

# XPLAY SCOTLAND



Annual Review 2011

**“Investing in children’s play is one of the most important things we can do to improve children’s health and wellbeing in Scotland”.**

**Sir Harry Burns, Chief Medical Officer Scotland**  
(extract from endorsement of Play Scotland’s Getting It Right for Play Toolkit)



## Introduction

Play Scotland works to promote the **Importance of Play** for all Children and Young People, and campaigns to create increased Play opportunities in the community.

2011 has been a very busy and productive year for Play Scotland. At the start of the year we convened the new Play Forum Network Scotland in Edinburgh. The Play Forum Network brings together representatives from Regional Play Forums and Associations across Local Authorities in Scotland. The Network has met three times this year with 15 Local Authority areas represented. The Scottish Play Policy Forum has also continued to meet regularly and has focussed its attention on Best Practice in supporting play opportunities which can be showcased in Scotland.

In order to further promote Playday in Scotland a Playday Planning Seminar was held in March prior to launching Play on the Longest Day in June. Both events proved very successful and gave over forty schools in Scotland a chance to hold their own Playday activities. Play Scotland also continued to promote its Play Manifesto, which encouraged all politicians to continue to make the Child's Right to Play a priority for the Scottish Government.

Throughout the year an enormous amount of energy has gone into completing the 'Getting it Right for Play' Toolkit and supporting documents. Funded by the Go Play programme, the Toolkit can help Local Authorities improve the design and provision of places and spaces for all children to play outside.

We look forward to encouraging the implementation of the toolkit in 2012!

**“Developing play spaces and play opportunities for children, and removing barriers to play is a priority in the Early Years Framework.**

**I commend Play Scotland for their work in this area and I recognise the important contribution that Getting it Right for Play can make to improving children's quality of life through play.”**

**Minister for Children and Young People  
Aileen Campbell, MSP**

## Chairs Report

2011 has been a very busy year for the Play Scotland Board and Staff team. The Board have been involved in strategic planning for some time now and welcome the review of the Unified Voluntary Sector fund from which we receive our core grant. Play directly impacts on seven of the key Scottish Government National Outcomes, and it remains our ambition to establish a sound infrastructure which can provide more regional support to the Play Sector, Communities and Local Authorities. Play Scotland is a vibrant organisation and this annual review provides a snap shot of the highlights of our hard work. We remain committed to becoming a better, more adaptable, relevant and robust organisation. To this end the Board have overseen the production of the Getting it Right for Play Toolkit which we see as a key driver for the delivery of the Child's Right to Play in Scotland.

This year Play Scotland has also been undertaking research into training needs in the Play Sector in order to improve Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for Playworkers.

The organisation continues to work at a 4 nations and international level, and were delighted to present at the International Play Association World Conference in July. The Board were also pleased to provide 4 bursaries for Playworkers to attend this prestigious event.

Play Scotland continues to extend the range of organisations it collaborates with and we have continued to provide events, seminars and conferences aimed at Playworkers, parents, providers, policy makers and decision makers. Our membership services, website and social media have been extended throughout the year, and we have built significant relationships with schools and stakeholders in the formal education sector.

The Board and Staff were overwhelmed in December by the impressive response of nursery and school entrants to our competition celebrating 20 years of Article 31 in Scotland! We were delighted that the Play team at the Scottish Government took the time to judge the 900 plus entries.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to Gary Love who resigned as Chair in August, due to work commitments, and thank him for his outstanding contribution to Play Scotland over six years. I would also like to pay tribute to my fellow Board members who have been extremely active and dynamic in their support of Play Scotland and last, but not least, I extend an enormous thank you to the Play Scotland staff team who continue to achieve outstanding results for the organisation.

**Andrea McMillan** Acting Chair of Play Scotland

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

## For the year ended 31st March 2011

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2011 Total Funds £	2010 Total Funds £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>				
Voluntary income	124,000	54,704	178,704	130,356
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>				
Membership fees	4,295	-	4,295	2,880
Conference fees	5,095	-	5,095	-
Other income	15	-	15	45
Total income resources	<u>133,405</u>	<u>54,704</u>	<u>188,109</u>	<u>133,281</u>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Support costs of charitable activities	128,857	41,313	170,170	130,951
Governance costs	<u>4,256</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,256</u>	<u>3,457</u>
<b>Total resources expended</b>	133,113	41,313	174,426	134,408
<b>NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES</b>				
	292	13,391	13,683	(1,127)
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>				
<b>Total Funds brought forward</b>	<u>1,757</u>	<u>5,896</u>	<u>7,653</u>	<u>8,780</u>
<b>Total Funds carried forward</b>	<u><u>2,049</u></u>	<u><u>19,287</u></u>	<u><u>21,336</u></u>	<u><u>7,653</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board and signed on their behalf by Mr. John Cleary, BA, CA., Treasurer

Registered Company Number: SC197785

Registered Charity Number: SC029167

## Play Scotland Board

Andrea McMillan **Vice Chair and Acting Chair**

John Cleary **Treasurer**

Ross Dunn, Susan Elsley, Harry Harbottle, Simon Knight, John McKendrick,  
Sue Palmer and Debbie Willett.

Gary Love **Chair (2005 to 2011)**

Tammy Devlin **(2005 -2011)**

## Play Scotland Staff



Marguerite Hunter Blair,  
Chief Executive

Amanda Godsell,  
Development Manager



Jane Crawford,  
Senior Play  
Development Officer

Sharon McCluskie  
(was Forrester),  
Office &  
Information Manager



## Chief Executive Comments

Once again Play Scotland has packed a lot into a very fast moving year. Some of the projects we have been working on over the past two years are reaching fruition and we have also introduced some new initiatives to support the Child's Right to Play in Scotland. An outstanding highlight of the year was undoubtedly the 50th IPA World Conference in Cardiff. Presenting alongside colleagues from 37 countries was an uplifting experience. Play Wales excelled in organising and hosting the Golden Anniversary event. We would also like to pay tribute to our colleague Gill Evans from Play Wales, who died in October 2011.

The Scottish Government elections were held in May 2011 and we were delighted to see Play featured in nearly all the political Manifestos. Play really is a cross-party issue in Scotland! Play Scotland was further heartened by the consultation on the Rights of Children and Young People Bill which intends to align domestic legislation with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. We look forward to next year's consultation on the Children Services Bill, when we will take the opportunity to renew our lobbying for a statutory duty to be placed on Local Authorities to provide sufficient and satisfying play opportunities for children of all ages and abilities.

Once again I extend a huge thank you to the staff team, who never fail to amaze me with all their fantastic ideas and hard work, and a huge thank you to our dynamic Board who never cease to amaze with their enthusiasm and commitment to Play Scotland! I would also like to thank Issy Cole-Hamilton for her brilliant work on 'Getting it Right for Play'.

**Marguerite Hunter Blair** Chief Executive



Getting it Right for Play Reference Group

## Promoting a Risk Benefit approach to managing risk in Scotland

Following Lord Young's review Common Sense, Common Safety (published October 2010), Play Scotland has been working with the UK Play Safety Forum and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) on the Common Sense, Common Safety recommendation on play, leisure and risk benefit assessment.

The HSE continues to stand by its endorsement of Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation Guide, which promotes a risk benefit approach to risk management. The HSE also supports the view that risk is an integral part of children's play and recognises that bumps and bruises are a part of play. Play Scotland is continuing to work with our colleagues in the Play Safety Forum and the HSE to develop a High Level Statement to clarify risk benefit in play legally, and dispel some of the myths about managing risk in play provision.

At the end of 2009 Play Scotland organised a Play & Risk Debate Question Time event at the Scottish Parliament. A summary of the event can be downloaded at [www.playscotland.org](http://www.playscotland.org)

The event was extremely well attended by parents and providers and it was fantastic to hear politicians in all parties express their support for exciting play opportunities.

The Chief Executive continues to Chair the Play & Risk Debate for the Scottish Government. Watch our website for details on events in 2012.



# PLAY SCOTLAND



Getting it Right for Play

Mhairi MacKay (11)

## The Tools and Indicators

The Getting it Right for Play Toolkit shows how to use 4 tools to collect and analyse sufficient information to measure against 8 indicators. Together these give a complete picture of outdoor play spaces and opportunities, providing the information for the Local Authority Play Sufficiency Assessment.

<b>The 4 Evaluation tools</b>	<b>The 8 indicators</b> What is measured
<p><b>Playing Out Survey</b> A Playing out survey of children's views and experiences.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How often children play outdoors</li> <li>2. Children's satisfaction with their outdoor play opportunities and experiences</li> <li>5. Children's involvement in planning and delivery</li> <li>6a. Children's opportunities to experience excitement and the benefits of taking risks</li> <li>7. Adult attitudes to children playing outdoors</li> </ol>
<p><b>Play Space Quality Assessment</b> A Play Space Quality Assessment tool for measuring the different elements that contribute to making a high quality space for play.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. The quality of local spaces for outdoor play</li> <li>6b. Opportunities for children to challenge themselves and experience the benefits of taking risks</li> </ol>
<p><b>Guidance on mapping play spaces</b> Guidance on mapping play spaces in relation to where children live, supplementing existing open and green space maps.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Children's access to different types of space for outdoor play</li> </ol>
<p><b>Policy analysis framework</b> A Policy analysis framework for Local Authority policies and strategies.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. The extent to which local agencies and Local Authority departments work together to plan and provide for outdoor play.</li> </ol>

## Support for Getting it Right for Play

Play Scotland is delighted to have secured support from the Scottish Government Go Play Fund to develop the Getting it Right for Play Toolkit and supporting documents which are available in pdf format; The Power of Play Evidence Base and Scottish Policy Context. We appreciate the immense contribution of Issy Cole-Hamilton who has produced Getting it Right for Play, and all those who advised, informed and helped shape our thinking along the way. We hope that Local Authorities and Communities will use the Toolkit to develop a local and strategic commitment to play, which will help remove barriers and encourage and support children to play outdoors.

“Getting it Right for Play is a timely and practical resource for everyone involved in providing increased quality play opportunities for children and young people in Scotland. I hope that Local Authorities and Community groups will use this practical toolkit to deliver improved play opportunities for our children and young people as part of our mission to make Scotland the best place in the world to grow up.”

**Minister for Children and Young People, Aileen Campbell, MSP**  
(extract from full endorsement statement)

“I believe the Toolkit has the potential to promote a wider understanding of the importance of play, particularly outdoor play. As such, it will be a useful complement to NHS Health Scotland’s mental health indicators for children and young people, which identified the need to develop better measures around the access children and young people have to play opportunities.”

**Tam Baillie, Scotland’s Commissioner for Children and Young People**  
(extract from full endorsement statement)

“I think this Toolkit is a great way for Local Authorities and Communities to come together to encourage more play opportunities in local areas. Children playing outside contributes to the resilience of communities in Scotland.”

**Sir Harry Burns, Chief Medical Officer Scotland**  
(extract from full endorsement statement)

“Children can and will play almost anywhere and their choices may not be those of adults, but we have a responsibility to ensure their right to play is translated into opportunities on the ground. In grappling with a complex area the Toolkit offers achievable steps in understanding the local context for play, helping to pave the path towards improvements.”

**Theresa Casey, President, International Play Association: Promoting the Child’s Right to Play** (extract from full endorsement statement)

## The Power of Play Seminar

In September, Play Scotland was delighted to welcome Angela Constance, Minister for Children and Young People to our joint Seminar with NHS Health Scotland and Play@home. The Minister welcomed the opportunity to promote the importance of play in early years and the contribution that play can make in delivering high level outcomes in the Scottish Government's social frameworks.

**“The early years”** are a priority for this government, committed as we are to supporting children through a policy of early intervention.

Investment in young Scots today is an investment in a better future for us all. It also makes economic sense with every £1 invested in young people now, saving the tax payer £9 in future.

I'm determined to drive forward this agenda, building on the success of our three social frameworks: The Early Years Framework, Achieving our Potential and Equally Well.

And I am delighted to see the Early Years Early Action fund will contribute another £2.8m to play related projects in Scotland over the next year. Great news, especially as play is central to how children learn and a fundamental part of a child's quality of life. This being enshrined in Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

We must remove the barriers to play and promote its benefits. All of which reiterates the Scottish Government's commitment to offering play opportunities for all of Scotland's children. After all, it's a child's job to play.”

**Angela Constance MSP, Minister for Children and Young People  
(May - December 2011)**



## Play on the Longest Day

A Playday Planning seminar was held in March at Strathclyde Park. The purpose of the day was to stimulate ideas and enthusiasm amongst a broad spectrum of play champions from across Scotland who could then spread the message in their own local area and organise many more, small, local Playday events in June and throughout the summer. It was wonderful to have teachers, nursery staff and active schools coordinators focusing on Play along with Local Authority managers, out of school care providers and traditional play workers. All those attending received a copy of the 'Planning your Playday in Scotland' guide. Presentations were given by 21st Century Families, Play Borders and Jeely Piece Club.

## 21 June - Play on the Longest Day

This exciting new initiative allowed schools, nurseries and childcare settings to get involved in Playday activities and celebrate Play within their local communities; in their favourite local places and spaces. On 21 June 2011 a mixture of schools, nurseries and out of school care providers held events during the school day to promote play on the longest day.

## 24th Annual UK Playday 3 August 2011

UK Playday is the annual celebration of the Child's Right to Play. As well as a celebration, Playday is also a campaign that promotes better play opportunities for children and young people across the UK. UK Playday is traditionally held on the first Wednesday in August. The UK Playday is coordinated by Play England in partnership with Play Scotland, Play Wales and PlayBoard Northern Ireland. This year Savlon sponsored research for Playday which revealed that two thirds of parents always had adventures outdoors as a child but worry their children do not have the same opportunities today. The research showed that many parents still have fantastic memories of playing outside when they were children, however, over half wished their children could play outside more in natural places. Most adults reported that they preferred outdoor play as children but nowadays taking their children to an outside space to play was a real treat rather than an everyday activity. **Sadly, children are now at risk of losing out on essential childhood experiences that outdoor play brings.**

Playday is a great opportunity to encourage parents to make the most of their local spaces for play and to get outside and have fun with their children.

## Celebrating 20 Years of Article 31

It is 20 years on 16th December 2011 since the United Kingdom signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. To celebrate 20 years of Article 31 The Child's Right to Play in Scotland, we asked children to design a birthday card. We were overwhelmed with over 900 entries received and the youngest entrant was only 10 months old!

Play Scotland would like to thank everyone who joined in the competition for the time and effort they put into their fabulous entries.

The Play Team at the Scottish Government very kindly judged the entries and we are pleased to announce that the winners are:

### Age category 0-3

Winner - Brooke Norrie, Dundee (Photo 408)

### Age Category 3-4

1st Prize - Anna Nicholson, Argyll (Photo 416)

2nd Prize - Emily R, Newark Nursery, Port Glasgow (Photo 418)

3rd Prize - Amber McLay, Bathgate (Photo 417)

### Age Category 5 -7

1st Prize - Broomhill Out of School Care, Glasgow (Photo 415)

2nd Prize - Sophie Tait, Sandwick Junior High School, Shetland (Photo 413)

3rd Prize - Jacob Parsons, Williamston Primary School, West Lothian (Photo 412)

### Age Category 8 -12

1st Prize - Aimee Welsh, Sunnyside Primary, Alloa - PHOTO 410

2nd Prize - Rhys Bidgood, Blackburn Primary School, West Lothian (Photo 409)

3rd Prize - Kuba Szydowski, Blackburn Primary School, West Lothian (Photo 411)

**Team Effort** to Little Learners Nursery in Oban.

Special Awards will be given to Mhairi MacKay (11), Aberdeen whose design will be used for our Getting it Right for Play Toolkit leaflet and Robyn Anderson (11), Riverside Primary, Livingston whose design has been chosen for the front of our 2011 Annual Review.

A selection of the winning entries will be displayed on our website and we hope to display all the entries in the Lobby of the Scottish Parliament in 2012.

### Scottish Government Play Team Judges:

Thekla Garland, Lea Mann, Craig Peaston

### UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Article 31:

“State parties recognise the right of every child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.”



408



416



418



412



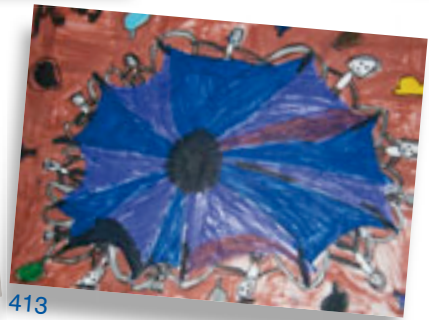
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417



415



413



410



409

## Workforce Development

SkillsActive, the Sector skills council for Playwork has restructured. A review is now being undertaken of how the committee structure for Playwork operates UK wide. Play Scotland remains committed to the Playwork Education and Training Council in Scotland and the UK Council and supports workforce development through this, linking with employers and training providers directly.

## Building Support for the Play Sector – Research Project

Funded by the Go Play programme, this research project is designed to carry out a training needs analysis for a wide range of staff engaged in delivering play opportunities and experiences in Local Authorities. The pilot project focussed on four Local Authority areas: City of Glasgow, East Ayrshire, The Shetland Islands and West Lothian. However, responses were also received from a further 18 Local Authorities. A full report with recommendations will be published in early 2012. Watch the Play Scotland website for details [www.playscotland.org](http://www.playscotland.org).

## Making the Child's Right to Play a Reality in Scotland

The Scottish Government's intention to align domestic legislation with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is warmly welcomed by Play Scotland. Recognising, respecting and promoting Children's Rights is central to Scottish Government Policy which recognises the importance of the early years of a child's life. The proposals in the Rights of Children and Young People Bill which was out for consultation in the autumn suggest placing a duty on Scottish Ministers to have "due regard" to the UNCRC in exercising all functions. While Play Scotland would prefer full incorporation of the UNCRC into Scots Law, we recognise that cultural change is also required to ensure that children's right to play is fully embraced in a child friendly Scotland. We look forward to the consultation on the Children's Services Bill in 2012, as an opportunity to continue lobbying for a statutory duty to be placed on Local Authorities to provide sufficient and satisfying play opportunities for children of all ages and abilities.



## 50th IPA World Conference, Cardiff July 2011

The 50th IPA World Conference was hosted by Play Wales – Playing into the future – thriving and surviving.

Play Scotland was delighted to make two presentations at the world conference focussing on Play and Risk in Scotland and our new Getting it Right for Play Toolkit. Play Scotland also provided bursaries for four Playworkers to attend the world conference. Throughout the conference, there were once in a lifetime opportunities to meet Playworkers from around the world and share their journeys to make the Child's Right to Play a reality.

“Our project will benefit greatly from the knowledge and ideas that were gathered over the conference. We will also be able to continue this sharing over the coming years as we have made connections with practitioners around. The ability to make and build on these relationships will be one of the lasting legacies of this experience.”

**Margaret Graham, Scoosh Out of School Care**

*(extract from full Conference Report provided to Play Scotland)*

“Attending the IPA World Conference has undoubtedly been one of the most beneficial development experiences I have had as a play practitioner. The learning and renewed enthusiasm gained by attending will significantly influence not only my own work practice but that of my colleagues across Fife Childcare and Early Years Services.

One area where I feel I have developed a greater understanding and subsequently improved my work practice would be working with children with additional support needs. In particular, two of the workshops I attended at the conference discussed strategies and ideas for supporting children presenting autistic spectrum disorders within mainstream play environments.”

**Pamela-Jane Finch, Fife Council**

*(extract from full Conference Report provided to Play Scotland)*

“I wanted to attend the conference as I felt I would have the opportunity to meet other professionals from all over the world who also work with children in a play environment. I found it very stimulating and informative talking to people from Japan, Australia, USA, Canada, and many more.

There were international delegates from the IPA conference that took part in a post conference tour in Scotland and I was delighted to be able to host one of the days in Midlothian. We were able to take them to variety of settings and adventure playgrounds.”

**John Hogg, Playwork Manager, Loanhead After School Club, Midlothian**

*(extract from full Conference Report provided to Play Scotland)*

## New Minister for Children and Young People

Play Scotland welcomes Aileen Campbell, MSP as the new Minister for Children and Young People. We look forward to working with the Minister to promote the importance of play for children and young people and create increased play opportunities across Scotland.

“Most of us carry great memories of playing outside as a child. However we regularly hear in the media and through research about how little time today’s children spend playing outdoors. Outdoor activities that were part of growing up when I was young feature less and less in children’s lives today. The Scottish Government recognises that Play is central to how children learn and develop and how they are motivated to be physically active”.

**Minister for Children and Young People Aileen Campbell, MSP**  
(Endorsement of Getting it Right for Play Toolkit)



## Play Scotland Information Services

Play Scotland offer the following range of services through its information services:

Research, Training, CPD events, Newsletters, eZines, Briefing Paper, Information sheets, Media Articles and Messy Play booklet.

Website [www.playscotland.org](http://www.playscotland.org)

Twitter [www.twitter.com/playscotland](http://www.twitter.com/playscotland)

For further details contact Sharon McCluskie on  
Tel: 0131 440 9070 Email: [sharonmccluskie@playscotland.org](mailto:sharonmccluskie@playscotland.org)

## Diary Dates 2012

25th January  
Edinburgh

Playful Learning Seminar  
Play Scotland AGM  
Play & Risk Debate Event

15th March  
Dunblane

Scottish Government, Inspiring Scotland  
& Play Scotland Event

21st June

Play on the Longest Day

1st August

25th Annual UK Playday





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