



# 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

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**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

<b>Key management personnel</b>	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

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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

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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**

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- 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

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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**

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#### **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](http://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

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**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

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

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 £
<b>Fixed assets:</b>					
Tangible assets	11		-	-	-
			-	-	-
<b>Current assets:</b>					
Debtors	13	30,082		4,073	
Cash at bank and in hand		109,987		172,353	
		140,069		176,426	
<b>Liabilities:</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(9,690)		(30,965)	
<b>Net current assets / (liabilities)</b>			130,379		145,461
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			130,379		145,461
<b>Total net assets / (liabilities)</b>	15		130,379		145,461
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>					
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
<b>Total charity funds</b>	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 13<sup>th</sup> 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	<b>15,775</b>	2,051	-	2,051
	10,600	5,175	<b>15,775</b>	2,051	-	2,051

#### 3. Income from charitable activities

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

#### 4. Income from other trading activities

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

#### 5. Income from investments

	2022			2021		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Interest earned on deposits	20	-	<b>20</b>	58	-	58
	20	-	<b>20</b>	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	<b>147,682</b>		1,633	128,615	32,773	163,021
Other personnel costs	-	70	858	<b>928</b>		-	823	-	823
Contractors	-	32,735	-	<b>32,735</b>		-	92,951	-	92,951
Materials and Equipment	-	16,023	235	<b>16,258</b>		-	41,602	-	41,602
Venue Hire	-	3,007	-	<b>3,007</b>		-	-	-	-
Catering and Travel Costs	-	9,727	-	<b>9,727</b>		-	2,222	-	2,222
Printing and Publicity	-	12,283	-	<b>12,283</b>		-	1,679	-	1,679
Accommodation costs	-	2,458	-	<b>2,458</b>		64	4,147	1,059	5,270
IT and Communications	-	185	2,823	<b>3,008</b>		-	6,998	17,439	24,437
Office costs	246	374	3,190	<b>3,810</b>		29	1,843	4,986	6,858
Travel and Meetings	-	31	214	<b>245</b>		-	20	77	97
Accounting and IE	-	-	5,985	<b>5,985</b>		-	-	4,336	4,336
Other professional fees	-	-	5,252	<b>5,252</b>		2,320	-	720	3,040
Finance costs	-	-	137	<b>137</b>		-	-	213	213
	246	222,135	21,134	<b>243,515</b>		4,046	280,900	61,603	346,549
Support and Governance	23	21,111	(21,134)	<b>-</b>		296	20,533	(20,829)	-
Total Expenditure	269	243,246	0	<b>243,515</b>		4,342	301,433	40,774	346,549

#### 8. Net expenditure for the year

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

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

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

	<b>2022</b>	2021
	<b>No.</b>	No.
Charitable activities	<b>4</b>	5
Support	<b>1</b>	1
Total	<b>5</b>	6

#### 11. Tangible fixed assets

Fixed assets were fully depreciated.

#### 12. Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

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

#### 13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

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

#### 14. Analysis of net assets between funds – this year

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

## 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	-	<b>4,073</b>
Cash at bank and in hand	57,334	115,019	<b>172,353</b>
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	(21,035)	(9,930)	<b>(30,965)</b>
<b>Net assets at the end of the year</b>	<b>40,372</b>	<b>105,089</b>	<b>145,461</b>

#### 16. Movements in funds

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

#### 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** - 4<sup>th</sup> 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)	-	<b>28,569</b>
Community Fix it Up	9,985	-	(5,078)	-	<b>4,907</b>
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)	-	<b>2,671</b>
Playful Communities	43,400	95,573	(77,031)	-	<b>61,942</b>
Royal Parks Outreach Project	-	6,608	(6,608)	-	-
Fundraising	1,944	-	(1,944)	-	-
Core	3,300	36,500	(40,774)	7,974	<b>7,000</b>
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>100,199</b>	<b>339,227</b>	<b>(333,457)</b>	<b>(880)</b>	<b>105,089</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>					
<b>General funds</b>	<b>14,278</b>	<b>38,306</b>	<b>(13,092)</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>40,372</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>114,477</b>	<b>377,533</b>	<b>(346,549)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>145,461</b>

#### 18. Operating lease commitments

There were no operating leases.