

Haringey Play Association (HarPA)

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS (April 2024 – March 2025)

for the Year Ended 31st March 2025

Structure, Governance and Management

The company is governed by an elected Management Board who are play professionals, representatives of member organisations and managers of related services, or volunteers with relevant skills and experience, elected by members at the Annual General Meeting.

The Management Board may at any time appoint any members of the charitable company as a member of the Management Board either to fill a vacancy or by way of addition to the Management Board. Potential new Management Board members are only appointed after satisfactory completion of a DBS check, two references, and a statement of eligibility and observation of Management Board meetings. On appointment, they are expected to sign a Code of Conduct and complete an induction. All Management Board members are expected to attend an annual development day which also considers any other committee training and development needs.

The staff are managed by the Director, who is appointed and accountable to the Management Board. The Board makes final decisions of the mission, values and strategic direction of the organisation; the organisational structure, personnel appointments and salaries; policies and procedures and internal controls; ensuring the organisation is financially viable, has sufficient resources, and is operating within appropriate and effective financial and resource management controls, and monitoring of organisational performance.

All members of the Management Board are members of the company and guarantee to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up such amounts as may be required not exceeding £1.

Organisation and objectives

Haringey Play Association supports children & young people's right to play through building the capacity of Haringey's community at grass roots and local governmental level to provide high quality play services.

HarPA will do this by:

1. Developing and supporting a diverse range of children & young people's play provision committed to improving the quality of play experience in Haringey
2. Supporting play providers through representing their interests, providing advice, information, training and promoting inter-agency communication and cooperation
3. Giving a powerful voice to children's play, raising awareness and understanding of the fundamental importance of play in a child & young person's life

Statement of Purpose

Haringey Play Association wants every child & young person to have high quality, cost effective and accessible play opportunities and care services which are monitored and evaluated.

HarPA recognises that play is an essential part of the education, development and welfare of children. It is committed to improving the quality of the play experience wherever it occurs: on the streets, in play-schemes, play centres, after school clubs, parks, housing estates, in leisure facilities, on residential holidays and camping trips, in schools and hospitals.

HarPA will work to create and support play opportunities that are stimulating and challenging. HarPA is committed to playing its full part in protecting children & young people from injury, bullying and abuse.

HarPA will work towards ensuring equality of access to play so that no child is denied play opportunities because of inability to pay fees, failure to include children & young people with disabilities, children & young people with health problems, or children & young people from new communities.

HarPA will work to support positive transitions at every stage of children & young people's development to help enhance their life chances.

To achieve these aims, HarPA will explore new ways of working in partnership with play service providers, including Haringey Council, other statutory agencies and community, voluntary organisations and private sector. HarPA will attempt to link up with a wide range of existing networks to improve information sharing, coordination of services and to maximise the impact of available skills and expertise.

How HarPA's work benefits the public in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2006.

The work is of direct benefit to people in need due to a number of factors including: financial hardship and disability. We work predominantly with young people in an area of financial hardship with a strong emphasis on inclusion. It also enables the advancement of citizenship and community development through working to promote participation and to empower people to influence and develop their own services.

Haringey Play Association

2024 - 2025

Trustee Report - Key statistics



Annual Income
£209,160

Total number of sessions in period

114



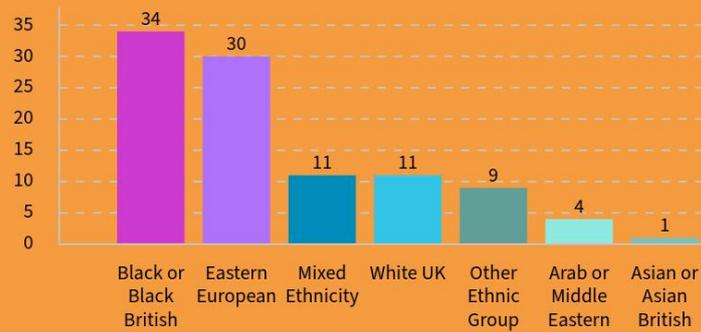
Total Unique Participants

721

Total Unique Attendances

3624

Ethnicity of Registered Participants by %

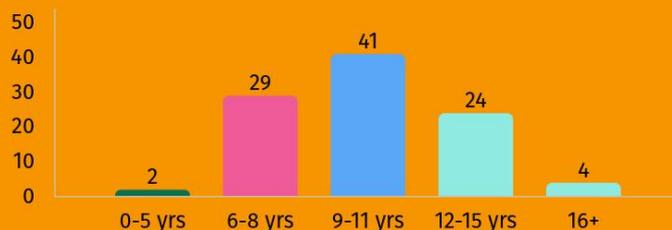


Total Hours of Play

17944



Age of Registered Participants by %



Haringey Play Association

2024 - 2025

Trustee Report - Children Feedback



"In school I don't really get to play much and here I get to play a lot."
(6 yrs old)



"The staff make us feel special...
they look after me and do more than look after us, they listen to us too." (8 yrs old)

"It's not just a normal play area, they have a lot of cool things, you can jump off ... theres a lot of swings and drop slides" (11 yrs old)



"It's so special because theres so much things to do and you cant really get bored because all the people who come here are so nice and you can make games and be creative "
(10 yrs old)



"School is really hard sometimes, and **whenever I go to adventure afterschool it calms me down.** "
(9 yrs old)

Haringey Play Association 2024 - 2025



Trustee Report - Parent Feedback

"The children can enjoy and learn about nature and get off computer games and get off street."



"The staff are incredible. I learn more about why play is needed for my child. "

"Perfect place for children"

"All round brilliant, safe place to play."

84% strongly agree with the statement:
"I use the playground as a safe space to play"

77% strongly agree with the statement:
"I use the playground so my child learns to resolve conflict/argument"

95% strongly agree with the statement:
"I use the playground as it is affordable / it's free to attend"

"What one word would you use to describe Somerford Grove Adventure Playground...?"



Freedom
Affordable Needed Playfull
Friendly **Amazing** ESSENTIAL
Safe play Fantastic Creative
Welcoming Fabulous **Excellent**
Fun

Haringey Play Association - 2024-2025

Haringey Play Association [HarPA] retained and expanded services throughout 2024-25. Income generated through funding bids, commissioned services, and donations was used to provide Play and community provisions & projects.

List of Funders 2024-2025:

- Individual donations and crowdfunding
- Awards for All
- Children in Need (main grant)
- Dept of Education / LBH - HAF Holiday
- LBH - Tottenham Regeneration Forest School Fridays
- LBH – High Road West Regeneration – Love Lane play sessions
- Tottenham Grammar Foundation
- LCF - Peabody grant
- UK Youth
- Fidelity International
- Lords Foundation
- Haringey commission
- Go! London
- London Mayor’s Office - Violence Reduction Unit - HLP Fridays
- Trusthouse Charitable Foundation – Forest School Fridays



Somerford Grove Adventure Playground (est.2005)



- **Somerford Grove Adventure Playground After School & Holiday Play sessions:**

Our open-access, free-of-charge play sessions are open to young people aged 6yrs-16yrs – activities include free play, swings, slide, running, hiding, arts & crafts, soft archery, dodgeball, group games, table football, cooking, climbing, jumping-off platforms, campfire & outdoor cooking, nature play & forest schools activities, sand-pit, water-play, den-building, soft archery, wood-craft, hand tools, play structure building and trips.

In 2024-2025 opening hours for Somerford Grove Adventure Playground:

After-School & Weekends	Term-Time Partnerships	School Holidays
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday: <u>Sisterhood</u> • Girls group play session • (3pm – 6:30pm) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mon: <u>Stay & Play</u> • Under 5s with parent/carer • (9am – 12 midday) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekdays – <u>Holiday Session</u> • Open-access play session • Under 6s welcome with parent/carer until 1pm • (11am – 5pm) • During Half-Term, Easter & Summer breaks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday: <u>Youth Group</u> • Open-access play session • (3pm – 6:30pm) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday afternoons: Primary School Sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easter and Summer school holidays - <u>play sessions at Sandbunker</u> estate (in Wood Green) Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursdays
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday: No Session • <i>Food Bank & Volunteer Day</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday Daytime: <u>HLP Construction Project</u> • (10am – 2:30pm) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday: <u>Forest School</u> • Open-access play session • (3pm – 6:30pm) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursdays after school 3pm-5:30pm <u>Love Lane playground – play sessions</u> 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday: <u>Family Session</u> • Open-access play session • Under 6s welcome with parent/carer (11:30am – 3pm) & Food Bank 		





Site Development at Somerford Grove Adventure Playground

Build Up – Somerford Grove Adventure Playground’s new drop slide was completed and opened in June 2024. Funded by Build Up, designed and built by young people and volunteers, our newest attraction is complete with an amazing Dragon adorning the structure. The drop slide is truly fearsome, more than 4 meters high, with a drop of 3 meters, starting with 1.5 meters of vertical incline. For both adults and children, going down the slide is a significant undertaking, although once mastered it becomes as easy as riding a bike. The process of sitting on the edge for the first time, looking down at the sheer drop beneath you, causes even the coolest head to start swimming. Time and time again, we see young people face their fears, struggle with the intellectual and physical response to perceived risk and try to overcome their internal resistance. Sometimes it takes minutes. Sometimes it takes months of repeated attempts and failures. The surge of confidence, excitement, self-belief and ‘joyful aliveness’ after their first successful trip down is magnificent to witness.

New platforms & play structures – HarPA staff / onsite playground builders Jake Hally-Milne and Tam Carrigan worked with children and students from Haringey Learning partnership to build a new platform, climbing net, and a slide for younger children

Mud Kitchen area – a corner of the playground has evolved into a bustling and productive mud kitchen (which still needs development). Utilising old pots, pans and cooking utensils we have enjoyed seeing children and young people getting deep into imaginative play, running fantasy restaurants, commercial kitchens and roleplaying as YouTube chefs.

Disabled toilet and baby changing area refurbishment – A local resident donated funds to get new fire doors for the main hall and refurbish our disabled toilet and baby changing area in 2024.

Regular Programme

Sisterhood - On Tuesdays during term time, our long running after-school girls group Sisterhood continued for another successful year. Sisterhood is a free-of-charge, safe space successfully engaging girls from 6-16 years old, with a combination of play and youthwork delivered on site at Somerford Grove Adventure Playground. The tightknit group continue to grow older together and consolidate long term connections with each other, the playground, and their playful 'becoming' selves. The staff support the group’s autonomy and create space for the young people to explore, play and spend time with friends. Play activities are offered on a voluntarily basis, children can engage in being

who they want to be, without judgement or the need to justify, taking part in age-appropriate workshops and creative projects if they wish. Girls improve their skills-range, improve their self-esteem and resilience, and increase their access to physical activity. We also encourage the girls to take part in workshops on a range of topics of interest to teenagers. This year, we completed our successful acrobatics and gymnastics partnership with Go! London and Upswing called 'Flipping Fun'. Another highlight this year was a spontaneous child-led activity, when the girls found an abandoned old Wide Screen TV on the street, and decided to put on gloves and eye protectors and smash it up, proceeding to spend a happy few hours looking inside and picking apart the electrics.

Youth Club – At the start of the Spring academic term we initiated a new funding partnership, with support from Peabody and Haringey Council. This enabled us to open our Wednesday youth club session to a wider age range and expand to a fully open access session welcoming children from 6 to 16 yrs old. We also initiated a new partnership with Tottenham Hotspur Football Club via Home Cooked, a violence reduction programme funded by the Mayor of London's Violence Reduction Unit. In the MUGA astro cage, coaches from Spurs hosted afterschool football training and matches. This partnership has proved popular with our regulars and signalled the start of a new collaborative approach to youth engagement in our immediate local area, which we are proud to contribute towards. The Youth Club afterschool sessions experienced a surge of high attendance numbers in Autumn 2024, and sessions continue to provide free play opportunities and a safe place for young people to spend time together. We also increased our snack and hot food provision, providing something for the children to eat afterschool.

Forest School – Our Friday afterschool provision in partnership with Wild About Woods continued into its second year. Supported by Haringey Council, these drop-in activities take place during our usual free-play sessions, and are run by a professional Forest School Teacher, giving young people the opportunity to learn and play in nature. The activities are wide-ranging and always popular, including outdoor cooking on an open fire, creative arts using natural materials as well as seasonal play activities. Other activities include building campfires, making nettle crisps and wood whittling. Our conker championship was fiercely competitive and the queue for campfire pancakes stretched around the playground. Like our Wednesday sessions, Friday sessions are now open to our full age range from 6 –16 yrs old and include an expanded hot food and snack provision.

Stay and Play – During the summer academic term 2024, we launched a new day-time provision on Monday mornings from 9.00am to 12.00midday funded by Peabody. The

session is a community focused stay and play provision for parents and carers and their children under 6 yrs, taking place outdoors at Somerford Grove Adventure Playground as well as indoors in our meeting room and events hall. Supervised by an experienced playworker, the session is designed to facilitate peer support and model freely initiated, sensory and imaginative play. The sessions Attendance gradually grew over the summer months in 2024 and have developed into a popular fixture in our weekly programme with a regular network of parents and carers attending.

HAF Holiday Activity & Food programme – Once again, HarPA was funded by Haringey Council & Dept of Education to provide hot meals and holiday activities for children and young people aged 6 – 16 yrs old during school holidays. This provided the backbone of our school holiday provision, running across the long summer break, half terms and easter, and a limited run of sessions over the winter break. The sessions were open in the morning for families and open to under 6s if supervised by parents/carers. Highlights included water fights, dance competitions, baking & a new spontaneously formed Play Association Council – initiated by young people during May Half term 2024.

Primary School Visits – Our partnership with Mulberry Primary School continued, hosting Reception and Yr1 classes for 2hrs every Wednesday throughout summer term 23/24, through to Autumn and Spring 24/25 .

Haringey Learning Partnership Construction project for students excluded from mainstream education – on Fridays during term time we continued to host groups from Haringey Learning Partnership, funded by Mayor of London’s Violence Reduction Unit. The sessions are led by experienced playworkers and construction professionals. The 14-16yr old students conducted repairs on the playground, learnt basic woodwork and picked up fundamental construction skills including safe use of hand tools and power tools, all guided by HarPA staff.

Haringey Play Association

HarPA’s role continues as a support organisation and provide lead for children and young people’s Play services across the borough; providing Playworkers and play guidance and support, advice and information on all aspects of Play & Playwork to groups and individuals who request it. In addition, we have also provided youth & community provisions.

Haringey Play Association – social media: HarPA updates the website regularly www.haringey-play.org.uk as well as regularly updating our Twitter feed and Instagram. Follow us on Twitter: @HarPAofficial (1.8k followers). HarPA also has a LinkedIn page. We have two Instagram accounts @sisterhood_girls_project and @somerford_adventure. We also have a YouTube channel – Haringey Play Association – featuring short films and montage edits featured on our channel.

The Felix Project & Food bank – Thursday and Saturday HarPA staff and volunteers set up tables to offer food, fruit, vegetables, bread, pastries and pasta, tins, rice etc. Felix Project collects surplus food and food that will no longer be shelved due to packaging or change of stock, from food suppliers and supermarkets. HarPA staff distributed the food and items to local community, x112 local residents/families collected food from us over the year.

Estate play: Sandbunker Play Project – Alongside our regular sessions at our base in Somerford Grove Adventure Playground, we also delivered satlight play sessions at Sand Bunker, thanks to funding from Haringey Council. Drop-in activities included skipping with the big rope, tug of war, arts and crafts and soft archery. Funded by HAF. based on the Sandlings Estate in Noel Park, Wood Green. HarPA provided play sessions for 3 days a week (Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays) 12:30pm-4pm for Easter and Summer holidays. The play sessions included outdoor play with loose parts, crafts, slime making, skipping, den building, soft archery, water play and we also had access to the Sandbunker Community Project.

Play sessions Love Lane playground: commissioned by High Road West Regeneration Team. HarPA Playworkers delivered play sessions in the new Love Lane playground to help activate the space. The play sessions included loose parts.

National Play Day 2024: This year for National Play Day we hosted a large-scale open access community fun day, centred around Somerford Grove but incorporating the MUGA cage and open green space behind the playground. We hosted a range of activities including an amazing pop-up play activity from ‘Monkey Do’, who strung up nets and giant inflatable balls in nearby trees, a glitter bar, sound system and bubble van, and acrobatics end of programme showcase from Flipping Fun and Upswing. HarPA provided free halal hotdogs, ice poles and refreshments. We were particularly proud to invite two of Tottenham's most well-loved and highly respected youth workers and sports coaches – Hesketh Benoit and Clasford Stirling MBE – to host basketball sessions and football training sessions respectively. Clasford’s academy London Elite is well known for their long running work in Broadwater Farm, and we were happy to help break down post-code divisions by welcoming his team of coaches led by his son Jude to Northumberland Park. The sessions were well attended and a great success. Overall, the event was attended by over 300 local people and proved a resounding success.

Trips – throughout the year we took the children and young people on several successful trips off site. Highlights included a Trampolining trip in June 2024, Sisterhood Girls group visiting our corporate partner Fidelity's offices at St. Pauls, group trips adventure playgrounds in neighbouring boroughs, our yearly Christmas Panto trip and a summer trip to the seaside – taking 80 of our most regular children and young people, plus assorted parents and carers, to Broadstairs for a day of fun playing in the sea and enjoying a picnic on the beach.

Advocacy and Funding

Play Sector Advocacy - In the first quarter of 2025, our director Sereena Keymatlian made significant contributions to the 'think tank' Centre of Children's Lives - Play Commission (funded by Paul Lindley and Chaired by Baroness Anne Longfield), Sereena attending round table discussions, submitted evidence and coordinating peers from the Adventure Playgrounds across England to advocate for the importance of adventure playgrounds. Haringey Play Association was featured in the final report "It all starts with play" as one of the case studies. Since the report launch, Play England have been instrumental in setting up an APPG for play which we hope will lead to a National Play Strategy.

Eastbourne Play Conference - We were delighted to receive the "Play & Community Development" award at the 2025 National Play work Award Ceremony at Eastbourne Play Conference. To be recognised by our peers and colleagues in the sector was a significant moment for us as a charity, and our delegation enjoyed a range of talks and discussions, including a keynote speech from Sereena on "Haringey Play Association – A Playworkers journey" and "Play Memories of Haringey – short film"

Corporate partner Fidelity International – We continued to enjoy the support of Fidelity International as main designated charity partner, ongoing from January 2023- December 2025 (3yrs programme). The partnership with continued to reap dividends, both in terms of social impact and crucial funding support. Regular volunteer groups helped with upkeep and renovations at the playground, a CSR quiz night raised over £10,000, and Fidelity's 'Secret Santa' initiative saw staff kindly purchase and wrap individual Christmas presents for 50 of our most regular attendees – gifting each child to a toy of their choice, up to a value of £40 each. These gifts made a huge impact to our local families in the run up to Christmas.

Venue hire, parties and events: HarPA staff have been commissioned to work at events as Playworkers. We have also generated income through party packages and venue hire at Somerford Grove Adventure Playground.

HarPA Partnerships – 2024-2025

- Build Up
- CAMHS / Trailblazers
- Fidelity International
- Haringey Council
- Hackney Play Association
- Haringey Community Gold
- Haringey Learning Partnership
- Homerton Adventure Playground
- High Road West Regeneration Team
- HTA Design LLP
- Jakes Gardens
- London Play
- Lords / Lords Foundation
- Make Do-Play
- Mulberry Primary School
- NLCP
- North London Scouts District
- Outlandish
- Pats Tree Surgery
- St Paul of All Hallows
- Time to Spare (Plinth)
- The Felix Project
- The Sandbunker community project
- Tottenham Grammar Foundation
- Tottenham Hotspur Foundation
- Tottenham Hotspur Football Club
- Tottenham Regeneration team
- Wild About Our Woods
- 20 20 Project

RISK ASSESSMENT

The trustees actively review the major risks faced by the charity. The trustees have identified the major financial risks faced by the charity. They have also examined other operational and business risks faced and systems have been established to mitigate the significant risks.

RESERVES POLICY

In accordance with the SORP 2015, reserves are “resources the charity has or can make available to spend, for any or all the charity’s purposes, once it has met its commitments and covered its other planned expenditure”.

HarPA will endeavour to maintain sufficient reserves to allow it to cover known liabilities and contingencies, absorb setbacks and take advantage of change and opportunity.

HarPA’s reserves levels are agreed and annually reviewed by HarPA’s Management Board. To set reserves levels, the Management Board uses a risk identification approach and considers the following:

- Forecasts of income and expenditure in future years
- Assessment of risks and liabilities, the likelihood of risks occurring, the impact these would have, and the potential ability of the organization to manage these

HarPA's funds are made up of the following:

Restricted funds:

These are not considered as part of HarPA's reserves, and have no cash value in managing risks, liabilities and contingencies. They consist of:

- Income specifically restricted by donor(s)
- Tangible fixed assets fund: this represents the net book value of the building, and the net book value of office and other equipment for which we previously received capital funding and depreciates annually.

Designated funds:

HarPA Management Board have set up properly designated funds for defined purposes, considering particular risks to which the organisation is exposed, and our strategic plans for meeting our charitable objectives. These funds are not considered as part of HarPA's reserves. The Management Board can use its discretion to apply these funds for another purpose if required. Due to the current financial situation, this fund has been undesignated in this year's accounts.

Designated funds should, as soon as possible be set aside as follows:

- Maternity and Sick Leave Liabilities, Redundancy liabilities: £11,700
- £5,000 to cover potential maternity leave for one member of staff, and £3,400 to cover potential sick leave at one average worker cost x 6 weeks.
- An Insurance Contingency fund will be kept to cover loss of essential assets and equipment which can't be claimed against contents insurance due to £500 excess, given the high number of break ins that result in low level loss.

General funds:

These make up HarPA's free reserves. HarPA will aim towards holding sufficient free reserves to meet at least 3 months running costs, to enable HarPA to provide reliable services over the long term, and to provide a basic safety net against dramatic long-term swings in income or costs, and sufficient time to replace lost major sources of income through fundraising.

To achieve this aim, the Management Board will take the following action:

- Development of a robust strategic annual plan for HarPA's development
- Ensuring the development and monitoring of a fundraising strategy which identifies specific, realistic and timed targets for fundraising and income generation, to meet current service commitments and plans for future development laid out in the strategic plan.