



**ISLINGTON PLAY ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2009**



Introduction

Welcome to this annual report for the year 2008/09. Islington Play Association has used the year to really embed the work we do for the children of Islington.

IPA bases all of its services on the fact that Play is the way that children learn and that the way to encourage development is to provide an environment and conditions that allow children to play freely. IPA services range from pre birth, including support for pregnant mums and expecting families, to support for youth providers in the borough, and we have had great feedback from our partners about the support and training that we offer. Our Children's Centre at Paradise Park is a fully designated centre delivering excellent services, with our health and community programmes recognised as particularly effective

IPA has worked diligently on its fundraising strategy this year and this will bear fruit next year. The coming year sees an expected increase in IPA's staff team with the Big Lottery funded Treehouse Project due to start, and a new Community Games Project which will start working in schools and with other partners this Summer. These projects will allow us to take the model of Play that we believe in to new and different places where children spend their time.



We continue to work closely with Islington Council, who we share key outcomes for children and families with. This work ranges from working jointly on training programmes, disseminating information and passing on feedback, to having a seat on a variety of strategic decision-making boards, including the Children's board and the Area and Young People's Partnerships. IPA continues to support the Play partnership and through this has managed to influence the way outside play is being encouraged across the borough.

IPA provides ongoing support to other smaller organisations in the voluntary sector, offering training, advice, information and volunteers. We support management committees and staff to deliver good practice, and help Adventure Play and other play provision for children and young people to run more smoothly.

The playgrounds in Islington have benefitted from the Play Improvement Project and other fundraised projects, which has allowed IPA to work closely with play workers to encourage children to become more involved in the design and build of their play sites and to make them more accessible. IPA has brought well over £1.3 million into the play sector in the last ten years and we have an excellent track record of developing innovative services and delivering them.



The work this year has helped IPA to focus its plans for the future. The focus is on the consolidation of IPA services into a smooth play focussed continuum allowing IPA to deliver services to children and young people of all ages, and to support partners who are also delivering for the families of Islington. IPA knows that encouraging children and young people to become aware of and enjoy the world around them is vital for a borough like Islington, where 40% of children are deemed to be in poverty. IPA believes that high quality Play provision and involvement with the natural world are key to children and young people finding their place and realising their potential in the midst of the most dire need. This understanding will focus our fundraising strategy around natural playable spaces, ensuring that the urban environment is made more playable for the children in the borough.

The coming year may well be even more challenging for the families in the borough, but IPA will continue to support Play opportunities throughout the sector and the borough to ensure that children and young people get the best start that they can, to enjoy their lives and achieve their goals and aims in this crowded, urban, exciting and innovative borough of Islington.

Business and Tendering Manager Report

This one year post focused on the development of a new five-year business plan for the organisation and a complementary funding strategy, which included a review of IPA's recent work and in depth user feedback and input.

The business plan sets out a path to develop a play focussed continuum, allowing IPA to deliver services to children and young people of all ages, and to support partners who are also delivering for the families of Islington. IPA seeks to work with partners to improve play for all children in Islington, through direct work with children and working strategically to influence decision making in the wider community. IPA has continued in its strong focus on consulting children and the wider community on the use and shaping of community spaces.

Included in the plan was a marketing and promotional strategy, which was heavily implemented this year. This included the production of the re-launched IPA newsletter and e-news list, and also the complete redesign and updating of the IPA website, into a more user friendly and useful resource – www.islingtonplay.org.uk.





Paradise Park Children's Centre

2008 - 2009 has been a noteworthy year for the Children's Centre. Activities have grown substantially from the previous year as a result of taking on control of the budget, with a full programme of activities and outreach for families, both in and outside the centre, now in place. The Children's Centre is a fully designated centre, lauded as a good to excellent provider with recognised good practice in its multi-agency working with healthcare professionals.

The Children's Centre is offering regular weekly ante natal, post natal and baby massage sessions together with the well baby and immunisation clinic. Craniosacral and Reflexology sessions are provided for local families. A Councilor's surgery, legal and housing advice is provided monthly. Family support services are extensive and a second family support worker joined in October 2008. Three Stay and Play sessions are organised at the Children's Centre and Freightliners Farm. A special needs group is building up membership and there are regular visits to the groups and sessions by the child psychologist and the speech and language therapist.



The Children's Centre provides support for families through other services and activities including parenting courses, Strengthening Families/Strengthening Communities, breastfeeding support sessions and developing confidence workshops.

The cafe we run within the Children's Centre has continued to thrive this year, providing children and families and local partners with a welcoming reception point to the Centre, a comfortable place to find out about the Centre's services, a community meeting point or just somewhere to take a break. The cafe is additional

to the core offer of the Children's Centre and is an example of how IPA strives to bring a community focus to its services.

As Paradise Park Children Centre has developed and provided further activities and services the numbers of users has noticeably increased. The involvement of those parents, families and users in the planning and organising of further services will continue to be an important objective for the forthcoming year through the PPCC sub-committee and Governance arrangements.



The full children's centre programme is available at www.islington.gov.uk/Education/childrenscentres/centre_activities/



Play In and Around Islington

In April, the first year of our Play Improvement initiative (funded through Islington Council's play strategy) got under way, led by project workers Morgan Leichter-Saxby, Bob Hughes and Max Mueller. Our brief has been to work with all 12 Islington Adventure Playgrounds to increase the number of children attending. To this effect, we have implemented a wide variety of measures, including workshops on children-led play, training (on subjects ranging from disability awareness to team cohesion), distribution of model policies and procedures, leading on consultation and design of play spaces (notably Waterside Adventure Playground, where the IPA's play team will lead the re-construction of the entire site in 2010), as well as carrying out community outreach work and supporting individual children and families. Our work has been complemented by a number of physical additions to the playgrounds, ranging from accessible swings and sea-saws to aerial runways, bonfire pits, refurbishment of indoor spaces and 'make-over's' of entire sites. Corporate volunteer teams spent around 1500 working hours supporting us and the Adventure Playgrounds in this task.

In the autumn of 2008, the Playful Ideas fund of the Big Lottery awarded us a grant of £245,000 for our 'dens, camps and tree-house project'. The inspiration for our bid came from a trip to the Kulturinsel Einsiedel, a woodland adventure playground full of amazing tree houses, castles and underground hide-outs located on the German border with Poland.

We repeated our 2007 trip (funded by a Lady Allen of Hurtwood travel bursary) in October 2008 when staff from seven Islington Adventure Playgrounds joined us to compete in the Kulturinsel's tree house building weekend. With the emphasis firmly on taking part rather than winning, the journey resulted in an enormous amount of fun, huge enthusiasm and a buzz of ideas, helping our tree house project to get off to a brilliant start in April 2009, following Wendy Jeeves's appointment as tree house project worker. The planned project already is attracting huge interest from other organisations and individuals, following its grand launch in February '09 when over 100 representatives from (amongst many others) the playwork community, Islington Council, the Big Lottery, the Lady Allen of Hurtwood Trust and the media (as well as the odd celebrity) met at Islington Town Hall to wish us every success.

Other developments have included the awarding of a grant early in 2009 from the Esmée Fairburn Foundation to compile and publish a book of community games from around the world. This exciting initiative will continue until summer 2010 and will lead to a new dynamic play team at head office to take the work forward.



IPA Staff

Director	Anita Grant
Business and Tendering manager	Suzanne Murray
Finance and Admin Manager	Gary Ewer
Finance Worker	Bruna Ibraj
Play Improvement Project Workers	Max Mueller, Morgan leichter-Saxby Bob Hughes, Kathleen Fitzgerald
Priory Heights	Annie Cook

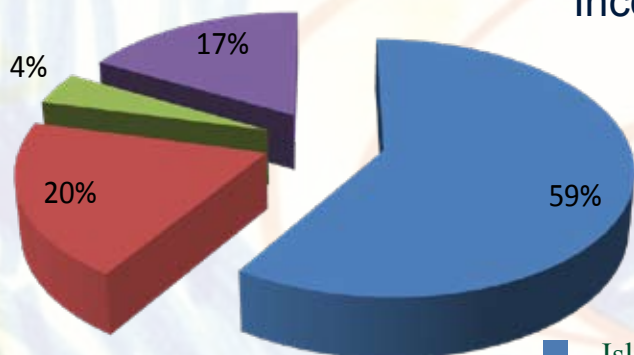
Paradise Park Children Centre

Head of Centre	John Bradford
Services Coordinator	Patricia Alert
Leader of Learning	Helen Richards
Family Support Workers	Kemi Lawal, Joy Ayeni
Administration	Belinda Carmichael, Nick Carley
Cafe and Reception Manager	Sarah Ghartey
Cafe Staff	Hussein Mohammed, Hattice Arik, Husne Beyter
Nursery Staff Team	Petia Sonmez, Aysel Gulec, Margaret Gaskin, Hayley Jeakins Anna Kirby, Jermaine Payne, Stacey Jeakins
Creche Team	Fatima Bahmani, Shakhera Aktar, Patricia Okwan Marie Ford, Letisha Hunt, Laurent Matthew
Cleaner	Mathew Campbell, Hattice Arik, Julita John, Onyi Anyanwu Gennet Tecele, Florence Adeniran, Lydia Bailey, Humera Alam Lydia Lewis, Keisha Green Vanessa Beckles

Islington Play association could not run without the fantastic input from our many volunteers.

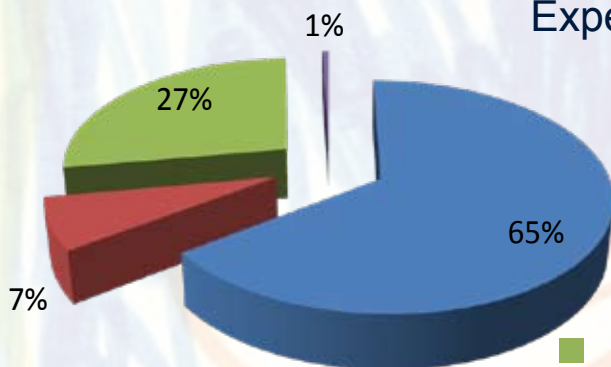
Financial Information

Income £997,845



- Islington Council - Paradise Park Childrens Centre - £588,804
- Islington Council - Core Play and Project Funding- £198,689
- Charitable Trusts and Donations - £40,961
- Nursery and Priory Heights Fees, Consultancy and Bank Interest - £169,391

Expenditure £1,002,538



- Project Costs (Excluding Staffing) - £272,797
- Staffing, Recruitment and Training - £651,239
- Administration, Fees and Audit - £5,273
- All Premises Costs and Overheads - £73,229

Difference matched by resources carried forward.

Full accounts are available on request.

Auditor: Connor Warin, Trinity House, Foxes Parade, Waltham Abbey, EN9 1PH

Bankers: Barclays Bank, the Co-operative Bank and the COIF Charities Deposit Fund

The IPA is a registered charity number: 1086165 and a not for profit limited company: number 3989283

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Management Committee

Chair	Jonah Grunsell
Treasurer	Lucia Garratt
Trustee	Kassandra Liburd
Trustee	Alan Sutton
Trustee	Chris Hignett
Trustee	Kelle Dittmar
Trustee	Dawn Jennings
Trustee	Jennifer Chan (from Nov 08)
Secretary	Gary Ewer (until Feb 09)
Secretary	John Bradford (from Feb 09)