

PLAY IN PARKS 2023

(Let's Get Creative @ Stockfield Park)

Birmingham Play Care Network
Stockfield Community Association
Bostin' Creative Arts and Theatre



SUMMARY

Play in Parks 2023, was run between Monday 21st August 2023 - Friday 1st September 2023 at Stockfield Park.

The project was funded by Big Lottery Fund through the Building Community Together (BCT) Project and delivered and managed by Birmingham PlayCare Network (BPCN) and Bostin' Creative Arts and Theatre.

In 2019 the BCT partnership (Stockfield Community Association, BPCN and Arts in the Yard) were awarded a Big Lottery Reaching Communities Grant to work on a project called Building Community Together. This five-year project focuses on realising the aspirations of residents on the Stockfield Estate and the wider Acocks Green area.

Play in Parks forms part of the project delivery over the 5 years and seeks to encourage active community participation from families and children.

For 2023 new partnerships have been formed and Bostin' Creative were brought onboard to manage the project, facilitate activities, organise playworkers/artists and bring in further match funding.

Bostin' Creative were successful in gaining match funding via Bring It On Brum (BIOB). This funding allowed us to access further support, enrichment and develop the existing play in parks scheme.

Play in Parks is an open access play provision based in the green space and park of Stockfield. The purpose of Play in Parks is to encourage children to use the park whilst play workers are on site to facilitate play opportunities.

The playworkers provide a range of different activities for the children in the park from team games to arts and crafts, den building, and wide games.

During this years Play in Parks scheme the extra funding from BIOB has allowed us to develop the activities and enrichment gaining structure to the day, but still allowing scope for free play.

Every morning open access play activities were set up around the park. These included sports activities, craft activities, dressing up, jewellery making, loom-band making, and den building as regular daily activities. Added to this each day were 1 or 2 focussed craft activities, plus a food related activity.





As part of the BIOB funding we were able to gain access to a fantastic resource 'Hakuna Fruitata', this allowed us to have 80kg of fresh fruit and veg delivered each week of the scheme. It also allowed us to have potting and planting resources, compost, seeds, pots etc.. We were also provided with 30 safety knives, chopping boards and bowls.

The food activity each day allowed us to use some of the fresh fruit and veg to create mini workshops, these included understanding how to cut fruit and veg, tasting new foods, making fruit icecream cones and generally allowing the children to have fresh produce to snack on whilst at the park.

We were also joined by two nutritional students from Loughborough University who were able to lead a fun fruit/veg workshop for the children who attended.

BIOB also provided us with booklets for children and thier families to take home, which included recipes and fun games.

LUNCH

Lunch times were very different this year compared to the scheme in the past. Previously children would have returned home with/to parents to use the toilets or have a snack. This year due to the added BIOB funding, we were able to gain access to the Central Food System, which in turn allowed us to bring a packed lunch to all those in receipt of benefit related school meals taking part via the HAF programme. Due to the nature of how the scheme was run each day we had surplus food and were able to distribute this across to all of the children attending play in parks and their families. Water was provided each day and children were encouraged to bring a reusable bottle with them, By day 3 most children were bringing water bottles and hydration was encouraged due to the hot weather.



ENRICHMENT

Every afternoon 'Enrichment' was the main focus. Each day a different artist visited the park and children were able to take part in activities that they wouldn't normally have access too.

Some of activities included:

- Musical Instrument making/playing.
- Prop making and story telling.
- Clay character making and animation.

Sports and general play activities were also available for those children who didn't wish to engage in these enrichment activities. But it was clear that most if not all children did partake.





Throughout the 9 days we were able to have members from Stockfield Community Association join us to help with delivery and also speak to local parents/families.

Fox Hollies Children's Centre and Early Years Alliance were also in attendance across the 9 days to offer support to local families along with signposting to support families that may have needed extra help.



The relaxed nature of the scheme, allows not only children to feel like that have access to play and creativity, but also allows parents/ carers, a supportive environment the chance to talk, meet new people and find vital information that they may need help with during difficult times.

BPCN and Bostin' Creative have:

Analysed monitoring information recorded daily by playworkers on the project (e.g. demographics, locations where families reside, attendance counts etc)

- **Feedback forms answered by children**
- **Verbal feedback received by playworkers daily from parents and children attending the project**
- **Information contained within daily observation sheets completed by playworkers**

**'The strawberries were really juicy!
I loved trying all the food apart
from the Avocado.'**

(Child attending)

**I loved having the chance
to play football with
others.'**

(Child attending)

KEY FINDINGS

- 274 play opportunities were accessed by children during the Play in Parks project over 9 day's delivery (10-3pm)

- On average we had 28 children attending per day

- Children and families who attended were living in postcodes

B25

B26

B27

B28

B8

B9

B10

B11

B14

' There is so much for the children to do, It's entertainig for them and fun.'

(Parent of child attending)

- There were marginally more males that attended over females.
- The most popular age of children attending was under 5's age range, we believe this is due to many families with EY children wanting to stay all day in the park.

KEY FINDINGS

The total number of children attending over the 9 day period is:

274

Number of children split into different age groups:

Under 5's- 66


5-7 years - 61

8-9 years - 44

10-11 years - 47


12-14 years - 46

15 year plus - 10



'It's been a fantastic week. It's made the holiday go quickly!

(Child attending)



'Clay modelling!!!
I've never even tried this before!

(Parent of child attending)

FEEDBACK AND RESPONSES

Feedback from children attending included:

'All the activities are amazing, especially the play dough making'

(Child attending)

'So much to do, I'd normally be watching TV.'

(Child attending)

'This has been the best thing I've ever been too- It's heaven!'

(Child attending)

DEVELOPMENTS FOR 2024

- To look at further BIOB funding and other funding streams to cover the costs of the delivery of art forms each day and development further on these enrichment activities.
- To look at furthering the food activities and potentially appoint a lead facilitator to oversee/plan these activities.
- Develop ways to incorporate local volunteers who could then be trained to become playworkers for 2025.
- Source funding and strategies to develop a potential 4 day Christmas schemes and 4 day Easter scheme.
- Identify a possible (female only group) to develop further arts exploration.
- Increase support and presence at the park from neighbouring organisations, ie. Community police.
- To develop a possible partnership with Graham at the local church.
- Potential hot dinners could be served from the church alongside cold packed lunches
- Toilets at the church can be used if this partnership is established.