

PARENT ACTION FOR SAFE PLAY

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



Our Aims and Objectives

Parent Action for Safe Play's activities are driven by the following mission statement:

"Parent Action for Safe Play aims to improve the quality of life in the area by delivering an integrated, inclusive and accessible range of play, sports, leisure and community based services."

To achieve this mission Parent Action for Safe Play has the following more detailed aims and objectives:

to improve educational, training and recreational facilities and opportunities for all in the local community;

to improve the lifestyle and learning opportunities open to the inhabitants of the local community;

to develop a variety of innovations which will allow children and young people to make positive lifestyle choices;

to improve the quality of life for people on the lowest incomes through the provision of free and low cost leisure and recreational opportunities for children and young people;

to involve children and young people in physically active pursuits;

to promote social inclusion through providing an inclusive range of services in the local community;

to provide support to local residents in pursuit of education, training and employment opportunities related to the leisure and childcare industries;

to increase safety and health in the local community through the development and management of amenities and related services;

to develop economic, social and cultural services through working in partnership with local or national agencies, and building on the successful development of the existing safe play park in Kirkshaws, Coatbridge; and

to develop client led and integrated service provision through partnership, working to further develop play and leisure facilities, to support children, young people and vulnerable families, and to create training and employment opportunities for local young people.

Core Values

As a community based project Parent Action for Safe Play's approach to service provision is guided by a number of core values:

To meet the needs of the local children, young people and families.

To ensure service provision is accessible to everyone within the local community.

To ensure the project continues to be led by the local community via the Management Committee Members and that maximum use is made of volunteers in terms of service delivery.

To continue to provide high quality services which offer value for money.



OUR SERVICE PROVISION

A wide range of play and youth work activities have been developed over the past year including:



Cheeky Monkey's

Evening sessions run for 5-8 years each week providing activities including arts and crafts, role play and free play to allow children the opportunity to engage with others improving their social & physical development, imagination, creativity and independence.

Children have participated in our Play Outdoor and Fun & Fitness Programme encouraging play in all weathers, children create games and adapt them to suit the play space and activities have included water play, den building and creative arts using materials within their environment.

A.S.N



Our Additional Support Needs Group runs each week for 5-8 and 9 -12 years. These sessions are adapted to suit the need and interests of the individual child providing a balance of free play and structured activities including sensory activities, cooking, gardening, and indoor & outdoor play opportunities. The sessions allow children to express them-self through imagination, be creative and improve their social skills. This year funding allowed the group to participate in music therapy sessions provided by Nordoff Robins and the purchase of equipment allows the young people to continue to express themselves through music.



Youth

Evening sessions for 12+ years run weekly providing a safe and friendly environment for young people to interact and socialise, encouraging participation and providing alternatives to drink/drug abuse and improving anti-social behaviour. Young people have participated in outward bound activities, fundraising, themed activities, issue based workshops and life skills including healthy eating programmes, career advice, and looking at local issues in surrounding areas.

Music



Evening sessions for 9-16 years run each week providing music sessions including Drumming and Guitar tuition which improves self-confidence and self-esteem and enhances their co-ordination, concentration and creative skills. Groups also practice together as a band and perform for parents and the community during events throughout the year.

Children and Parents participated in our Healthy Eating Programme where they worked together to gain skills and knowledge on nutrition and how to make low cost healthy meals and snacks, composting and growing your own. The sessions ran in 6 week blocks ending with the groups planning and preparing a healthy 3 course meal.



Parent & Child Cooking Classes

OUR SERVICE PROVISION

Outreach Go2Play Programme



We deliver and facilitate free play sessions in 6 areas of Coatbridge and 2 in Airdrie, on site, within schools, and outreach street play.

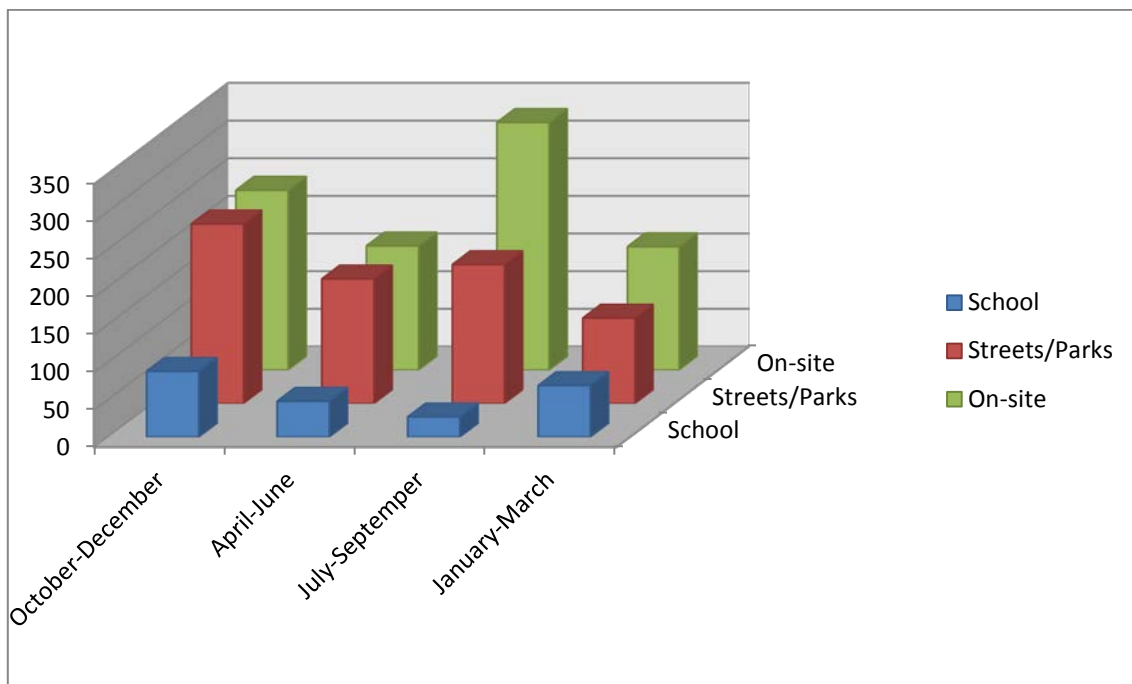
Though these sessions we aim to overcome barriers that stop children and young people aged 5-13yrs playing in open spaces and demonstrate the importance of play at a local level. Play Rangers provide resources that encourage positive risk taking and build relationships which enable children and young people to feel safe and be able to explore both themselves and the world around them through freely chosen play. Outdoor play sessions allow children the opportunity to explore the environment, engage with others improving their social development and participate in physical activity. We provide opportunities for children and young people to be challenged and take risks but not pushed beyond their capabilities encouraging learning, imagination, creativity and independence. Play rangers consult with all children and young people who have a significant input into the planning and evaluation of the sessions. This gives children a voice as well as building confidence and encouraging a sense of ownership of their play spaces and parks.

Mini Play Ranger Programme



Our Mini Play Ranger Programme was delivered to P 6/7 pupils within 7 primary schools in Coatbridge . The young people undertook an 8 week programme supported by our qualified, experienced team of Play Rangers to become confident and knowledgeable play leaders in their playground. On completion of training the Mini Play Rangers then encourage / facilitate play activities to younger children within their school at break times. Dynamic Youth Awards were also completed by the groups.

This graph shows the individual children and young people we have worked with over the past year.



OUR SERVICE PROVISION

GROWING GREENER PROJECT

Our Growing Greener Project is the community-wide proposal to reduce carbon emissions through education, awareness raising and behavioural change for people in Coatbridge, through a programme of food production, cycling and fuel-good driving techniques plus cookery workshops events.

Through providing these opportunities we aim to reduce the individual and community impact on climate change by empowering them with the information and skills to increase local food production, sustainable transport, and low waste cooking.

Key projects this year have included :

Growing food in school grounds and private gardens, teaching basic Bikeability cycling skills to school children, conveying drivers through fuel-efficient driving courses and progressing with waste-free cooking lessons. This was achieved through partnership with local primary schools, North Lanarkshire Council and Energy Saving Trust.

**Bikeability at
Kirkshaws Primary
School**



Community Garden



Shawhead private garden



**Shawhead Primary
School**

Fun Day



Townhead private garden



ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

The financial year 2014/2015 has been another rewarding year, with continued service delivery within the Children and Youth Development Centre, enabling the project to provide year-round play and leisure facilities at the heart of the community. Service provision continues to grow including the outdoor play area, our Play Outdoor Programme – where we deliver outreach free play sessions in 9 areas of Coatbridge and 4 areas in Airdrie, group activities, the indoor soft play, community café facilities and our Growing Greener Project - a community-wide initiative to reduce our communities CO2e. The total number of children and young people who have used our services in the last 12 months is **3020** an increase of **65%** in the last year.

Key Achievements over the last 12 month have included our Mini Play Ranger Project and securing funding to continue with our Play Outdoor Programme until 2017.

Targets are being met for this year giving continued growth for the future.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The charity plans continuing the activities outlined in the forthcoming years subject to satisfactory funding arrangements. The Children and Youth Development Centre continues to provide scope for additional activities and the management committee intends to use this facility and our outreach programme to increase the number of beneficiaries.

Next years developments will include further developing our Play Outdoor Programme and Growing Greener Projects - to include delivery of Bikeability 1 & 2 (cycle training) within local primary schools and community.

Children and Youth Development Centre

Our Children & Youth Development Centre offers a safe and friendly environment for all children and young people who attend and are supervised by qualified staff during all sessions. The centre is occupied 12 hours per day which allows users of the centre and the park the use of our toilet facilities and the café area. Our indoor Soft Play facilities are used come rain or shine offering a safe warm place to play for children and parents. Our Mum and Todd's run weekly offering support and workshops promoting parent/child interaction advice and support.



THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Partnership Working

We would like to thank the following organisations we have worked with throughout the year:

North Lanarkshire Council, Primary Schools, Inspiring Scotland, VANL, Active Schools, NHS Lanarkshire, ASDA, Kirkshaws Neighbourhood Centre and Restorative Justice.

A Big Thanks to You

Parent Action for Safe Play would like to thank the local community for their continued support, which is key to the continued success of the project.



Supported by

