

Thurrock Play Network

Charity number 296428

Annual report to December 2023 Audited accounts to March 2022 - 2023

Charity address:

The Pyramid Resource Centre
Heath Road
Grays

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Accountant

Kim Hooper
Chartered accountant
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Greenwich
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Thurrock Play Network Annual Report 2023



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Thurrock Play Network

Time flies! Covid and its impact on us seems such a long time ago.

Recovery was initially slow, but the last few months have seen a massive surge forward in terms of what TPN is about and what we want to achieve as a community resource. In terms of our financial position, it has been worrying, as our grant from Thurrock Council, which represents half of our income, was in jeopardy. The fact that we have secured funding for 2023-2024, less 10% from last year, has been down to the persistence and

support from Natalie Smith and Becky Lee, from the Council community engagement team, who argued our business case so successfully. We do know that there will be no core grant available for 24-25.

With the cost-of-living crisis affecting everyone, we have not increased our membership fees, which have remained the same for the previous 3 years. We have seen a significant increase in our membership numbers from individuals, the voluntary and statutory sector, reaching out to over 9,000 children and adults.

The staff and volunteers have worked extremely hard, sometimes juggling large donations with running workshops, supporting external events, serving customers and general house-keeping duties, as well as always planning ahead. Thank you to you all.

Our volunteer base has never been so great, with dedicated volunteers of all ages, giving up so much of their time to help us either on site or working from home. They have a superb range of skills and talents. Without this support, we would not be able to survive. We value all of you. At last count we had 23 active volunteers on our books and others on the side lines, who step in when asked. Their enthusiasm in coming up with new ideas for activities or fund raising is invaluable. Additionally, we have several organisations and businesses that give in kind. Thank you to all of you. You make the place buzz!!!

Our trustees, all volunteers, who oversee the general running of TPN, have used their various skills to ensure that all finances, HR, and overall management is monitored and that TPN remains sustainable. Sadly, one of our longest serving trustees passed away suddenly. Maggie was a founder member and was passionate about play and the local community. She will be sorely missed.

We have supported several external events, either by personal attendance or by providing crafting packs. For the jubilee, in 2022, 600 packs were distributed out, all put together by our volunteers and staff, using scrap materials – plenty of queens and soldiers! With the coronation in 2023, packs, again were distributed. At Gray's Town Park, last year, we provided craft activities and there must have been over 150 children making crowns and easter bunnies. Christmas craft packs were made for the libraries.

There has been a regular timetable of events, from sewing, machine embroidery, candle making, wreath making, crochet to calligraphy, and many more, all run by volunteers and again mostly using donated / scrap materials. It has been great to also be able to run several activities for our children, which have gone down well.

Play is important to all of us and affects us all. With the disastrous affect that the pandemic had on the mental well-being of communities, both

young and old, we hope that we can offer activities and support, which will expediate recovery back to some sort of normality.

Our key project is the scrap-store, which is sourced from donations from individuals and local businesses, which would otherwise find their way to landfill. Some of our quality donations come from further afield, with an amazing 5 big van loads of all sorts from the Lord of the Rings sets. IKEA, of course, continue to support us with regular van loads of donations.

With careful monitoring of the tonnage that we have had donated this year, we are looking at over 26 tonnes over a 9-month period. With the pressure on us, with regards to climate change and saving the planet, we are all doing our bit by reducing the carbon footprint. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle becomes even more essential. Our donations range from a small bag to van loads! We have received several monetary donations, not only from individuals but other organisations. We try to keep our social media current, celebrating any donations and keeping up to date with news. Thank you.

One man's rubbish is another's treasure.

Some great partnerships have been developed over this last year, supporting community activities and other organisations, either with setting up or to those already established, who support specific groups. This has allowed us to extend our support to families and other individuals, who might not know about us or be able to access our resources. Providing activities for Young Carers, during the holidays was a pleasure and to know that some of our donations have ended up in Senegal to support young children out there!

This year's National Play Day theme was 'Play on a shoestring' and our activities were aimed to be run at zero cost. This event was run in conjunction with the Big Lunch, on 2nd August. After 3 years of not being able to celebrate National Play Day in the way that TPN have always done, despite the weather, there was a good turn-out, with several different organisations involved and co-ordinated through CVS and the Community team with a Lower Thames funding grant.

Writing this report is difficult as there are so many people to thank and so much goodwill around, it is difficult to put this on paper, but with current support we are receiving, we can see a very healthy future.

Current staffing:

Lauren Strutt	-	Interim co-ordinator
Tony Boughen	-	Driver - maintenance
Fiona Flint	-	Retail support
Faye Smith	-	Retail support
Michelle Tucker	-	Retail support
Denise Wakeling	-	Admin

Current trustees as of 31st December 2023

Sylvia Yates	Chair
Andrea Bull	Vice Chair
Andy Cole	Secretary
Paul Allchorne	
Aileen Burgess	
Pam Freestone	
Dave Henderson	
Margaret Henderson	
Teresa O'Keeffe	
Sara Muldowney	- Councillor representative

Financial statement

The 22-23 audited accounts are attached.

Thurrock Play Network

Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 March 2023

Notes				2023	2022
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Total £	
Incoming Resources					
Grants receivable	2	32,000	1,000	33,000	34,970
Donations		2,402		2,402	1,533
Craft sales		2,599		2,599	21,854
Scrap donations		21,322		21,322	0
Deliveries		198		198	0
Services		3,362		3,362	0
Activities				0	0
Hire fees		1,318		1,318	0
Membership		4,520		4,520	0
Coronavirus JRS				0	2,762
Bank deposit interest		593		593	0
total incoming resources		68,314	1,000	69,314	61,119
Resources expended					
Direct charitable expenditure	3	48,103	683	48,786	54,493
Other expenditure:					
Fundraising and publicity			0	0	0
Management and administration		4,821	0	4,821	2,524
total resources expended		52,924	683	£53,607	57,017
Net movement in resources		15,390	317	15,707	4,102
Transfers between funds		0	0	0	0
Total funds brought forward		84,911	0	84,911	80,809
Total funds carried forward		£100,301	£317	£100,618	84,911

Thurrock Play Network

Balance Sheet
as at 31 March 2023

	Notes			2023	2022
		£	£	£	
Fixed assets		4		0	0
Current assets					
Stock				4,500	7,146
Debtors and prepayments	5			73	268
Bank and cash balances				110,514	92,147
				115,087	99,561
Liabilities - amounts falling due within one year					
Creditors and accruals	6			14,469	14,650
Net current assets				100,618	84,911

Total assets less current liabilities £100,618 84,911

Funds

Restricted	7	317	0
Unrestricted	8	100,301	84,911
		£100,618	84,911

Approved by:

S. D. Yates

on:

29.1.2024

the notes on the following pages form part of these accounts

Thurrock Play Network

Notes to the accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2023

1. Accounting policies

a) Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting by Charities (the Charities SORP).

b) Grants

Grants are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) on an accruals basis following the satisfaction of any pre-conditions.

c) Other income

Donations, fundraising and gifts are recognised on a received basis.
All other income is recognised in the accounts on an accruals basis.
Gifts in kind are valued at their value to the charity. No value is assigned to scrap received

d) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis

e) Capitalisation

Expenditure on refurbishment, furniture, fittings and equipment which exceeds £300 is capitalised

f) Depreciation

Provision for depreciation of fixed assets held for use by the charity is made at
Depreciation is provided at annual rates calculated to spread the cost of each asset over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates currently in use are

Furniture and fittings	33% net book value
Equipment	33% net book value
Motor vehicles	33% net book value

g) Taxation

No provision for taxation is included in the accounts as the charity is entitled to exemption from tax afforded by Section 505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988

h) Cashflow

The charity qualifies as a small company and therefore in accordance with FRS1, no cashflow statement is required

2 Grants Receivable

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	2023	2022
				Total	
Thurrock Council	32,000	0	32,000	31,836	
Thurrock Council - COVID	0	0	0	3,134	
Active Essex	0	1,000	1,000	0	
Furlough	0	0	0	2,762	
	32,000	1,000	33,000	37,732	

3 Direct Charitable Expenditure

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total £	2023 Total £	2022
Wages and salaries	30,237	683		30,920	32,092
Rent and rates	5,847			5,847	5,000
Premises costs	2,707			2,707	8,966
Activities costs	9,312			9,312	8,435
Depreciation		0		0	0
	48,103	683		48,786	54,493

4 Fixed Assets

	motor vehicle	furniture & fittings	office equipment	total
cost				
balance at 1 April 2022	12,747	55,334	38,358	106,439
disposals				
additions	0	0	0	0
balance at 31 March 2023	£12,747	£55,334	£38,358	106,439
depreciation				
balance at 1 April 2022	12,747	55,334	38,358	106,439
disposals				
charge for the year		0	0	0
balance at 31 March 2023	£12,747	£55,334	£38,358	106,439
Net book value at 31 March 2023	£0	£0	£0	0
Net book value at 1 April 2022	£0	£0	£0	0

5 Debtors and prepayments

	2023	2022
Sundry debtors	73	268
Prepayments	0	0
	£73	268

6 Creditors and accruals

	2023	2022
HMRC	3,562	3,562
Deferred Income	2,200	2,200
Creditors and Accruals	8,707	8,888
	£14,469	14,650

7 Restricted funds

None of the funds of the charity are restricted.

	balance 1.4.2022	movement in fund incoming resources	expensed transferred	balance 31.3.2023
Active Essex	0	1000	683	317

The purpose of the funds are as follows

Active Essex	Grant to purchase activity equipment
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8 Unrestricted funds

The income fund of the charity consists of the following:

	balance 1.4.2022	movement in fund incoming resources	expensed transferred	balance 31.3.2023
Contingency fund	60,000	0	0	60,000
	60,000	0	0	60,000

The Contingency fund is accumulated from management fees and interest and is for contractual responsibilities. In the opinion of the members of the management committee at 31.3.2022 the main contractual liabilities were:

Redundancy	11307
Lease on Pyramid	5000
Running costs	43793

9 Contingencies and Contractual commitments

In the opinion of the Members of the Management Committee at 31.3.2023 there were no contingent liabilities and no contractual commitments (31.3.2022 None)

10 Members of the Management Committee Remuneration and Expenses

None of the members of the Management Committee were remunerated directly or indirectly.
There was no reimbursement of expenses (31.3.2022 £nil)

