



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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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

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Independent Examiner

Mary E Ryan FCCA DCha

t/a Ark Accountancy

31 Cheam Road

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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:

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- 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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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
---------------------	-------------

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
	<u>1,100</u>	<u>1,100</u>

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
	<u>163,021</u>	<u>176,734</u>

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	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At the end of the year	11,717	428	12,145
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Depreciation			
At the start of the year	11,717	428	12,145
Charge for the year	-	-	-
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At the end of the year	11,717	428	12,145
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net book value			
At the end of the year	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At the start of the year	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

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	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At the end of the year	11,717	428	12,145
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Depreciation			
At the start of the year	11,140	428	12,568
Charge for the year	-	-	-
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At the end of the year	11,717	428	12,145
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net book value			
At the end of the year	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At the start of the year	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

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
	4,073	11,611

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
	30,965	13,909

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	-	-
	-	-