreed and published in October 2023. The work included a comprehensive audit of existing play spaces and services; a wide-ranging consultation and the development of a vision for the borough covering 2022-27 which is hoped to ensure that play remains a priority across council departments and is factored into all future strategic decisions. A working group is seeing the action plan through, and London Play is now promoting this opportunity to other boroughs that are interested in improving life for resident children and families.

Play opportunities: 1,000 children took part in the consultation

Ultimately all children in Lewisham aged 15 and under (approx. 62,000) will enjoy the benefits of a council with a clear commitment to play.

Hallmark Play Garden

The Hallmark Foundation commissioned London Play to develop a pilot intergenerational 'play garden' where residents who have younger visitors can enjoy their company outdoors in a playful space drawing inspiration from the play memories of the older generations and the input of local young people. The new care home whose grounds the play garden has been subject to some delays but will be opening imminently.

Play opportunities: 40 children contributed to the consultation

Once the play garden is open 100s of children and older people will connect through play.

PUBLICATIONS

London Playwire e-newsletter

The quarterly London Play*wire* e-newsletter continued to bring news and practical information of interest to anyone who facilitates play – including professional playworkers, teachers, community groups, parents and carers. Sent to around 1,350 subscribers (over 3,500 readers).

EVENTS

Adventure Play Awards: October 2022

Islington's Waterside Adventure Playground was named London's Adventure Playground of the Year for 2022. The Bright Idea Award was won by Haringey's Somerford Grove Adventure Playground while Best Flick went to Marble Hill Adventure Playground in Richmond. Around 200 children attended the awards celebration at the Prince Charles Cinema in London's West End. As well as promoting children's pride in their playgrounds this event also comes with the opportunity to promote adventure play to the wider public with local press covering winning groups.

Play opportunities: 200 children attended the event (many more involved at playgrounds taking part)

OTHER

Advice, support and guidance

London Play continued to offer advice, support and guidance freely via phone, email and in person in response to demand. Interest in play streets was lower than in previous years due to the tail end of the pandemic, but London Play continued supporting residents and councils across London on their (sometimes quite lengthy) journey to get children playing out in the streets where they live. Support provided included advice and guidance on legislation and practicalities, attending public meetings to talk about the benefits of play streets, promotion and linking groups with one another.

Social media

London Play continued to build its social media presence during the year. Our Facebook following is approximately 36,000; Twitter followers numbered 4,265 at the end of March and 1,360 on Instagram.

POLICY AND CAMPAIGNING

London's Saddest Playground

Part of the Communities Unite for Play project, this was a campaign to raise awareness about substandard play facilities across the capital. The quest to find 'London's Saddest Playground' captured imaginations and generated extensive press coverage and social media action. BBC London Radio interviewed the child who had nominated the winning sad playground with his mum.

London Play Design

London Play Design has shifted its focus away from building new playgrounds, to the repair and restoration of London's existing adventure playgrounds so they can continue to serve their communities and the low-income families that rely on them. In particular they are focused on harnessing low cost labour to carry out this work through corporate volunteer days and Community Payback schemes.

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL FACTORS

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic was still reverberating in spring of 2022 and impacted on people's confidence and willingness to gather, plan ahead; as well as on capacity in public bodies. London Play was successful in adapting and attracting short term emergency funding to meet the needs of children and families arising during the peak of the pandemic; while also continuing work on adapted versions of longer-term initiatives. However, in 2022 emerging from the pandemic and with the end of two multi-year projects (Playful Communities and Royal Parks outreach project) the challenge has been to find new funding to support a plethora of new ideas for improving play in London that the team generates. As funders reopened their 'usual' funding programmes, competition for funds was fierce and a significant amount of staff time has been spent developing proposals and identifying funders to target. We continue to be optimistic that we will attract new supporters for our developing and highly fundable ideas.

Meanwhile the need for our services and our campaign influence has only grown. Ongoing cuts to local authority budgets and the cost-of-living crisis have hit London families particularly hard. Our survey of public play provision at the beginning of 2023 demonstrated a lack of funding for play, in particular revenue funding for staff and maintenance, subjecting them to an epidemic of neglect. Additionally, our survey of London adventure playgrounds confirmed that sadly six have closed permanently since the outset of the pandemic. Many of the 72 remaining are struggling for funds and facing shortages of skilled workers, high repair bills and other challenges. The public discourse around limits on traffic and road space has also become increasingly toxic and play streets are seen by some as a threat. Meanwhile, children in London continue to suffer the impact of the pandemic on their health. Levels of childhood obesity in London took an unprecedented leap during the pandemic and inactivity levels in the capital, already high, have failed to return to pre-pandemic levels.

The staff team of four (three part time) operated at a somewhat reduced capacity during the year due to the illness of one member of staff necessitating a reduction in working hours. London Play trustees continue to be appreciative of the adaptability, tenacity and creativity shown by the staff team in responding to ongoing challenging times.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

This year's income, totalling £165k, primarily consists of a £47k grant from the Big Lottery for the Playful Communities project and £65k in contract income from The Royal Parks and London Borough of Lewisham. Notably, project expenditure has decreased following the successful completion of major initiatives like Playful Communities and Days Out In Nature. Fundraising expenditure has increased in line with intensified efforts to secure funding for future projects in alignment with our future plans.

Our ongoing longer-term projects include the Lewisham Play Strategy, Hallmark Play Garden, Tower Hamlets Play Streets and Estates, and Communities United for Play. We currently hold unrestricted reserves of £57k, ensuring that London Play can operate as a going concern through 2024.

RESERVES POLICY

The Board of Trustees have reviewed the reserves policy in light of guidance from the Charity Commission. The reserves should be adequate to cover:

- additional staff time for fundraising and development to cover periods of drops income
- statutory obligations under employment contracts

As a result of the review, The Trustees believe that the Charity should hold free reserves of between £45k to £85k. Total reserves at year end of £57k are sufficient to meet that target.

GRANTS FOR CORE FUNDING

In January London Play trustees were grateful to receive a core funding grant from Garfield Weston for the second year running. This gave the organisation the additional capacity needed to support vital ongoing work on development and fundraising.

FUTURE PLANS

In 2023 London Play marks its 25th birthday, a milestone shared with the tech-behemoth, Google! While so much has changed over the last quarter of a century, London Play remains true to its original vision, that every child in the capital must have the space, time and freedom to play. We also remain largely a 'second tier' organisation, working to support those on the front line to provide children with play opportunities, by increasing their capacity and promoting the value of their work, as well as play more widely.

Whereas 25 years ago that front line meant mainly the formal (often paid) play workforce; this has broadened over the intervening years to include any individual, group or organisation concerned with ensuring children can exercise their right to play in the capital. This includes parents and carers, community and resident groups, grandparents, schools, council officers and elected members and anyone else who lives, works or has children in their lives. So, we head into our 26th year full of ideas to support any and all of these groups. Our new three-year strategy contains plans to diversify the range of voices driving and informing our priorities – including children as well as adults on that front line who are promoting and providing play in areas of greatest need.

The second year of our Communities Unite for Play initiative, funded by Trust for London, will continue to support parents, carers and others striving to influence decision-makers to prioritise and invest in local playgrounds and services where they live. The tools and resources being developed to support their campaigns will be launched online in the coming year, to be freely available for use by other groups campaigning for better play in their areas.

Adventure playgrounds continue to be a priority focus for London Play. Our 2023 survey of the capital's staffed playgrounds provided fresh evidence of both the challenges they face as well as the strength of appetite for more opportunities to come together, support and learn from each other to help face down those challenges. We are actively seeking funding to develop a London network that will provide these opportunities and improve morale and resilience within these much needed and much-loved organisations.

October 2023 will see the London Adventure Play Awards taking place again. This time funding from the Lottery's Awards for All programme will allow us to follow up the winning playgrounds and build the case for the crucial role adventure playgrounds play in their wider community. We are also pleased to have secured funding from the Barbara Ward Children's Foundation which will allow us to continue our hugely popular Go Kart Build and Race events for the next three years. These much-anticipated events provide adventure playground groups with the opportunity to meet and play together, for playworkers and children to develop and test their building skills and a chance for London Play to promote the value of play and adventure playgrounds to the general public.

Following the launch of Lewisham's five-year play strategy we are in active discussions with other councils to support their aspirations to make their boroughs great places for children to play and grow up in. Places that work for children and families work for everyone. They are playful, vibrant, accessible and diverse – attractive for all to live and work in. The opposite is also true, so even as the cost-of-living crisis drives families out of some central boroughs, it is in councils' best interests to try to reverse this trend.

London Play

Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 March 2023

We continue to do all we can to ensure that streets become seen as places for the community to meet and play. In London, the debate around traffic and roads has at times become quite toxic, but we remain convinced that most Londoners want their streets to be places for people, and not given over entirely to cars. Thanks to support from City Hall, in September 2023 our campaign to encourage people to 'Swap your Car for a Spacehopper' and try out a play street for Car Free Day was revived with purpose for the first time since the pandemic and we hope will grow further in 2024.

We are also pleased to have funding confirmed from the London Marathon Trust for a two-year project commencing in January 2024, to promote and support street-based fun, straddling the line between sport and play. As 2023 comes to a close we are supporting Newham council to develop a play street process and policy which is embedded and embraced across the authority and makes it easier for both residents and council officers to implement regular play street sessions. Next year will also see our work continue in Tower Hamlets, focusing on playful housing estates.

We are hoping to develop our relationships with corporate organisations who appreciate the value of play and want to give back by supporting this. Such companies understand that free play not only supports happy healthy childhoods, and vibrant cohesive neighbourhoods; but that those children are more likely to become creative, resilient, adaptable and collaborative adults whose talents are so sorely needed in this era of rapid change and innovation.

2024 is also election year and London Play will be working, in partnership with our allies, to ensure that children's right to play is on high on the agenda of those hoping to win your vote.

As ever, and reflecting the adaptable ethos that pervades promoters of play everywhere, we are committed to continuing to generate innovative and workable ways of supporting children and the facilitators and gatekeepers of their play experiences in London. We will continue to strive to be a hub for London's play community in all its many guises and diversity – for the future of the capital's most precious resource, its children.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Appointment of Trustees

The charity is governed by a Board of Trustees which is elected from the membership at the Annual General Meeting; additional trustees can be co-opted by the Board during the year and formally appointed at the following AGM. On appointment new trustees are sent an induction pack and are offered induction opportunities with staff and trustees; as well as being offered training opportunities as they arise during the year.

Two new trustees were appointed during the year and none resigned.

Trustees met approximately every six to eight weeks to make strategic, policy, and financial decisions on the basis of reports submitted by the Senior Management Team. These meetings alternate online and in person.

Organisational structure

Since 1 April 2005, London Play has been operating as an incorporated charity (Charity No.1104731, Company No.4055882), following a transfer from the old charity (No. 1075508) under its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Throughout the year operational management has been the responsibility of the Senior Management Team - Paul Hocker, Director, and Fiona Sutherland, Deputy Director - under the direction of trustees. Staff have the opportunity to discuss their work with their line manager through a system of regular supervision.

Statement of responsibilities of the Trustees

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Independent examiner

Mary Ryan of Ark Accountancy was re-appointed as the charity's independent examiner during the year and has expressed her willingness to continue in that capacity.

The Trustees' annual report has been approved by Trustees on 6th December 2023 and signed on their behalf by

Melian Mansfield

Chair

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Mary Ryan t/a Ark Accountancy
Chartered Certified Accountant
31 Cheam Road
Ewell
Epsom
Surrey KT17 1QX

Date:

London Play

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 March 2023

		2023			2022		
	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Income from:							
Donations and Legacies	2	6,563	-	6,563	10,600	5,175	15,775
Charitable activities	3	88,940	-	88,940	128,724	73,265	201,989
Other trading activities	4	964	-	964	10,649	-	10,649
Investments	5	456	-	456	20	-	20
Other	6	-	68,738	68,738	-	-	-
Total income		96,923	68,738	165,661	149,993	78,440	228,433
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds		34,031	-	34,031	269	-	269
Charitable activities		107,639	89,672	197,311	87,497	155,749	243,246
Other		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure	7	141,670	89,672	231,342	87,766	155,749	243,515
Net income/(expenditure) before net gains/(losses) on investments		(44,747)	(20,934)	(65,681)	62,227	(77,309)	(15,082)
Net gains/(losses) on investments		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		(44,747)	(20,934)	(65,681)	62,227	(77,309)	(15,082)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	17	(44,747)	(20,934)	(65,681)	62,227	(77,309)	(15,082)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		102,599	27,780	130,379	40,372	105,089	145,461
Total funds carried forward		57,852	6,846	64,698	102,599	27,780	130,379

All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.

London Play

Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2023

	Note	£	2023 £	£	2022 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	11		-		-
			-		-
Current assets:					
Debtors	13	25,617		30,082	
Cash at bank and in hand		54,685		109,987	
		80,302		140,069	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(15,604)		(9,690)	
Net current assets / (liabilities)			64,698		130,379
Total assets less current liabilities			64,698		130,379
Total net assets / (liabilities)	15		64,698		130,379
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted income funds			6,846		4,436
Unrestricted income funds:					
Designated funds		-		-	
General funds		57,852		102,599	
Total unrestricted funds			57,852		102,599
Total charity funds	17		64,698		130,379

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to charitable small companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 6th December 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

M B Mansfield, Chair

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':

- the requirement of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows
- the requirement of Section 33 Related Party Disclosure paragraph 33.7.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer equipment: 33% on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs

The charity makes payments under defined contribution pension schemes. Contributions payable are charged to the Statement of Financial Activity in the period to which they relate.

London Play

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

2. Income from donations and legacies

	2023			2022		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations	6,563	-	6,563	10,600	5,175	15,775
	6,563	-	6,563	10,600	5,175	15,775

3. Income from charitable activities

	2023			2022		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grants	23,600	-	23,600	20,000	73,265	93,265
Contracts	65,340	-	65,340	106,349	-	106,349
Activity charges	-	-	-	-	2,375	-
	88,940	-	88,940	128,724	73,265	201,989

4. Income from other trading activities

	2023			2022		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Advertising	892	-	892	960	-	960
Sponsorship	-	-	-	5,865	-	5,865
Consultancy	-	-	-	1,173	-	1,173
Merchandise	72	-	72	2,651	-	2,261
	964	-	964	10,649	-	10,649

5. Income from investments

	2023			2022		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Interest earned on deposits	456	-	456	20	-	20
	456	-	456	20	-	20

6. Other Income

	2023			2022		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grants for core activities	-	68,738	68,738	-	-	-
	-	68,738	68,738	-	-	-

London Play

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

7. Expense Analysis

	2023					2022			
	Raising Funds	Charitable Activities	Governance & Support	Total		Raising Funds	Charitable Activities	Governance & Support	Total
	£	£	£	£		£	£		£
Salaries	28,527	126,323	21,354	176,204		-	145,242	2,440	147,682
Other personnel costs	-	530	132	662		-	70	858	928
Contractors	-	19,248	-	19,248		-	32,735	-	32,735
Materials and Equipment	-	9,042	(6)	9,036		-	16,023	235	16,258
Venue Hire	-	2,025	390	2,415		-	3,007	-	3,007
Catering and Travel Costs	-	4,649	-	4,649		-	9,727	-	9,727
Printing and Publicity	-	99	-	99		-	12,283	-	12,283
Accommodation costs	395	1,807	294	2,496		-	2,458	-	2,458
IT and Communications	-	1,683	3,631	5,314		-	185	2,823	3,008
Office costs	240	454	3,430	4,124		246	374	3,190	3,810
Travel and Meetings	-	-	519	519		-	31	214	245
Accounting and IE	-	-	2,100	2,100		-	-	5,985	5,985
Other professional fees	-	2,500	1,105	3,605		-	-	5,252	5,252
Finance costs	-	-	150	150		-	-	137	137
	29,162	169,081	33,099	231,342		246	222,135	21,134	243,515
Support and Governance	4,869	28,230	(33,099)	-		23	21,111	(21,134)	-
Total Expenditure	34,031	197,311	-	231,342		269	243,246	0	243,515

8. Net expenditure for the year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trustee expenses	-	-
Operating lease rentals:		
Property	2,496	2,495
Other	-	-
Depreciation	-	-
Independent examiner's remuneration (excluding VAT)	1,100	1,100

9. Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

	2023	2022
	£	£
Salaries and wages	156,591	133,767
Social security costs	12,090	8,194
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	7,523	5,721
Total	176,204	147,682

No employee earned more than £60,000 during the year (2022: nil).

The total employee benefits (including pension contributions and employer's national insurance) of the key management personnel were £106,394 (2022: £83,007).

No charity trustee was paid for employment with the charity in the year (2022: £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2022: £nil).

No reimbursement was made to any trustee (2022: £nil) for travel and other expenses in the year.

London Play

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

10. Staff numbers

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the year was as follows:

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
Charitable activities	4	4
Support	1	1
Total	5	5

11. Tangible fixed assets

Fixed assets were fully depreciated.

12. Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	25,582	28,917
Other debtors	35	1,165
	25,617	30,082

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	6,620	2,611
Taxation and social security	6,451	3,454
Other creditors	202	187
Accruals	2,331	3,438
	15,604	9,690

14. Analysis of net assets between funds – this year

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total funds
	£	£	£
Debtors	25,617	-	25,617
Cash at bank and in hand	47,839	6,846	54,685
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	(15,604)	-	(15,604)
Net assets at the end of the year	57,852	6,846	64,698

London Play

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

15. Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total funds £
Debtors	30,082	-	30,082
Cash at bank and in hand	82,207	27,780	109,987
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	(9,690)	-	(9,690)
Net assets at the end of the year	102,599	27,780	130,379

16. Movements in funds

	At the start of the year £	Incoming resources & gains £	Outgoing resources & losses £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:					
Communities United for Play	-	22,000	(15,154)	-	6,846
Play Works II	2,671	-	(2,671)	-	-
Playful Communities	15,209	46,738	(61,947)	-	-
Days Out In Nature	9,900	-	(9,900)	-	-
Total restricted funds	27,780	68,738	(89,672)	-	6,846
Total unrestricted funds	102,599	96,923	(141,730)		57,852
Total funds	130,379	165,661	(231,342)	-	64,698

Purposes of restricted funds:

- **Communities United for Play** – A 2 year initiative supporting local people funded by Trust for London to campaign for better play provision in their areas.
- **Playful Communities** – an four year project to transform streets into temporary playzones
- **Days Out In Nature** – National Lottery Awards for All grant to facilitate transformational days out for young people.

London Play

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

17. Movements in funds – prior year

	At the start of the year	Incoming resources & gains	Outgoing resources & losses	Transfers	At the end of the year
	£	£	£	£	£
Camp Build	28,569	6,175	(34,744)	-	-
Community Fix it Up	4,907	-	(4,907)	-	-
Play Works II	2,671	-	-	-	2,671
Playful Communities	61,942	46,738	(93,471)	-	15,209
Play 52	-	4,800	(4,800)	-	-
Days Out In Nature	-	9,900	-	-	9,900
All Hands On Deck	-	9,930	(9,930)	-	-
Royal Parks Outreach Project	-	897	(897)	-	-
Tudor Development	7,000	-	(7,000)	-	-
Total Restricted Funds	105,089	78,440	(55,749)	-	27,780
Total Unrestricted Funds	40,372	149,993	(87,766)	-	102,599
Total Funds	145,461	377,533	(243,515)	-	130,379

18. Operating lease commitments

There were no operating leases.

LONDON PLAY

England & Wales - Charity number 1104731

Accounts



London Play

Charity number: 1104731

Registered company number: 04055882 (England and Wales)

Report and financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2022

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London Play

Reference and administrative information

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Charity number 1104731

Company number 4055882

Registered office International House
64 Nile Street
London N1 7SR

Trustees Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Keith Cranwell	
Hal Davidson	
Nicholas Hall	
Shalena Haughton-Peters	
Melian Mansfield	Chair
Caroline Needham	
Colin Simmons	
Barry Walden	Vice chair

Key management personnel	Paul Hocker	Director
	Fiona Sutherland	Deputy Director

Bankers CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner Mary E Ryan FCCA DCha
t/a Ark Accountancy
31 Cheam Road
Ewell
Epsom
Surrey
KT17 1QX

London Play

Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 March 2022

The trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Charitable objects as stated in the Articles of Association dated 10 June 2017 are:

To enhance the development and education of children in the Greater London area by developing and supporting the provision of children's play; primarily by:

- improving the quality, diversity and accessibility of provision and opportunities for play in London;
- securing greater recognition of the fundamental importance of play in the growth and development of London's children; and
- promoting co-operation and co-ordination between play providers and play specialists in London and developing a network of local co-ordination and support agencies for play in every London borough.

London Play exists to ensure that all children have access to high quality, accessible play opportunities in London - whether in supervised settings or in the wider public realm. Through its activities it aims both to protect and improve existing play provision; and increase the amount of provision.

Significant activities

The charity's main objectives for the year were to:

- a. Improve multi-agency partnership working across statutory, voluntary, community and private sectors to increase children's access to play and physical activity.
- b. Increase the ability of play providers to influence strategic plans and local and national policy for children's play
- c. Increase in the sharing of information/knowledge amongst the sector, support with funding advice and promotion of best practice.
- d. Actively promote equality for disadvantaged groups through the service delivery

London Play continues to support and work with a broad range of individuals and organisations who are interested in promoting, facilitating, and providing play opportunities for children in London. In addition to working with professional play workers and service managers, the charity collaborates with and supports parents, teachers, residents, community and 'Friends' groups and other 'lay people' and volunteers to promote the benefits of play and support them to improve and expand play opportunities for children in their communities.

Details of significant activities

Despite being in retreat as the 2021-22 year began, the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath continued to have a considerable influence on activities for the year covered in this report. London Play continued to adapt to meet the changing needs of children in London, as they emerged from more than a year spent in and out of lockdown.

Significant activities over the year included:

- Transforming central London with **Formula Fun**, a fortnight of pop up go kart build and race events for children and families staged during the summer of 2021. Commissioned by the Mayor of London

London Play

Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 March 2022

as part of the Let's Do London campaign, it was aimed at bringing people back into the capital following months of lockdowns and other restrictions imposed to manage the coronavirus pandemic.

- A commission from the Lewisham Council to produce its five-year **Play Strategy**.
- The resumption of the **Play in the Park** programme in partnership with The Royal Parks. Reconnecting local residents with Greenwich and Regents Parks, via high quality and engaging play opportunities.
- A successful finale for the **Camp Build** project which returned to Epping Forest offering three groups of marginalised children opportunities to develop skills and confidence in building and camping.
- Provision of **advice, information and guidance** for play professionals and parents, community groups, schools and others via our websites, social media channels, publications and phone or email helplines.

Public benefit

The trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

Public benefits ultimately arising from London Play's activity include more active, healthy, happy children; better connected, more friendly, safe and cohesive communities; more skilled and empowered professional play workers, laypeople and volunteers; cleaner street environments and reduced antisocial behaviour. Additionally, free-to-access adventure playgrounds in some of London's more deprived neighbourhoods offer local parents a real alternative to paid childcare and free them up to pursue work or training opportunities to improve their life chances; and those of their children too.

All the benefits derived from the activities and achievements of London Play are ultimately to the benefit of all London's children. Benefits are focused on children in London only, but are not restricted in terms of charitable need, personal characteristics, access to facilities, membership, trustees' discretion, or ability to pay. No detriment or harm has arisen from carrying out the charity's activities.

Volunteers

All trustees give their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 8 to the accounts.

In a normal year, much of London Play's work involves volunteers, increasing its reach and impact and adding value for our funders.

- Our **Play Street Carousel** project involved residents on eight streets voluntarily giving their time to contribute games and ideas and then running celebration events. We estimate 120 volunteers overall, contributing 60 volunteer days.
- Few **play streets** were initiated in the summer of 2021 but those that did involved volunteers facilitating street play activity for children living in their neighbourhoods. Over the year London Play supported approximately 20 play streets involving approximately 100 volunteers (five per street) on one or more days (180 volunteer days).

London Play

Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 March 2022

- Our board of eight trustees are volunteers who attend trustee meetings every six weeks and London Play events as well as carrying out significant amounts of work to support the organisation at other times. (At least 40 volunteer days this year).

Total volunteer days across all London Play projects: 280+

Members and supporters

Membership of London Play is stable at around 50 – they are involved in issues of governance. The number of supporters continues to grow.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

London Play worked on four major grant-funded projects during the year. Contract work was reduced significantly with Car Free Day and expected play street support commissions cancelled due to the pandemic.

Between April 2021 and March 2022 London Play directly generated more than 10,000 play opportunities for London's children and thousands more indirectly through its activities. Key activities and achievements by the organisation during the period are outlined below.

GRANT-FUNDED PROJECTS

Playful Communities/Play Street Carousel

September 2018 – October 2022

Legal restrictions on gatherings imposed due to the coronavirus pandemic were officially lifted on July 19, 2021, dubbed 'Freedom Day' by the UK government. Up until this point, outdoor gatherings had been limited to 30 people; and indoors, to six people or two households. Social distancing requirements were also lifted. This decision was subject to some controversy at the time and the summer of 2021 saw continued hesitancy when it came to organising gatherings, including play streets.

The Play Street Carousel interim project used play – memories of and future plans to resume – to generate and sustain a feeling of community between isolated neighbours on eight streets during the winter and spring of 2021. A suitcase full of art materials and audio-visual recording equipment was passed between households; inviting recipients to share their favourite games from across generations and cultures. Following the lifting of restrictions and once residents felt confident, celebration events were held in late summer and autumn on participating streets. The play street events included outdoor showings of the film that they had contributed to and playing the games they had shared during lockdown. The latter were featured in the booklet of games, also distributed at the events.

In November 2021 the mainstream project picked up for its final year, with four new boroughs of focus: Hammersmith and Fulham, Islington, Lewisham and Tower Hamlets. Two Play Starter 'apprentices' were recruited in March 2022, in advance of the spring peak of interest in play streets, to support work in the Y4 boroughs.

It is clear that impact of the pandemic on the councils, communities and streets targeted in our work has a long tail and that things are still some way from 'business as usual'. Capacity within councils to support and process play street applications has declined; staff were redeployed during the pandemic and some have not returned to their previous roles – meaning a loss of experience and knowledge. Subsequently we have been providing focused support to councils in the four target boroughs. Two years of uncertainty has also diminished

London Play

Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 March 2022

many people's confidence to plan community events; while controversy over low traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs) many imposed at short notice and with sometimes very little consultation during the height of the pandemic, has polarised opinions around use of street space and created a climate of fear in some areas. Our focus has therefore been on promoting, inspiring and raising awareness of play streets (through outreach, community events and social media campaigns) – a necessary precursor to activity happening on the street.

Estimated number of play opportunities generated: approx. 840 directly (+ many thousands indirectly through film, books, games).

Camp Build

October 2018 – September 2021

Camp Build was a three-year project funded by the Mayor of London's **Young London Inspired Fund**. Each year was to feature three 'build in the wild' weekend camps for 11–15-year-olds who like building stuff or want to learn how. Following the disruption of 2020 (when Camp Build went 'on tour' visiting children at adventure playgrounds in their bubbles); the summer of 2021 saw Camp Build return to the forest at Epping for a week-long finale for three separate groups from inner city London adventure playgrounds. They learned to use basic handheld tools and were supported to build whatever was bubbling up in their imaginations. This included a go-kart with automated flapping wings, colourful boomerangs that almost made it back, wonky candlestick holders and a dining table with giant teeth marks cut out in each corner.

Number of play opportunities: approx. 210 (36 children x 2 days, 3 activities a day).

Community Fix It

Jan 2021 – May 2021

This **Awards for All/Lottery** sponsored project finally launched in January 2021, having been delayed for nine months by the pandemic. As winter coronavirus restrictions continued to limit social contact indoors and saw adventure playgrounds indoor areas closed, this project supported play workers and children at adventure playgrounds to develop skills to maintain and add playground structures and shelters enabling play to continue in all weathers. Bethwin Adventure Playground and others created additional play spaces and renovated existing ones.

Play opportunities created: approx. 1,200 (400 children at the playgrounds, repeated additional opportunities.)

All Hands on Deck

May 2021 – Sept 2021

This project, also funded by the Lottery's **Awards for All** involved the collection of games and ideas from the inventive children who play at London's unique adventure playgrounds, to populate a set of playing cards. With the contribution of the Playing Card Makers' Charity the games collected were merged into new set of Play 52 playing cards funded by Playing Card Makers' Charity and highlighted London's heroes.

Number of children taking part: approx. 125

Play opportunities created: 52 games/pack x 3,000 decks each game played at least once = 156,000

CONTRACTS & COMMISSIONS

In a typical year, London Play undertakes a range of contracts and commissions to support play streets, play providers, policy makers and other work across the capital. As we emerged from the worst of the pandemic, 2021/22 was still far from a typical year, however the enthusiasm for a reinvigorated, reanimated public life gave new impetus to existing projects and created opportunities for new initiatives, especially in the summer of 2021.

London Play

Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Royal Parks Outreach Project

February 2019 – October 2022

London Play is working in partnership with **The Royal Parks** on this three-year programme, funded by the **London Marathon Trust**. London Play's role is to engage children, young people and families who live in the vicinity of new build playgrounds in Greenwich Park and The Regent's Park, via schools and through public events, ensure that they benefit fully from these new, state of the art public play areas. The programme has aimed to create a sense of ownership and belonging in 'destination' parks which have sometimes been perceived as for visitors only. With face-to-face activity suspended during the height of the pandemic, the project resumed fully from June 2021 with a summer and autumn programme of successful events welcoming people back to public life. The extended project will now end in October 2022 but the aim is to attract new funding and continue beyond 2023.

No of play opportunities: approx. 2,000 children attended events

Lunchtime Supervisor Training

Spring 2021

London Play's director delivered play training to lunchtime supervisors at a London primary school, developing and piloting several resources in the process. It is hoped to promote this package to more schools in future.

Play opportunities: 380 pupils now enjoy better playtimes, five days a week.

Play 52 - Tales from the Shed

Summer 2021

Following the success of our first two sets of 'playing cards that really play' classic and winter versions of Play 52, a partnership with children's theatre group, Chickenshed, led to the creation of a fourth edition aimed at younger children, which was released in the summer.

Formula Fun Fortnight – Let's Do London

Summer 2021

London Play orchestrated a series of pop up go kart build and race events across central London as part of the Mayor's Let's Do London campaign, designed to get residents and visitors back into the city after more than a year of covid-related restrictions on public life. With the support and encouragement of London Play's mobile kart crew, hundreds of children, some of whom had never before even held a screwdriver, turned piles of wood and wheels into exquisitely engineered and lavishly decorated go karts. The spectacle of children proudly and noisily parading their creations through the streets and past some of London's most iconic landmarks, brought people out to celebrate – not only their achievements but also the hope of a return to life-as-we-knew-it, pre-covid, in our great capital. A grand finale 'A La Carte' at Spitalfields Market drew crowds to cheer on the four food-themed karts supported by local eateries.

Play opportunities: 2,000+ during events (over 2,000 children and supporters took part in the 19 events). Hundreds more at playgrounds and play streets to where the go karts returned for more play.

Lewisham Play Strategy

Commenced January 2022

In January 2021, London Play was commissioned by Lewisham Council to develop its five year Play Strategy. The work included a comprehensive audit of existing play spaces and services; a wide-ranging consultation and the development of a vision for the borough covering 2022-27 which is hoped to ensure that play remains a priority across council departments and is factored into all future strategic decisions. The strategy will be officially launched in early 2023 and London Play is likely to have a role in delivering on its aims.

Play opportunities: 1,000 children took part in the consultation

Ultimately all children in Lewisham aged 15 and under (approx. 62,000) will enjoy the benefits of a council with a clear commitment to play.

Hallmark Play Garden

Commenced January 2022

London Play was commissioned by Hallmark Foundation to develop a pilot intergenerational 'play garden' where residents who have younger visitors can enjoy their company outdoors in a playful space drawing inspiration from the play memories of the older generations and the input of local young people. Now expected to open in spring 2023.

Play opportunities: 40 children contributed to the consultation

Once the play garden is open 100s of children and older people will have the opportunity to connect through play.

PUBLICATIONS

London Playwire e-newsletter

The quarterly London Playwire e-newsletter continued to bring news and practical information of interest to anyone who facilitates play – including professional playworkers, teachers, community groups, parents and carers. Sent to around 1,500 subscribers (more than 4,000 readers).

Play Street Carousel – Street Games collected during lockdown, 2021

This booklet was one of the legacies of London Play's interim play street project, adapted during the third national lockdown at the beginning of 2021. Residents on eight streets in lockdown contributed their favourite games and illustrations of them, which London Play collated in this colourful booklet. It is now included in London Play's play street kits for all new play streets.

Play opportunities: 500 copies so far distributed, conservatively 1,500 direct play opportunities

EVENTS

Go Kart events: August 2021

In lieu of the pre-pandemic-style annual Girl Kart and Go Kart events (staged at Mudchute Farm), London Play's team reprised the 2020 Together A-Kart model by taking the build and race action to the children on site at their adventure playgrounds. Eight of London's most central adventure playgrounds in the Formula Fun events season – with four more adventure playgrounds from beyond the central zone going head-to-head in the grand finale, a four-kart spectacle staged at Spitalfields Market. Thanks to the **Henry Surtees Foundation**, which announced its closure in August 2021, for supporting this event one final time.

Est direct play opportunities: 60 children from three London adventure playgrounds.

Adventure Play Awards: October 2021

Islington's Barnard Adventure Playground was named London's Adventure Playground of the Year as the hotly anticipated annual event returned to the West End after covid forced the previous year's proceedings online. Playgrounds in Merton, Lambeth and Hackney also came away with awards, which saw around 200 children coming together at a joyous celebration at the Prince Charles Cinema in London's West End. As well as promoting children's pride in their playgrounds this event also comes with the opportunity to promote adventure play to the wider public with local press covering winning groups.

Play opportunities: 250 children attended the event (many more involved at playgrounds taking part)

OTHER

Advice, support and guidance

London Play continued to offer advice, support and guidance freely via phone, email and in person in response to demand. Interest in play streets was slow in the wake of restrictions being lifted but London Play continued supporting residents and councils across London on their (sometimes quite lengthy) journey to get children playing out in the streets where they live. Support provided included advice and guidance on legislation and practicalities, attending public meetings to talk about the benefits of play streets, promotion and linking groups with one another.

Social media

London Play continued to build its social media presence during the year. Our Facebook following is approximately 37,000, maintaining London Play's status as the most-followed play organisation in the country (if not the world). Twitter followers numbered 4,176 at the end of March.

Policy and campaigning

Policy change

In June 2021, London Play, along with play street residents, pressured Croydon Council into reversing its decision to introduce a new charge for residents in the borough to apply for play streets.

Streets for play, streets for people

In August 2021, London Play contributed to the success of the Let's Do London campaign as public life returned to the capital's streets. We used this as an opportunity to highlight the benefits of play, children's right to play and the myriad benefits of play streets – including London Play director taking part in radio interviews with a combined audience of 2.5 million listeners.

Other campaigns

London Play joined 700 organisations as part of the NCB's Build Back Childhood campaign; and the #TimeToPlay campaign from the British Psychological Society.

London Play Design

London Play Design is celebrating its 5th birthday this November. The main developments over the year have been to increase the number of partnerships with corporations and facilitating maintenance work done by Community Payback (CP) through HM Probation Service. Both CP and the rising number of corporate volunteer days mean that the organisation is now in a much better position to support its main client group, London's adventure playgrounds. Anyone interested in hosting corporate volunteer days or a regular group of probationers delivering free maintenance and repairs at their site should get in touch with Luis via www.londonplaydesign.org.uk

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL FACTORS

The Covid-19 pandemic, despite being in retreat by the spring of 2021, continued to have a major impact on London Play's work. As noted in last year's report, we were grateful for the support of our longer-term funders who recognised that the projects they had agreed to fund could not be delivered as originally planned but trusted London Play to use the resources they provided to adapt and meet the challenges arising. In 2021 this continued to be the case and we are particularly grateful to the **National Lottery Communities Fund** and the

London Play

Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Mayor of London for allowing us to adapt the Playful Communities and Camp Build projects to meet the needs as we saw fit.

Many funders paused their usual programmes and launched emergency funds to address the huge needs arising directly from the pandemic. London Play was very successful in winning such emergency funding during the height of the pandemic. However, the charity is now facing a period of some uncertainty due to a delay in the relaunch of some funding streams coinciding with the end of several longer term funded projects. We continue to be optimistic that we will attract new supporters for our developing and highly fundable ideas.

Funding awarded to support core costs from the **Garfield Weston** was extremely welcome and provided additional stability to develop new ideas for future funding. We were also grateful to receive an unrestricted donation from the **Henry Surtees Foundation** as a closing gift.

The staff team downsized slightly during the year, reducing from five to four permanent members of staff. The pool of sessional staff increased during the year and London Play is pleased to have access to a range of qualified and talented individuals who can be called on for their skills when the need arises.

London Play trustees continue to be appreciative of the adaptability, tenacity and creativity shown by the staff team in responding to ongoing challenging times.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income this year at £228k is £149k lower than last year's but this is countered by a decrease in total expenditure of £103k compared to last year. Some £157k of income in the previous financial year was derived from 'emergency' funds made available by funders to meet the acute needs of children and families suffering disproportionately from the impacts of pandemic control measures. This resulted in proportionately higher costs.

This year we see higher Unrestricted income of £150k, with £106k of contracted income from the Greater London Authority, Royal Parks and Hallmark Care Homes Foundation. This flowed through to an £62k increase in Unrestricted Reserves; some of which has been designated for build and design costs on the Hallmark project. Restricted Income was £78k with associated costs at £156k. This higher cost is partly due to 2020 projects being deferred to 2021 because of pandemic restrictions. Camp Build, a major project started in 2018, was completed this year.

We have a number of longer-term projects in progress including the Lewisham Play Strategy, Hallmark Play Garden, Tower Hamlets Play Streets and Estates, and Communities United for Play. In process is a bridging contract with The Royal Parks whilst they seek to secure continuation funding.

Unrestricted reserves of £102k means that London Play can continue to operate as a going concern.

RESERVES POLICY

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the reserves policy in light of guidance from the Charity Commission. The reserves should be adequate to cover:

- additional staff time for fundraising and development to cover periods of drops in income
- statutory obligations under employment contracts

As a result of the review, The Trustees believe that the Charity should aim to hold free reserves of between £45k to £85k. Total reserves at year end of £102k are sufficient to meet that target.

FUTURE PLANS

In a time of uncertainty London Play's mission is to make sure that play is a certainty in the lives of young Londoners.

As a team of four this is a big undertaking, and we understand we can get there quicker if we work with others with a similar ethos and aim. We have long recognised that our work brings people together, so it is apt that we work in that manner too. The year ahead will see us developing a new relationship with the Royal College of Art, beginning with a collaboration towards the end of 2022. This will assign RCA MA students to three London adventure playgrounds to research their value to the community. They will speak to those in the playground and living around the playground to get their views; and also excitingly will be looking to the future and how adventure playgrounds can equip themselves to meet the needs of local children in the 21st century. These collaborations will also continue to strengthen the relationship London Play has built with the capital's amazing adventure playgrounds. In 2023 we will continue to celebrate their work through the films of the children that attend these magical play spaces and our Adventure Play Awards in Leicester Square.

A second project to begin in 2023 entitled Roads Gallery will see more RCA MA students working with play street communities to develop artwork, a giant works of art on the car-free tarmac, created in a day and filmed by drone to show the community in context within their neighbourhood, their borough and their corner of London.

London Play is also developing a working relationship with the Metropolitan Police to share ideas on how to engage with children and young people through the trust and confidence programme. This will include attending play streets and giving Londoners a chance to meet the people behind the uniform.

Our Play Gardens initiative in partnership with Hallmark Foundation, the charity arm of Hallmark Care Homes, will see the first play garden installation opened in the spring of 2023. These intergenerational play spaces will create a new kind of meeting space for young relatives and their elderly folk to meet, play, tell stories and be together. Our intention is to exhibit a play garden at the 2023 Chelsea Flower Show which we hope will lead to more play gardens in more elderly care homes where children can connect playfully with their elderly family members.

Our fruitful partnership with the Royal Parks is now in its fourth year, and the plan is to continue the work of opening up the Royal Parks to local communities that are under-represented with further funding from the London Marathon Trust in spring 2023.

We also intend to continue with our popular Back to Nature days at a private woodland available to London Play in Reading. These are transformational days out for young people that don't often have the opportunity to spend time under a canopy of trees away from traffic and concrete.

In development is a Voice for Young London initiative with 'play and say' sessions providing young people across London with a space to have their views heard on the things that matter to them. These sessions will also help London Play's trustees and staff team hear from the people we work for, about what they want London Play to focus on. We are also determined to bring the widest range of voices into London Play as possible and are working to a programme to enhance the diversity at every level at London Play.

We will continue to attract commissions from local authorities to build on the work that we delivered for Lewisham Council in creating a new five-year play strategy; and in Tower Hamlets our two-year contract to

London Play

Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 March 2022

put in place a play street culture that will thrive long into the future. Our long-term ambition to create a museum dedicated to play - the *Do-seum* -will develop in 2023 as discussions with a London council considering hosting the museum continue.

Other projects in the pipeline include the *Where We Played*, commemorating long-lost play places across London by talking to older adults – particularly those from communities who are under-represented in public spaces – that used to play there. We are also completing an application for a play and arts project that will take London children on day and residential trips into the wilds to create artwork in and with nature.

At the time of writing, we were disappointed to have come to the end of the line for now of funding for our play street work through the Lottery's Reaching Communities strand. However, we are through to the second round of selection for funding via another Lottery funding stream, the *Peoples Projects* – which will enable us to continue our work, reanimating through play some under loved spaces on estates in some of London's most deprived neighbourhoods.

We operate in a climate of highly competitive applications for funding and rejection of good, problem-solving ideas is all too common. However, we have been here before and we have prevailed. The team share the vision and have the bright ideas and tenacity to ensure London Play continues to deliver for the most important people in London – the capital's children.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Appointment of Trustees

The charity is governed by a Board of Trustees which is elected from the membership at the Annual General Meeting; additional trustees can be co-opted by the Board during the year and formally appointed at the following AGM. On appointment new trustees are sent an induction pack and are offered induction opportunities with staff and trustees; as well as being offered training opportunities as they arise during the year. Training on equality and diversity was undertaken by trustees in November 2021 as part of London Play's commitment to diversifying its leadership and recruitment of new members whose lived experience better reflects that of our beneficiaries remains a priority for the organisation.

No new trustees were appointed or resigned during the year.

Trustees met approximately every six to eight weeks to make strategic, policy, and financial decisions on the basis of reports submitted by the Senior Management Team. These meetings were all held remotely in the 2021-22 year.

Organisational structure

Since 1 April 2005, London Play has been operating as an incorporated charity (Charity No.1104731, Company No.4055882), following a transfer from the old charity (No. 1075508) under its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Throughout the year operational management has been the responsibility of the Senior Management Team - Paul Hocker, Director, and Fiona Sutherland, Deputy Director - under the direction of trustees. Staff have the opportunity to discuss their work with their line manager through a system of regular supervision.

Statement of responsibilities of the Trustees

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Independent examiner

Mary Ryan of Ark Accountancy was re-appointed as the charity's independent examiner during the year and has expressed her willingness to continue in that capacity.

The Trustees' annual report has been approved by Trustees on 13th December 2022 and signed on their behalf by



Melian Mansfield

Chair

London Play

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 March 2022

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Mary Ryan

Mary Ryan t/a Ark Accountancy
Chartered Certified Accountant
31 Cheam Road
Ewell
Epsom
Surrey KT17 1QX

Date: *1/12/22*

London Play

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 March 2022

		2022			2021		
	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Income from:							
Donations and Legacies	2	10,600	5,175	15,775	2,051	-	2,051
Charitable activities	3	128,724	73,265	201,989	24,468	302,727	327,195
Other trading activities	4	10,649	-	10,649	11,729	-	11,729
Investments	5	20	-	20	58	-	58
Other	6	-	-	-	-	36,500	36,500
Total income		149,993	78,440	228,433	38,306	339,227	377,533
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds		269	-	269	2,398	1,944	4,342
Charitable activities		87,497	155,749	243,246	10,694	290,739	301,433
Other		-	-	-	-	40,774	40,774
Total expenditure	7	87,766	155,749	243,515	13,092	333,457	346,549
Net income/(expenditure) before net gains/(losses) on investments		62,227	(77,309)	(15,082)	25,214	5,770	30,984
Net gains/(losses) on investments		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		62,227	(77,309)	(15,082)	25,214	5,770	30,984
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	880	(880)	-
Net movement in funds	17	62,227	(77,309)	(15,082)	26,094	4,890	30,984
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		40,372	105,089	145,461	14,278	100,199	114,477
Total funds carried forward		102,599	27,780	130,379	40,372	105,089	145,461

All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.

London Play

Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2022

	Note	£	2022 £	£	2021 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	11		-	-	-
			-	-	-
Current assets:					
Debtors	13	30,082		4,073	
Cash at bank and in hand		109,987		172,353	
		140,069		176,426	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(9,690)		(30,965)	
Net current assets / (liabilities)			130,379		145,461
Total assets less current liabilities			130,379		145,461
Total net assets / (liabilities)	15		130,379		145,461
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted income funds			27,780		105,089
Unrestricted income funds:					
Designated funds		-		-	
General funds		102,599		40,372	
Total unrestricted funds			102,599		145,461
Total charity funds	17		130,379		145,461

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2019 in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to charitable small companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 13th December 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:

Melvin Mansfield

M B Mansfield, Chair

London Play

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':

- the requirement of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows
- the requirement of Section 33 Related Party Disclosure paragraph 33.7.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer equipment: 33% on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs

The charity makes payments under defined contribution pension schemes. Contributions payable are charged to the Statement of Financial Activity in the period to which they relate.

London Play

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

2. Income from donations and legacies

	2022			2021		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations	10,600	5,175	15,775	2,051	-	2,051
	10,600	5,175	15,775	2,051	-	2,051

3. Income from charitable activities

	2022			2021		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grants	20,000	73,265	93,265	14,300	302,727	317,027
Contracts	106,349	-	106,349	10,168	-	10,168
Activity charges	2,375	-	2,375	-	-	-
	128,724	73,265	201,989	24,468	302,727	327,195

4. Income from other trading activities

	2022			2021		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Advertising	960	-	960	175	-	175
Sponsorship	5,865	-	5,865	5,864	-	5,864
Consultancy	1,173	-	1,173	-	-	-
Merchandise	2,651	-	2,261	5,689	-	5,689
	10,649	-	10,649	11,729	-	11,729

5. Income from investments

	2022			2021		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Interest earned on deposits	20	-	20	58	-	58
	20	-	20	58	-	58

6. Other Income

	2022			2021		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grants for core activities	-	-	-	-	36,500	36,500
	-	-	-	-	36,500	36,500

London Play

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

7. Expense Analysis

	2022					2021			
	Raising Funds	Charitable Activities	Governance & Support	Total		Raising Funds	Charitable Activities	Governance & Support	Total
	£	£	£	£		£	£		£
Salaries	-	145,242	2,440	147,682		1,633	128,615	32,773	163,021
Other personnel costs	-	70	858	928		-	823	-	823
Contractors	-	32,735	-	32,735		-	92,951	-	92,951
Materials and Equipment	-	16,023	235	16,258		-	41,602	-	41,602
Venue Hire	-	3,007	-	3,007		-	-	-	-
Catering and Travel Costs	-	9,727	-	9,727		-	2,222	-	2,222
Printing and Publicity	-	12,283	-	12,283		-	1,679	-	1,679
Accommodation costs	-	2,458	-	2,458		64	4,147	1,059	5,270
IT and Communications	-	185	2,823	3,008		-	6,998	17,439	24,437
Office costs	246	374	3,190	3,810		29	1,843	4,986	6,858
Travel and Meetings	-	31	214	245		-	20	77	97
Accounting and IE	-	-	5,985	5,985		-	-	4,336	4,336
Other professional fees	-	-	5,252	5,252		2,320	-	720	3,040
Finance costs	-	-	137	137		-	-	213	213
	246	222,135	21,134	243,515		4,046	280,900	61,603	346,549
Support and Governance	23	21,111	(21,134)	-		296	20,533	(20,829)	-
Total Expenditure	269	243,246	0	243,515		4,342	301,433	40,774	346,549

8. Net expenditure for the year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trustee expenses	-	-
Operating lease rentals:		
Property	2,495	4,992
Other	-	12,218
Depreciation	-	-
Independent examiner's remuneration (excluding VAT)	1,100	1,100

9. Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

	2022	2021
	£	£
Salaries and wages	133,767	146,688
Social security costs	8,194	10,008
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	5,721	6,325
Total	147,682	163,021

No employee earned more than £60,000 during the year (2021: nil).

The total employee benefits (including pension contributions and employer's national insurance) of the key management personnel were £83,007 (2021: £95,049).

London Play

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

No charity trustee (2021: 0) was paid for employment with the charity in the year (2021: £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2021: £nil).

No reimbursement was made (2021: £nil) to any trustee (2021: 0) for travel and other expenses in the year.

10. Staff numbers

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the year was as follows:

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
Charitable activities	4	5
Support	1	1
Total	5	6

11. Tangible fixed assets

Fixed assets were fully depreciated.

12. Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade debtors	28,917	3,973
Other debtors	1,165	100
	30,082	4,073

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	2,611	13,942
Taxation and social security	3,454	3,295
Other creditors	187	1,467
Accruals	3,438	2,331
Deferred income	-	9,930
	9,690	30,965

14. Analysis of net assets between funds – this year

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total funds
	£	£	£
Debtors	30,082	-	30,082
Cash at bank and in hand	82,207	27,780	109,987
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	(9,690)	-	(9,690)
Net assets at the end of the year	102,599	27,780	130,379

London Play

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

15. Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total funds £
Debtors	4,073	-	4,073
Cash at bank and in hand	57,334	115,019	172,353
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	(21,035)	(9,930)	(30,965)
Net assets at the end of the year	40,372	105,089	145,461

16. Movements in funds

	At the start of the year £	Incoming resources & gains £	Outgoing resources & losses £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:					
Camp Build	28,569	6,175	(34,744)	-	-
Community Fix it Up	4,907	-	(4,907)	-	-
Play Works	2,671	-	-	-	2,671
Playful Communities	61,942	46,738	(93,471)	-	15,209
Play 52	-	4,800	(4,800)	-	-
Days Out In Nature	-	9,900	-	-	9,900
All Hands on Deck	-	9,930	(9,930)	-	-
Royal Parks Outreach Project	-	897	(897)	-	-
Tudor Development	7,000	-	(7,000)	-	-
Total restricted funds	105,089	78,440	(155,749)	-	27,780
Total unrestricted funds	40,372	149,993	(87,766)		102,599
Total funds	145,461	228,433	(243,515)	-	130,379

Purposes of restricted funds:

- **Camp Build** - a three-year project to run nine 'build in the wild' weekend camps (three a year) for 11-15 year olds
- **Community Fix it Up** - This is a six months project to involve and upskill local people to help maintain and/or develop adventure playgrounds
- **Play Works** - A joint project between London Play and adventure playground organisations to monitor, evaluate and sustain London's unique and precious adventure playgrounds
- **Playful Communities** - an ongoing project to transform streets into temporary playzones
- **Play 52** - 4th edition of playing cards playing cards in partnership with Chicken Shed, a children's theatre group.
- **Days Out In Nature** - National Lottery Awards for All grant to facilitate transformational days out for young people.
- **All Hands on Deck** - project funded by Lottery's Awards For All involving a collection of games and ideas.
- **Royal Parks Outreach Project** - a partnership with The Royal Parks to implement a three-year programme to engage children, young people and families living in the vicinity of new build playgrounds in Greenwich Park and Regent's Park
- **Tudor development** -
- **Core** - Funding towards the core costs of running the charity

London Play

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

17. Movements in funds – prior year

	At the start of the year	Incoming resources & gains	Outgoing resources & losses	Transfers	At the end of the year
	£	£	£	£	£
Camp Build	12,496	29,000	(12,927)	-	28,569
Community Fix it Up	9,985	-	(5,078)	-	4,907
Neighbourhood Play Havens	-	99,720	(90,866)	(8,854)	-
Emergency Play Parcels I	-	34,888	(34,888)	-	-
Emergency Play Parcels II	-	22,638	(22,638)	-	-
Play Works II	29,074	14,300	(40,703)	-	2,671
Playful Communities	43,400	95,573	(77,031)	-	61,942
Royal Parks Outreach Project	-	6,608	(6,608)	-	-
Fundraising	1,944	-	(1,944)	-	-
Core	3,300	36,500	(40,774)	7,974	7,000
Total Restricted Funds	100,199	339,227	(333,457)	(880)	105,089
Unrestricted Funds					
General funds	14,278	38,306	(13,092)	880	40,372
Total Funds	114,477	377,533	(346,549)	-	145,461

18. Operating lease commitments

There were no operating leases.

LONDON PLAY

England & Wales - Charity number 1104731

Accounts



London Play

Charity number: 1104731

Registered company number: 04055882 (England and Wales)

Report and financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2021

London Play

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For the year ended 31 March 2021

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London Play

Reference and administrative information

For the year ended 31 March 2021

Charity number 1104731

Company number 4055882

Registered office International House
64 Nile Street
London N1 7SR

Trustees Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Keith Cranwell

Hal Davidson

Nicholas Hall

Shalena Haughton-Peters

Appointed Dec 2020

Melian Mansfield

Chair

Caroline Needham

Colin Simmons

Madoc Threipland

Appointed Dec 2020 resigned May 2021

Barry Walden

Vice chair

Key management personnel

Paul Hocker

Director

Fiona Sutherland

Deputy Director

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd

25 Kings Hill Avenue

Kings Hill

West Malling

Kent

ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner

Mary E Ryan FCCA DCha

t/a Ark Accountancy

31 Cheam Road

Ewell

Epsom

Surrey

KT17 1QX

London Play

Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 March 2021

The trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Charitable objects as stated in the Articles of Association dated 10 June 2017 are:

To enhance the development and education of children in the Greater London area by developing and supporting the provision of children's play; primarily by:

- improving the quality, diversity and accessibility of provision and opportunities for play in London;
- securing greater recognition of the fundamental importance of play in the growth and development of London's children; and
- promoting co-operation and co-ordination between play providers and play specialists in London and developing a network of local co-ordination and support agencies for play in every London borough.

London Play exists to ensure that all children have access to high quality, accessible play opportunities in London – whether in supervised settings or in the wider public realm. Through its activities it aims both to improve existing play provision and increase the amount of provision.

Significant activities

The charity's main objectives for the year were to:

- a. Improve multi-agency partnership working across statutory, voluntary, community and private sectors to increase children's access to play and physical activity.
- b. Increase the ability of play providers to influence strategic plans and local and national policy for children's play
- c. Increase in the sharing of information/knowledge amongst the sector, support with funding advice and promotion of best practice.
- d. Actively promote equality for disadvantaged groups through the service delivery

London Play continues to support and work with a broad range of individuals and organisations who are interested in promoting and providing play opportunities for children in London. In addition to working with professional play workers and service managers, the charity collaborates with and supports parents, teachers, residents, community and 'Friends' groups and other 'lay people' and volunteers to promote the benefits of play and support them to improve and expand play opportunities for children in their communities.

Details of significant activities

Coinciding as it did with the arrival and first two waves of the COVID-19 global pandemic, the 2020-21 year was clearly destined to be like no other. London Play's trustee team is immensely proud of the way in which the organisation adapted to address the needs of children in London, whose lives suddenly changed beyond recognition as their opportunities to play and socialise with their friends ceased and their families faced unprecedented hardship.

Significant activities over the year included:

London Play

Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 March 2021

- Distributing **Emergency Play Parcels** to more than 5,500 families in need, via food banks and adventure playgrounds in some of the capital's least affluent neighbourhoods, during two waves of the pandemic.
- The creation of **Neighbourhood Play Havens** at 12 of London's adventure playgrounds, enabling them to offer an additional 1,150 hours of play sessions and cater for otherwise excluded children and families during the height of the pandemic.
- The launch of our unique and innovative **Play 52** cards – two ranges providing a 'pocketful of pandemic-proof play' both to support our lockdown projects and to offer for sale to families in need of cheap, creative fun as restrictions on public life continued.
- Creating a specially adapted lockdown play streets project as the second wave of the pandemic swept the country. The **Play Street Carousel** saw a suitcase of art materials travelling between residents in four boroughs on eight streets, inviting them to share play memories and street games.
- Taking our Camp Build and Go Kart projects on the road. Our covid-adapted **Camp Build on Tour** and **Together-A-Kart** initiatives saw the build and create (and race) teams take the action to the children, visiting them in their 'bubbles' at adventure playgrounds across the capital.
- Re-launching the **London Play website** along with the development of two new 'sister' sites specifically to celebrate, promote and support adventure playgrounds and play streets in London.

Public benefit

The trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

Public benefits ultimately arising from London Play's activity include more active, healthy, happy children; better connected, more friendly, safe and cohesive communities; more skilled and empowered professional play workers, laypeople and volunteers; cleaner street environments and reduced antisocial behaviour. Additionally, free-to-access adventure playgrounds in some of London's more deprived neighbourhoods offer local parents a real alternative to paid childcare and free them up to pursue work or training opportunities to improve their life chances; and those of their children too.

All the benefits derived from the activities and achievements of London Play are ultimately to the benefit of all London's children. Benefits are focused on children in London only, but are not restricted in terms of charitable need, personal characteristics, access to facilities, membership, trustees' discretion, or ability to pay. No detriment or harm has arisen from carrying out the charity's activities.

Volunteers

All trustees give their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 8 to the accounts.

In a normal year, much of London Play's work involves volunteers, increasing its reach and impact and adding value for our funders. In 2020-21 the role of volunteers was curtailed dramatically due to limits on public life, group sizes and gatherings imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic. However:

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- Our **Play Street Carousel** project involved residents on eight streets voluntarily giving their time to contribute games and ideas – we estimate 140 volunteers overall (contributing 80 volunteer days)
- Few **play streets** continued to operate during the pandemic, but those that did involved volunteers facilitating street play activity for children living in their neighbourhoods. Over the year London Play supported approximately 20 play streets involving approximately 100 volunteers on one or more days (180 volunteer days)
- Seven volunteers were involved in **Neighbourhood Play Havens**, undertaking 326 volunteer hours between them (40 volunteer days)
- Our board of eight trustees are volunteers who attend trustee meetings every six weeks and London Play events as well as carrying out significant amounts of work to support the organisation at other times. (At least 40 volunteer days this year).
- Our **Emergency Play Parcels** project involved volunteers at food banks in distributions.

Total volunteer days across all London Play projects: 340+

Members and supporters

Membership of London Play is stable at around 50 and the number of supporters continues to grow.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

London Play worked on five major grant-funded projects during the year. Contract work was reduced significantly with Car Free Day and expected play street support commissions cancelled due to the pandemic.

Between April 2020 and March 2021 London Play directly generated more than 20,000 play opportunities for London's children and thousands more indirectly through its activities. Key activities and achievements by the organisation during the period are outlined below.

GRANT-FUNDED PROJECTS

Neighbourhood Play Havens

July – December 2020

Over the summer and autumn of 2020, London Play supported the creation of 'Neighbourhood Play Havens' in twelve adventure playgrounds, in six of London's most deprived boroughs. Thanks to the **National Lottery Community Fund**, London Play provided resources and support enabling play providers to expand their opening hours and offer play opportunities for families and children who would otherwise have been excluded. These organisations were operating under very limited conditions as lockdown restrictions eased, in contrast to their usual open access ethos. Overall, an additional 1,150 additional hours of play sessions were offered through the project to some of London's most vulnerable children, from 580 families.

"This place is really needed, especially after the tough time that some families have had during lockdown" said one play worker. "The Play Havens funding means more children having fun and more families getting the support they need."

Estimated number of play opportunities generated: 7,500

Emergency Play Parcels

Two rounds, June and November 2020

With a unique pack of playing cards ('Play 52') already in development, London Play had a made-for-lockdown project waiting in the wings as the pandemic broke. Featuring 52 games and playful ideas to be brought to life with the help of a few simple props, Play 52 became the centrepiece of a unique emergency play parcel project, bringing playful relief to the pockets of children and families stuck at home across London. We were grateful

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to be awarded two rounds of funding to support this project, both from **The National Lottery Community Fund**, distributed by **City Bridge Trust** through the **London Community Response Fund**. Additional funding from the **CAF Coronavirus Emergency Fund** also supported this project. The second round enabled a further tranche of parcels, featuring a new winter version of Play 52, to be distributed. This went out via food banks and adventure playgrounds as the second wave of the pandemic hit in December 2020. Around 5,500 families living in the most difficult of circumstances received the parcels and with them, some playful diversion in the darkest days of the pandemic.

Estimated number of play opportunities generated: approx. 11,000 (est. each family played at least two games)

Playful Communities/Play Street Carousel

September 2018 – October 2022

With gatherings alternately outlawed, discouraged, and then subject to hesitancy as the pandemic wore on, play streets were off the menu for many Londoners during 2020/21. London Play's work to reach out, inspire and support the creation of new play streets as envisaged in the mainstream Playful Communities project was inevitably limited. We were grateful for the flexibility demonstrated by The National Lottery Communities Fund and the trust shown in allowing the team to decide how best to adapt the work in light of the radically changed circumstances.

London Play turned attention to other ways of supporting ordinary Londoners to promote play in their households and in their communities. Our e-newsletter became a weekly must-read for thousands of families stuck at home; with news about children and play in the pandemic; play ideas and humorous content. We also lobbied politicians and decision-makers as the negative impacts of lockdown on children became ever more apparent. As lockdown restrictions eased and playgrounds re-opened, we issued guidance on protocols for running covid-safe play streets to give organisers and councils confidence to restart play on the street. With the emphasis on creating more local space for play rather than 'gathering', we promoted play streets as one of the safer options for children to play on their doorstep. We invested time and effort in developing a new standalone website to promote, celebrate and support play streets in London: www.londonplaystreets.org.uk

In January 2020 as a third national lockdown was imposed, we launched the Play Street Carousel project in the four boroughs (Croydon, Haringey, Kingston and Redbridge) where play street work had initially been suspended. This project aimed to use play – memories and future plans to resume – to generate and sustain a feeling of community between isolated neighbours. A suitcase full of art materials and audio-visual recording equipment was passed between households on eight separate streets; inviting recipients to share their favourite games from across generations and cultures. They were encouraged to look forward to playing these together in person once the pandemic recedes, with on street celebration events planned for the summer of 2021. A booklet of the games collected and a short film of the project had both recently been completed at the time of writing.

The mainstream project will pick up again for its final year from November 2021 to October 2022. Four new boroughs will become the focus of the project, with the aim of supporting at least five new play streets in each. Four Play Starter 'apprentices' will be recruited in January 2022, in advance of the spring peak of interest in play streets, to support work in the Y4 boroughs.

Estimated number of play opportunities generated: 240 on the Play Street Carousel streets (directly) and many more indirectly via the website, book and film.

Play Works II:

November 2018 – December 2020

Funded by **City Bridge Trust**, this project was extended for an additional two months and came to an end in December 2020. Adapting the project to meet the needs of children and staff at adventure playgrounds arising from the pandemic, London Play carried out surveys of adventure play workers and produced guidance on

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support available during covid and later, covid-safe opening. We also lobbied politicians and decision makers on their behalf highlighting the desperate need for play and the risks of play deprivation; as well as calling for clarity about reopening over the summer of 2020.

The project culminated in the launch of a new standalone website to celebrate, promote and support adventure playgrounds in London. www.londonadventureplaygrounds.org.uk features a public-facing 'front end' to celebrate and promote London adventure playgrounds and the benefits they bring to their communities – appealing to funders, the public and visitors to London and raising the profile of adventure play in London. The 'back end' features resources for play workers including the toolkit developed in phase I of the project, 'how-to' videos, covid-specific, fundraising and other resources to help playgrounds survive and thrive.

Estimated number of play opportunities generated: more children visiting London's adventure playgrounds, between 400–4,000.

Camp Build

October 2018 – September 2021

Camp Build is a three-year project funded by the Mayor of London's **Young London Inspired Fund**. Each year was to feature three 'build in the wild' weekend camps for 11–15-year-olds who like building stuff or want to learn how. The 2020 camps were unable to go ahead as planned due to the pandemic; but by the summer, adventure playgrounds were operating 'outdoors only' and with restricted 'bubbles' of children. London Play responded with 'Camp Build on Tour,' visiting children at their playgrounds and building outdoor shelters and other structures, to offer covid-safe shelter for children and staff during the UK's unpredictable summer weather. Among them were Haringey's Somerford Grove Adventure Playground, where children worked with the team to build a 'house on stilts' and at Southwark's Bethwin Road Adventure Playgrounds an 'outdoor café' shelter. A mud hut was constructed at Pearson Street Adventure Playground complete with bejewelled cladding.

Number of play opportunities generated: 100+

Community Fix It

This **Awards for All** sponsored project finally launched in January 2021 having been delayed for nine months by the pandemic. The initiative worked alongside Camp Build on Tour (above) to support play workers and children at adventure playgrounds to develop skills to maintain and add to their playground structures. The team returned to Bethwin Adventure Playground and over several sessions created additional play spaces and renovated existing ones.

CONTRACTS & COMMISSIONS

In a typical year, London undertakes a range of contracts and commissions to support play streets, Car Free Day and other work across the capital. However, in this very far from typical year, these were reduced to two:

Royal Parks Outreach Project

February 2019 – October 2022

London Play is working in partnership with **The Royal Parks** to implement a three-year programme, funded by the **London Marathon Trust**. London Play's role is to engage children, young people and families who live in the vicinity of new build playgrounds in Greenwich Park and The Regent's Park, via schools and through public events, to ensure that they benefit fully from these new, state of the art public play areas.

The project was suspended from May to September 2020 and restarted (at half strength) in October 2020 with a significant online component. The project has been extended and will now finish in October 2022, with the final year's activities focusing on The Regent's Park where at the time of writing, the new playground has recently opened.

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Play 52

Spring 2021

The success of our Play Parcels work caught the attention of the **Makers of Playing Cards Charity** (the charity arm of the Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards) who commissioned a third version of our 'playing cards that really play' with a set themed on London icons, printed in the spring.

PUBLICATIONS

London Playwire e-newsletter

The usually quarterly London Playwire became a weekly publication as the first coronavirus lockdown was announced at the end of March; this continued until the summer when playgrounds re-opened. Sent to around 1,400 subscribers (more than 3,500 readers) it included play ideas for parents and carers stuck at home, analysis of the risks and benefits to children of play in the pandemic, news and humorous segments. It was also used to showcase the inspiring work that adventure playgrounds were doing in their areas – featuring a play worker each week and highlighting their efforts to keep supporting children via online sessions, transforming into food banks or delivering activities and food parcels to the doorsteps of their most vulnerable families.

EVENTS

Events were again limited by the restrictions imposed by the ongoing pandemic. London Play adapted!

Go Kart events: August 2020

The annual go kart events: the Girl Kart Grand Prix in April and the Go Kart Build and Race in August were unable to go ahead in their usual format. However, with the support of the **Henry Surtees Foundation** and the **Manufacturing Technologies Association** we were able to combine the events and in the mode of Camp Build on Tour, staged 'Together A Kart' by taking the action to the children in their playground bubbles. Children at Waterloo's Living Space, Newham's AAA and Hackney's Pearson Street Adventure Playground built and raced six karts between them. Newham's Abbey Aliens won first prize of a day out at Buckmore Park outdoor kart racing circuit in Kent.

Estimated number of play opportunities for children: 60 during the events plus many more with the karts being left at the playgrounds for all the children to play with.

Adventure Play Awards: October 2020

The hotly anticipated annual awards went online, with only one award on offer for the playground which adapted its services best to meet the needs of children during a difficult year. Triangle, Hackney Marsh and Max Roach adventure playgrounds jointly took the award for outstanding work to support children during this difficult year; demonstrating creative online service provision, delivering food and play to doorsteps and working hard to meet the needs of their communities. Each of the three winners won a prize pizza party at their playgrounds.

OTHER

Advice, support and guidance

London Play's role as a source of reliable information, advice and guidance rose to the fore during the height of the coronavirus pandemic. Despite themselves facing little risk from serious illness due to the coronavirus, children faced some of the most limiting restrictions on their lives as the pandemic took hold – with schools and playgrounds closed, opportunities for play and socialising ceased overnight. As the pandemic wore on, parents and carers were rightly becoming increasingly worried about the toll on their children's mental, physical and emotional wellbeing.

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As described above, London Play provided useful, timely, accurate information for parents, play workers and others with children in their lives to ensure that opportunities for play (albeit modified) continued to support children's mental and physical wellbeing through the darkest days of the pandemic – weekly *Playwire*, Facebook and regular bulletins. Guidance for play street organisers, councils and adventure playgrounds was developed in response to the conditions of the ongoing pandemic.

London Play's reputation as acknowledged experts in the field of play has strengthened significantly during this extraordinary year.

Social media

London Play continued to build its social media presence during the year. Our Facebook following is approximately 37,000, maintaining London Play's status as the most-followed play organisation in the country (if not the world). A playful idea published every day during the first lockdown was very popular. Twitter followers numbered 3,940 at the end of March.

Policy and campaigning

Right to Play

Children's right to play has never been higher up the public consciousness than it was in 2020-21 with the sudden withdrawal of play from children's lives in response to the coronavirus pandemic. As described above, London Play worked hard to maximise the opportunities this presented to lobby politicians and decision makers and campaign for the right to play. We collaborated with British Safety Council chairman Lawrence Waterman OBE on a statement urging the government to consider the risks of play deprivation in decisions around lockdowns and restrictions. We also coordinated a number of multi-agency approaches to politicians and decision makers highlighting the negative impacts that the restrictions were having on children's right to play and therefore their wellbeing.

London Play Design

London Play Design has had its third year as a community interest company, independent of the parent charity – although operations were limited by the pandemic it is in a strong position as we emerge from the worst.

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL FACTORS

The Covid-19 pandemic was clearly the single biggest external factor which brought to bear on the year's activities for London Play.

When the first national lockdown was imposed in March 2020, London Play was fortunate to find itself in a period of relative stability. The organisation was part-way through running a number of multi-year projects; supported by funders who recognised that although these could not be delivered as originally planned; that there were dire levels of need arising from the pandemic. They trusted London Play to use the resources they provided to adapt and meet the challenges of the rapidly changing environment. We are very grateful to the **National Lottery Communities Fund**, the **Mayor of London** and the **City Bridge Trust** – the latter which also generously provided additional funding to use to support our work without restriction. Thanks to these enlightened funders we were able to focus on meeting the needs of London's children rather than fighting for our own survival.

An additional year's funding awarded to support core costs from the **Tudor Trust** was extremely welcome and provided additional stability during a turbulent year.

We were also grateful to receive unrestricted donations from the **Chesterhill Charitable Trust**, the **Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths** and several private individuals.

Internally, the organisation was well prepared to move to a remote working model, with IT infrastructure having been migrated to a cloud-based system in the previous year. We are grateful to the **Tudor Trust** for an additional small grant to help support the move to home-based working. The staff team of five were able to adapt quickly to working from home despite the added challenge that all faced, having caring duties for school aged children. One of the team was placed on furlough due to the suspension of the Royal Parks project; the other four maintained their posts throughout.

London Play trustees are appreciative of the adaptability, tenacity and creativity shown by the staff team in responding to the unprecedented challenges presented by the pandemic.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The charity was able to meet the challenges it faced in this difficult year. Although some activities were curtailed by Covid restrictions, new alternatives were discovered and developed. Thus, while unrestricted contracts income fell by £47.5k year on year this was partially offset by new merchandising (Play 52) income of £5.7k and a very welcome emergency grant of £14.3k from the City Bridge Trust. At the same time innovative projects such as Neighbourhood Play Havens and Emergency Play Parcels, introduced quickly in response to the impact of the Covid pandemic, drove restricted grant income up by £79.3k year on year. The total income for the year, including other smaller but no less welcome donations, grew to £377,533 (prior year £324,797), which includes £6,608 of government Covid Job Retention Scheme grant. Much of the total income of course is for the purposes of subsequent years' activities; in addition, funders were very supportive with regard to pandemic induced restrictions and so the charity can look to future activity with a high degree of financial confidence.

The new and developing activities of course created additional costs, which rose in total to £346,548 (prior year £274,407). This led to a healthy, although reduced, surplus of £30,984 (prior year £50,390), which means that the charity is in a good financial position to go forward. As well as the reported income for the year a grant of £9,930 was received late in March 2021 in relation to a project commenced after the year end.

It is particularly encouraging that the overall surplus was largely in unrestricted funds, an objective the team has worked hard to achieve for some time. The general funds grew by £26,094 (prior year deficit £4,767) to reach £40,372 (prior year £14,278), which is a level which the trustees believe to be necessary for ongoing sustainability. The restricted funds carried forward now amount to £105,089 (prior year £100,199) and will ensure continuing activity into 2021/22.

RESERVES POLICY

A reserves policy was adopted by trustees on 28 January 2000, based on the 'Charities' Reserves' guidance issued by the Charity Commission. The organisation's reserves have now reached the target set by this policy. Trustees and staff have worked hard to bring in unrestricted funding and additional unrestricted funding from City Bridge Trust has improved the position.

This is a summary of the policy:

Reserve priority 1 - Known liabilities

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1. Staff redundancy liabilities in accordance with employment protection legislation and regulations in force from time to time, and in line with contractual obligations
2. Premises or other liabilities arising from a legally-binding contract or leasing agreement;
3. Asset or equipment replacement necessary to further the charitable objects.

Funded by an annually reviewed rising designated reserve (or restricted reserve under the appropriate restricted fund) sufficient to meet liabilities as they arise.

Reserve priority 2 - Unknown but planned-for liabilities

1. Statutory paid maternity and sick leave liabilities not recoverable through PAYE;
2. Non-statutory but contractual paid maternity or sick leave.

Funded by an annually reviewed flexible reserve sufficient to meet the best estimate of the gap between recoverable and non-recoverable costs. The fund should be accumulated through the designation of contingency funds from individual funding applications as well as undesignated funds.

Reserve priority 3 - Operating reserves

To build towards a reserve sufficient to meet three months' operating costs, after taking into account priorities 1 & 2 above.

Funded by an annually reviewed designated reserve (or restricted reserve under the appropriate restricted fund) sufficient to meet one months' operating costs by the end of the first year, rising to meet three months' costs by the end of the third year.

Reserve priority 4 - "Free" reserves

To establish a reserve to progress currently unfunded elements of the business plan.

Funded by any unrestricted income not required for immediate commitments or for priorities 1 - 3 above.

Estimated levels needed for priorities 1 to 3 total £39k, allocated as follows: 1. £16k 2. £10k 3. £13k

At 31 March 2021, the free reserves of the charity were £40,372 (prior year £14,278).

FUTURE PLANS

London Play's last year of work has had unprecedented reach despite the tumultuous times. Planning for the next 12 months involves layers of contingency and a little bit of hope. That said, since April 2021 the team has delivered an unprecedented workload, taking the London Play brand into new areas and consolidating in others. For example, our relationship with City Hall further developed. As part of the Mayor's **Let's Do London** programme we delivered Formula Fun in August, that saw more than 350 children from across London participate in 19 central London Go-Kart build and race events. London Play's Director acted as the Mayor of Play spokesperson, giving many interviews for the media around the UK.

Our annual Go Kart Build & Race and Girl Kart events were again adapted in the summer of 2021 to comply with Covid guidance. Together-A-Kart events saw the London Play team travel to three adventure playgrounds over three days and work with the children in situ to create karts. In 2022 we hope to run our schedule of annual events in their original format.

Our three-year Camp Build project, funded by the Mayor's **Young London Inspired Fund**, saw out its final year with three residential camps in July and in June, a one-off day out building and cooking in woods near Reading for a Hackney adventure playground. In total the Camp Build project brought 122 children into contact with nature, many for the first time, and provided them with the tools and materials to realise their imagination's creations.

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We have a series of applications pending; variations on Camp Build and support for communities fighting cuts to play services and spaces in their areas.

With the successful Play project delivered with the **Royal Parks** ending in October 2022, ideas for a follow-on project are being explored to continue a collaboration that has put more free play into Regents and Greenwich for local children and families.

Plans for Car Free Day 2022 are advancing with communication with City Hall Walking & Cycling Commissioner Will Norman. We look forward to building on the success of 385 play streets supported for Car Free Day 2019.

Play52, our packs of cards with unique play ideas had a fourth pack join the previous editions; Summer, Winter and Chickenshed/Under 5s. The London Icons pack was funded by the **Makers of Playing Cards Charity** and over 1,000 free packs have been distributed through our work over the summer. The retail packs have generated sales of over 2,500 units with the proceeds going directly to support London Play's work. A fifth pack is currently in the final stages of development. This is the product of the All Hands on Deck project that collected games from the experts – children on the capital's adventure playgrounds. This will not be available through our retail channels with all packs going back to adventure playgrounds, and a chance to share ideas from playground to playground. We are in the preliminary stages of developing a sixth pack celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, again in partnership with the Makers of Playing Cards.

Our successful Play Street work funded by the **National Lottery Community Fund** is entering its fourth and final year in November. We are developing a project with play streets at the heart of it for submission to the funder in 2022 that will be designed for a world emerging from the worst of Covid and continue to bring communities together for a socially beneficial purpose and for children's desire to play where they live.

Our work in 2021 to create a museum for Play – a 'Do-seum' – was dynamic and will continue in 2022 with a dialogue established with the **Heritage Lottery**, support from play museums in the USA and a steering group consisting of creative and enthusiastic participants. We believe it is only a matter of time before our vision for this unique addition to London's museums becomes a reality.

We have delivered our unique **Play in Schools** training for midday-staff for a school in Dagenham and have a request for the training package from other schools. This is an area of work that is now in its third year of delivery and refinement, and we are exploring opportunities to share the training more widely.

A period of creativity by the team before the summer led to several project ideas that encapsulated innovative approaches addressing a need in our post-pandemic world. We will be matching these initiatives to potential funders over the winter period.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Appointment of Trustees

The charity is governed by a Board of Trustees which is elected from the membership at the Annual General Meeting; additional trustees can be co-opted by the Board during the year and formally appointed at the following AGM. On appointment new trustees are sent an induction pack and are offered induction opportunities with staff and trustees; as well as being offered training opportunities as they arise during the year. These opportunities have been somewhat limited due to the pandemic; but it will be a priority to invest more in trustee recruitment and development in the post-pandemic period.

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For the year ended 31 March 2021

Two trustees were appointed at the 2020 AGM: Shalena Haughton-Peters and Madoc Threipland. Madoc has since resigned.

Trustees met approximately every six to eight weeks to make strategic, policy, and financial decisions on the basis of reports submitted by the Senior Management Team. These meetings were all held remotely in the 2020-21 year.

Organisational structure

Since 1 April 2005, London Play has been operating as an incorporated charity (Charity No.1104731, Company No.4055882), following a transfer from the old charity (No. 1075508) under its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Throughout the year operational management has been the responsibility of the Senior Management Team - Paul Hocker, Director, and Fiona Sutherland, Deputy Director - under the direction of trustees. Staff have the opportunity to discuss their work with their line manager through a system of regular supervision.

Statement of responsibilities of the Trustees

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Independent examiner

Mary Ryan of Ark Accountancy was re-appointed as the charity's independent examiner during the year and has expressed her willingness to continue in that capacity.

The Trustees' annual report has been approved by Trustees on 9th Dec. 2021 and signed on their behalf by



Melian Mansfield

Chair

Independent Examiner's Report

To the Trustees

On the unaudited accounts of London Play

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act;
or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing *their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)*].

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Mary Ryan

Mary Ryan t/a Ark Accountancy
Chartered Certified Accountant
31 Cheam Road
Ewell
Epsom
Surrey KT17 1QX

Date: 15/12/21

London Play

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 March 2021

		2021			2020		
	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Income from:							
Donations and Legacies	2	2,051	-	2,051	1,000	-	1,000
Charitable activities	3	24,468	302,727	327,195	58,410	239,885	298,295
Other trading activities	4	11,729	-	11,729	5,385	-	5,385
Investments	5	58	-	58	117	-	117
Other	6	-	36,500	36,500	-	20,000	20,000
Total income		38,306	339,227	377,533	64,912	259,885	324,797
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds		2,398	1,944	4,342	6,801	3,056	9,857
Charitable activities		10,694	290,739	301,433	62,878	201,672	264,550
Other		-	40,774	40,774	-	-	-
Total expenditure	7	13,092	333,457	346,549	69,679	204,728	274,407
Net income/(expenditure) before net gains/(losses) on investments		25,214	5,770	30,984	(4,767)	55,157	50,390
Net gains/(losses) on investments		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		25,214	5,770	30,984	(4,767)	55,157	50,390
Transfers between funds		880	(880)	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	17	26,094	4,890	30,984	(4,767)	55,157	50,390
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		14,278	100,199	114,477	19,405	45,042	64,087
Total funds carried forward		40,372	105,089	145,461	14,278	100,199	114,477

All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.

London Play

Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2021

	Note	£	2021 £	£	2020 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	11		-	-	-
Current assets:					
Debtors	13	4073		11,611	
Cash at bank and in hand		172,353		116,775	
		176,426		128,386	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(30,965)		(13,909)	
Net current assets / (liabilities)			145,461		114,477
Total assets less current liabilities			145,461		114,477
Total net assets / (liabilities)	15		145,461		114,477
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted income funds			105,089		100,199
Unrestricted income funds:					
Designated funds		-		-	
General funds		40,372		14,278	
Total unrestricted funds			145,461		14,278
Total charity funds	17		145,461		114,477

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2019 in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to charitable small companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 9th Dec 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:

M B Mansfield

M B Mansfield, Chair

London Play

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':

- the requirement of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows
- the requirement of Section 33 Related Party Disclosure paragraph 33.7.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer equipment:	33% on cost
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Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs

The charity makes payments under defined contribution pension schemes. Contributions payable are charged to the Statement of Financial Activity in the period to which they relate.

London Play

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

2. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021 Total			2020 Total
	£	£	£			£
Donations	2,051	-	2,051	1,000	-	1,000
	2,051	-	2,051	1,000	-	1,000

3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021 Total			2020 Total
	£	£	£	Unrestricted	Restricted	£
Grants	14,300	302,727	317,027	-	239,885	239,885
Contracts	10,168	-	10,168	57,698	-	57,698
Activity charges	-	-	-	512	-	512
	24,468	302,727	327,195	58,410	239,885	298,295

4. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021 Total			2020 Total
	£	£	£	Unrestricted	Restricted	£
Advertising	175	-	175	945	-	945
Sponsorship	5,865	-	5,865	4,440	-	4,440
Merchandise	5,689	-	5,689	-	-	-
	11,729	-	11,729	5,385	-	5,385

5. Income from investments

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021 Total			2020 Total
	£	£	£	Unrestricted	Restricted	£
Interest earned on deposits	58	-	58	117	-	117
	58	-	58	117	-	117

6. Other Income

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021 Total			2020 Total
	£	£	£	Unrestricted	Restricted	£
Grants for core activities	-	36,500	36,500	-	20,000	20,000
	-	36,500	36,500	-	20,000	20,000

London Play

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

7. Expense Analysis This year

	Camp Build	Community Fix it Up	Neighbour- hood Play Havens	Emergency Play Parcels I	Emergency Play Parcels II	Play Works II	Playful Communities	Royal Parks project	Fundraising	Support & Governance	Total
Salary costs	5,597	4,526	6,933	5,492	3,284	22,305	65,317	15,160	1,633	32,773	163,021
Other personnel costs	-	-	12	-	-	733	78	-	-	-	823
Contractors	3,405	-	77,347	2,195	1,560	8,444	-	-	-	-	92,951
Evaluation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Materials and equipment	1,356	-	1,015	22,355	14,268	462	2,145	-	-	-	41,602
Venue hire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Catering and travel costs	1,049	-	-	557	583	-	33	-	-	-	2,222
Printing and publicity	89	-	-	311	1,101	71	106	-	-	-	1,679
Accommodation costs	180	206	235	190	119	913	2,278	26	64	1,059	5,270
IT and communications	207	-	-	-	-	5,003	1,789	-	-	17,439	24,437
Office costs	163	-	3	1,445	194	-	38	-	29	4,986	6,858
Travel and meetings	-	-	-	-	21	-	-	-	-	77	97
Accounting and IE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,336	4,336
Other professional fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,320	720	3,040
Finance costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	213	213
	12,046	4,732	85,546	32,545	21,130	37,931	71,784	15,186	4,046	61,603	346,549
Support and Governance	881	346	6,253	2,379	1,545	2,773	5,247	1,110	296	(20,829)	-
Total expenditure	12,927	5,078	91,799	34,924	22,675	40,703	77,031	16,296	4,342	40,774	346,549

Prior year

	Adventure Play Awards	Camp Build	Car Free Day	Community Fix it Up	Girl Kart Grand Prix	Go Kart Grand Prix	Play Works II	Playful Communities	Royal Parks project	Fundraising	Support & Governance	Total
Salary costs	-	7,106	6,972	-	700	700	27,443	68,204	22,034	4,725	38,850	176,734
Other personnel costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	92	-	-	612	703
Contractors	440	5,055	855	-	500	450	3,000	-	1,045	-	880	12,225
Evaluation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,420	-	-	-	3,420
Materials and equipment	457	11,826	6,086	-	743	1,042	-	2,546	2,040	-	69	24,810
Venue hire	1,060	3,178	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,238
Catering and travel costs	886	5,191	325	-	399	589	15	260	175	-	440	8,280
Printing and publicity	300	1,297	80	-	-	-	688	393	-	27	187	2,971
Accommodation costs	-	463	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,887	9,350
IT and communications	24	21	-	-	-	-	13,248	-	-	-	8,007	21,301
Office costs	-	21	-	-	-	19	-	140	4	340	2,224	2,748
Travel and meetings	-	138	-	-	-	7	14	49	21	18	886	1,134
Accounting and IE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,600	2,600
Other professional fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	58	58	3,056	596	3,768
Finance costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	126	126
	3,168	34,295	14,318	-	2,342	2,807	44,408	75,161	25,377	8,166	64,364	274,407
Support and Governance	656	7,101	2,965	-	485	581	9,195	15,563	5,254	1,691	(43,491)	0
Total expenditure	3,824	41,396	17,283	-	2,827	3,388	53,603	90,724	30,631	9,857	20,873	274,407

London Play

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

8. Net expenditure for the year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trustee expenses	-	-
Operating lease rentals:		
Property	4,992	8,478
Other	12,218	4,244
Depreciation	-	-
Independent examiner's remuneration (excluding VAT)	1,100	1,100

9. Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

	2021	2020
	£	£
Salaries and wages	146,688	158,108
Social security costs	10,008	11,994
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	6,325	6,632
	163,021	176,734

No employee earned more than £60,000 during the year (2020: nil).

The total employee benefits (including pension contributions and employer's national insurance) of the key management personnel were £95,049 (2020: £103,620).

No charity trustee (2020: 1) was paid for employment with the charity in the year (2020: £1,150). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2020: £nil).

No reimbursement was made (2020: £121) to any trustee (2020: one) for travel and other expenses in the year.

10. Staff numbers

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the year was as follows:

	2021	2020
	No.	No.
Charitable activities	5	7
Support	1	1
Total	6	8

London Play

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Computer equipment £	Plant and machinery £	Total £
Cost			
At the start of the year	11,717	428	12,145
Additions in year	-	-	-
Disposals in year	-	-	-
At the end of the year	11,717	428	12,145
Depreciation			
At the start of the year	11,717	428	12,145
Charge for the year	-	-	-
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	-
At the end of the year	11,717	428	12,145
Net book value			
At the end of the year	-	-	-
At the start of the year	-	-	-

All of the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

12. Tangible fixed assets - prior year

	Computer equipment £	Plant and machinery £	Total £
Cost			
At the start of the year	11,717	428	12,145
Additions in year	-	-	-
Disposals in year	-	-	-
At the end of the year	11,717	428	12,145
Depreciation			
At the start of the year	11,140	428	12,568
Charge for the year	-	-	-
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	-
At the end of the year	11,717	428	12,145
Net book value			
At the end of the year	-	-	-
At the start of the year	-	-	-

London Play

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

13. Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade debtors	3,973	11,511
Other debtors	100	100
	<u>4,073</u>	<u>11,611</u>

14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	13,942	3,214
Taxation and social security	3,295	3,727
Other creditors	1,467	1,467
Accruals	2,331	2,959
Deferred income	9,930	2,542
	<u>30,965</u>	<u>13,909</u>

15. Analysis of net assets between funds – this year

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total funds
	£	£	£
Debtors	4,073	-	4,073
Cash at bank and in hand	57,334	115,019	172,353
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	(21,035)	(9,930)	(30,965)
Net assets at the end of the year	40,372	105,089	145,461

16. Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total funds
	£	£	£
Debtors	11,611	-	11,611
Cash at bank and in hand	16,576	100,199	116,775
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	(13,909)	-	(13,909)
Net assets at the end of the year	14,278	100,199	114,477

London Play

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

17. Movements in funds

		At the start of the year £	Incoming resources & gains £	Outgoing resources & losses £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:						
Camp Build	GLA	12,496	29,000	(12,927)	-	28,569
Community Fix it Up	Awards for All	9,985	-	(5,078)	-	4,907
Neighbourhood Play Havens	The National Lottery Community Fund	-	99,720	(90,866)	(8,854)	-
Emergency Play Parcels I	CAF Bank / City Bridge Trust from London	-	34,888	(34,888)	-	-
Emergency Play Parcels II	Community Response FUND	-	22,638	(22,638)	-	-
Play Works II	City Bridge Trust	29,074	14,300	(40,703)	-	2,671
Playful Communities	The National Lottery Community Fund	43,400	95,573	(77,031)	-	61,942
Royal Parks Outreach Project	HMRC - CJRS	-	6,608	(6,608)	-	-
Fundraising	National Lottery Community Fund	1,944	-	(1,944)	-	-
Core	Tudor Trust	3,300	36,500	(40,774)	7,974	7,000
Total restricted funds		100,199	339,227	(333,457)	(880)	105,089
Unrestricted funds:						
General funds		14,278	38,306	(13,092)	880	40,372
Total funds		114,477	377,533	(346,549)	-	145,461

Purposes of restricted funds:

- **Camp Build** - a three-year project to run nine 'build in the wild' weekend camps (three a year) for 11-15-year olds
- **Community Fix it Up** - This is a six months project to involve and upskill local people to help maintain and/or develop adventure playgrounds
- **Neighbourhood Play Havens** - Supporting adventure playgrounds to provide additional play sessions to include marginalised or vulnerable individuals and families during a period of operation that was heavily restricted due to pandemic control measures
- **Emergency Play Parcels** - a project to provide play ideas and materials in a box for children who had been denied the opportunity of playing with their friends
- **Play Works** - A joint project between London Play and adventure playground organisations to monitor, evaluate and sustain London's unique and precious adventure playgrounds
- **Playful Communities** - an ongoing project to transform streets into temporary playzones
- **Royal Parks Outreach Project** - a partnership with The Royal Parks to implement a three-year programme to engage children, young people and families living in the vicinity of new build playgrounds in Greenwich Park and Regent's Park
- **Core** - Funding towards the core costs of running the charity

London Play

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

18. Movements in funds – prior year

		At the start of the year £	Incoming resources & gains £	Outgoing resources & losses £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:						
Camp Build	GLA	22,292	30,900	(41,396)	-	12,496
Community Fix it Up	Awards for All	-	9,985	-	-	9,985
Play Works II	City Bridge Trust	12,877	69,800	(53,603)	-	29,074
Playful Communities	National Lottery Community Fund	-	129,200	(85,000)	-	43,400
Fundraising	National Lottery Community Fund	5,000	-	(3,056)	-	1,944
Core	Tudor Trust	4,173	20,000	(20,873)	-	3,300
Total restricted funds		45,042	259,885	(204,728)	-	100,199
Unrestricted funds:						
General funds		19,045	64,912	(69,679)	-	14,278
Total funds		64,087	324,797	(274,407)	-	114,477

19. Operating lease commitments

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	Property	
	2021	2020
	£	£
Less than 1 year	-	-
Between one and five years	-	-
	-	-