

25th ANNIVERSARY for

Children's Rights



Picture by Summer aged 11

The Four Nations' Play Policy Symposium

Sharing knowledge, learning and good practice

Chief Executive Remarks

The Four Nations' Play Policy event was hosted by the Minister for Children and Young People, Aileen Campbell MSP at the amazing Riverside Museum in Glasgow. The March sun shone as Ministers, Children's Commissioners, Officials and key Play people from Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland arrived for a Scottish themed dinner hosted by Aileen Campbell. This was a unique opportunity for delegates to mix informally and chat about play challenges and initiatives in preparation for the day's work ahead.

The morning of the Symposium was dedicated to setting the scene, with contributions from the Four Nations' guest speakers. Tam Baillie, Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People steered us through the programme, and IPA World President Theresa Casey called on the children's commissioners to sign the children's version of the UNCRC General Comment on Article 31.

The afternoon was devoted to showcasing best practice from the Four Nations and sharing experiences from innovative projects. The animated and thought provoking discussion, debate and dialogue in relation to the development and implementation of play policy, strategy and provision was supported by insightful short films from play champions Pat Kane and Judy Murray.

Scotland was the last of the home nations to host this event which is held every two years, and it has been widely acknowledged to be the most successful-so far!

Play Scotland had a busy year in 2014 supporting children's play in Scotland, across the UK and world-wide. From the 4 Nations' Play Policy Symposium held in Glasgow to coordinating the publication of the Play Return: A Review of the Wider Impact of Play Initiatives and Short guide to Risk Benefit Assessment for our 4 nations' partners, to promoting child friendly communities at the IPA Conference in Istanbul.

We developed many of our own services and resources, establishing our training company PlaySTAC to support the Playwork profession and build the capacity of play champions throughout Scotland. With over 5000 followers on social media we find it easier to stay in touch with our membership and we hope you find it easier to find out about Play in Scotland.

Play Scotland is delighted to be at the forefront of delivering Scotland's Play Strategy. With the Scottish Government and our partners in play, we have been working to deliver a number of the actions across the 4 domains: play at home; play at nursery and school; play in the community and positive actions. We also established the Scottish Play Council to give a voice to the play sector and its champions in Scotland.

I was pleased to be a member of the Short Term Working group looking at the future funding options for Third Sector in Scotland and we await the new proposals.

A huge thanks as always to the incredibly hard working staff, our dedicated board and our magnificent membership. Let's keep up the good work!

Marguerite Hunter Blair, Chief Executive

United Nations on the Rights of the Child

In November the United Nations Rights of the Child (UNCRC) celebrated its 25th Anniversary. These Rights were adopted at the General Assembly in New York in 1989.

The Rights ensure that all children and young people are recognised as a person and they are entitled to the same rights as an adult.

Play Scotland works to promote and deliver Article 31: "Every child has the right to play, and to join in a wide range of activities."

To celebrate this Play Scotland launched a competition asking children to draw a celebratory picture of play. The winning design was by Summer aged 11 which is our cover design.

Runner up pictures:



Play Scotland set up its own training centre, PlaySTAC in 2014. Our training sessions have been really popular and continue to be in demand across Scotland. We are also delighted that our Professional Development Award: Strategic Planning for Play has been validated by SQA and we are recognised as an Accredited Training Centre.

“Really interesting morning. Lots of information but, more than that, the opportunity to think differently about Play. My concept of Play (in my work) has been an educational one, but the biological perspective has made me think about what kinds of changes we could make in our provision to allow more child directed play without adult directed outcomes”

“A great morning with an excellent presentation regarding the National Play Strategy”

Managing Risk in Play has also been delivered to many groups, with practitioners considering their own practice and play spaces and thinking about the sometimes unnecessary limits that are put on children’s opportunities for challenging play experiences.

Play Scotland offers the following training:

Play Strategy, Managing Risk in Play, Let’s Play – an introduction

as well as developing and delivering bespoke training packages for your organisation. Please contact us for more details.



At Play Scotland’s AGM in February 2014 Dr John McKendrick (Glasgow School for Business and Society, Glasgow Caledonian University and Board Director of Play Scotland) presented key findings about the State of Play in Scotland in the Playwork Sector. John presented a very positive message and outlined the challenges ahead.



Dr John McKendrick

MAIN MESSAGES IN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

POSITIVITY

Much positivity surrounds play work in Scotland. Almost half reported that satisfaction with play in Scotland had increased in 2013 (45%), three-fifths reported increasing satisfaction in their own organisation’s playwork (60%) and around three-quarters were confident that play in Scotland (70%) and play in their own organisation (78%) would improve in 2014.

IMPACT OF NATIONAL STRATEGY

Play practitioners were engaging with the National Strategy, with 55% reporting that they had read it and an additional 30% reporting that they were aware of it. Consistently, those with more engagement with the National Strategy reported more positive outcomes and expectations for play in Scotland, e.g. 69% of those who had read it thought that Scottish Government commitment to play had increased in 2013, compared to only 11% of those who were not aware of the Strategy.

PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Although engaging with the National Strategy, and although the majority of playwork practitioners reported some membership of play/work organisations or networks (59%), there is scope to increase levels of professional engagement among playwork practitioners. For example, fewer than one in ten reported membership of a local play organisation or an international play organisation, fewer than one in three were members of Play Scotland and two-fifths did not attend a playwork training event in 2013.

DIVERSITY

As would be expected, playwork practitioners are a diverse group, working in diverse settings and approaching play from a range of professional backgrounds. It is notable that less engagement and less positive appraisals of play are consistently forthcoming from those (i) from the childcare sector, (ii) who are not employed on a full-time basis; (iii) whose income from play had fallen, or remained constant in 2013; and (iv) who had no engaged in training in 2013.

LOCAL LANDSCAPE

Although the most common opinion was that that local authority funding of play in Scotland had worsened in 2013 (45% of those surveyed), at the same time respondents also reported increasing service reach and range, and only a small minority reported contractions in pay, hours worked, time spent on play and number of playworkers on staff.

Should you wish a copy of the full report please email info@playscotland.org

Glasgow Play On Pedals

Play on Pedals was awarded just over £231,000 earlier this year through the 2014 Dream Fund, funded by the players of the People's Postcode Lottery to deliver a project in Glasgow, enabling pre-school children to ride bikes before starting school.

The project is a partnership between Play Scotland, CTC the national cycling charity, Cycling Scotland and the Glasgow Bike Station.

Polly Jarman, Development Officer, is working with local nurseries and community organisations to deliver "train the trainer" sessions, where nursery staff and others will be trained to deliver cycling sessions to pre-school children in a playful and fun way.

In the photo, Play on Pedals ambassadors and Scottish Cycling athletes Aileen McGlynn OBE and James McCallum visit children from Indigo Nursery in Castlemilk to find out more about the project.

Aileen said: "Projects such as Play on Pedals play a vital role in the lasting legacy of the Commonwealth and Olympic Games by ensuring that children across Glasgow are learning a skill that will stay with them for life, allowing the next generation to enjoy all the freedom and adventure that cycling provides."

Play Scotland is a partner on the steering group which monitors the progress of the project and supports the evaluation process. The project has already received calls of interest from other local authority areas, keen to establish cycling and activity as part of the everyday life of children.



Risk-Benefit Tool Paves The Way For More Adventurous Playtimes

"Children need and choose exciting places to play, which inevitably means managing situations that are inherently risky. The RBA form will help providers assess how this can be reconciled with a natural desire for children's safety."

Robin Sutcliffe, Chair of the Play Safety Forum

The Play Safety Forum, of which Play Scotland is a member, launched a new practical tool this year that tackles the cotton wool culture head-on and makes a positive case for risk, adventure and challenge as vital ingredients in children's play. The initiative is supported by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the UK Government.

The document, entitled 'Risk-Benefit Assessment Form' is an **easy-to-use tool to support play providers to balance the benefits of an activity with any inherent risk**, taking into account the risks while recognising the benefits to children and young people of challenging play experiences. It is already proving invaluable for all those who manage spaces and settings in which children play, and for those involved in designing and maintaining them.

The RBA Form builds on over a decade of work by the Play Safety Forum to promote a more balanced approach to risk in children's play. It is based on the publication 'Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation guide', republished as a second edition in 2013.

"Play - and particularly play outdoors - teaches young people how to deal with risk. Without this awareness and learning they are ill equipped to deal with adult life. Outdoor play and learning is an important part of our children's education."

"HSE endorses the proportionate advice in the RBA Form. We should all make sure that needless health and safety excuses do not get in the way of activities. Of course take sensible and reasonable precautions, but let young people play."

Judith Hackitt, Chair of HSE

The RBA Form is published by Play Scotland in partnership with Play England, Play Wales and PlayBoard Northern Ireland. It was sponsored by, and the copyright belongs to: Play Scotland; Play England; Play Wales and PlayBoard Northern Ireland.

The RBA Form, in both blank and worked example formats, can be downloaded from the Play Scotland website.





2014 was a big year for Scotland. With the eyes of the world on our small nation as we hosted the Commonwealth Games and the re-energised democracy with our referendum, we like to think that Play Scotland also stepped up to the plate and demonstrated to others what we, as a country are achieving on behalf of children and play.

From playing a key role in delivering Scotland's Play Strategy; valuing play every day; to working with new partners to win the Dream Fund for the Play on Pedals, for example, we have spent this year working to shape strong national aspirations and ambitions for Play embedded in good practice.

While there are still serious deficits in play opportunities across Scotland we are well endowed with national policies and initiatives that support the child's right to play. The forthcoming duty on health and wellbeing arising from the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 represents a colossal opportunity to allow Play to generate an exciting and dynamic culture of childhood in a wide range of environments in local communities. Helping redefine the rights of children in the public realm will in my mind, raise the chances of a happy and healthy childhood for each and every child in this nation.

As well as sharing ideas with colleagues at the Four Nations Symposium, hosted by Scotland this year, the IPA world conference in Istanbul gave a broader context to the child's right and opportunity to Play and reminded us all of the significance of UNCRC Article 31 and the importance of the General Comment 17, perhaps most especially for countries in conflict. We connected with so many countries at this event and continue to share resources and information with many of our new 'playmates'. The thirst for Play knowledge is unquenchable.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of our Chief Executive and our small but committed staff team, complimented by a talented and supportive Board, we have made considerable achievements throughout the year, for example: co-ordination of the Play Return; Short guide to Risk Benefit Analysis; training and support to the play sector; seamless from our playful Commonwealth Games to the Playday.

Getting everyone out to play has never been more challenging, at a time when a fifth of the children surveyed at the start of the school holidays said they would prefer to engage with their friends via apps, texts or social media rather than face to face, and many give up sleep time for screen time.

We established Scotland's Play Council for this reason, an exciting new body, which we hope will help build the capacity and voice of the Play Sector in Scotland and lead to more play, everywhere!

I am happy that at the end of another successful year, we have plenty to showcase, but also plenty still to learn.

Harry Harbottle, Chair Play Scotland



1. What time did you wake up/get to bed- average hours sleep at night? hours worked per day?

EEK, up at 6ish most days and worked until about 11pm or midnight.

2. What was your morning routine?

Sneaking down to the restaurant to fill a plate from the buffet, taking it back to my room for a quiet breakfast and trying not to run into anyone who'd want to talk! I liked to get the day's events and activities straight in my mind before heading over to the conference as I knew once there the day would be full on.



3. What was the first thing you did when you arrived at the conference?

Lots of hugging IPA friends from around the world (this lasted most of the conference actually).

4. Did you have too many meetings to go too?

Well, as the IPA Board and Council is scattered around the world, our conferences are a rare opportunity to get together – so there were a few. We top and tail our conferences with Board and Council meetings as well as holding our General Meeting. Too many? Well certainly sufficient!

5. What were the three biggest challenges?

Having enough time to talk to as many people as possible; making sure I was in the right place at the right time; not losing my notebook.

6. What were the three highlights of the conference?

Presenting the IPA Right to Play Awards – 2014 had an amazing diverse and strong line up with highest accolades going to the Halabja Community Playground project. Welcoming five new IPA national branches into IPA. The play day in the park with hundreds of school children arriving to play in the sunshine Oh and (am I allowed a fourth?) seeing dolphins in the Bosphorus!

7. What/who brought tears to your eyes?

It was rather an emotional conference as we remembered IPA friends who had passed away since the last conference and we wore black ribbons to mark the Soma mining disaster which happened the week before the conference. I was also incredibly touched to be presented with a brooch of the Halabja Monument - a symbol of peace and hope - by Mayor Khder Kareem.

8. How did your family cheer you on?

My sister Veronica came to the conference as an informal artist-in-residence / photographer- whenever I saw her she was hobnobbing with all the most fun and interesting people!

9. Is it the best job in the world?

Yes – it's such a privilege.

10. How did Turkish children benefit from the conference being held in Istanbul?

The IPA conference was the first in Turkey to bring a focus onto the right to play and so as well as all the international delegates, Turkish Government Ministers, academics, educators and practitioners participated – it was a chance to shine a light on play. Our Turkish conference partners have now formed an IPA Turkey Branch and have really fresh ideas and approaches.

11. What was your favourite Turkish meal?

Breakfast of oranges, honey, cheese and Turkish coffee on the last day with my friend Maria Assi from Lebanon.

12. What was your favourite landmark in Istanbul?

The bridges across the Bosphorus.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES For the year ended 31st March 2013

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2014 Total Funds £	2013 Total Funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Voluntary income	16,392	204,620	221,012	125,500
Incoming resources from charitable activities				
Membership fees	1,150	-	1,150	3,237
Conference fees	10,616	-	10,616	5,411
Other income	-	-	315	315
Total income resources	<u>28,158</u>	<u>204,620</u>	<u>232,778</u>	<u>134,463</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Charitable activities				
Support costs of charitable activities	17,705	204,620	222,325	122,437
Governance costs	<u>2,079</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,079</u>	<u>2,623</u>
Total resources expended	<u>19,784</u>	<u>204,620</u>	<u>224,404</u>	<u>125,060</u>
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES	<u>8,374</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,374</u>	<u>9,403</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total Funds brought forward	<u>15,288</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,288</u>	<u>5,885</u>
Total Funds carried forward	<u>23,662</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,662</u>	<u>15,288</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 26th November 2014 and signed on their behalf by Mr. John Cleary, BA, CA., Treasurer

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The Commonwealth Games circus came to Glasgow in 2014, and with it thousands of people bundled into Glasgow's streets.

There has always been a playful theme in the city, and the opening of the Games emphasised that perfectly. The statue in Royal Exchange Square of Wellington on his horse has had a police cone on its head for many years, despite Glasgow City Council repeatedly removing it. This iconic playful aspect of Glasgow was a key feature on the opening night.

The opening night also featured the UNICEF fund which matched Glasgow people with celebrities to showcase aspects of funding required for children across the UNICEF projects. Michaela from PEEK, an award winning play service for children in Glasgow, was one of the ambassadors for this, talking about the Importance of Play for all Children.

In the streets, from Sauchiehall Street through Buchanan Street, play of all types was in evidence from pop up play and pop up craft areas for adults and children to make balloon art, face painting, hat making, all free from the Glasgow Life Play Team.

On Glasgow Green, play spaces were set up by Glasgow Life and other organisations providing areas of den building, water play, traditional games, play bus, and arts and crafts.

The Commonwealth mascot Clyde, a cheeky wee thistle, was in life size form in the streets and in the open spaces with children climbing all over it and swinging from it, with proud parents snapping what would normally be completely unacceptable behaviour.

Back in George Square, a couple of the statues sported tartan bunnets and scarves attracting more playful antics.

The Commonwealth Games in Glasgow has given an opportunity for the playfulness of the people to be given a space in which playfulness is not only allowed, but encouraged and celebrated.

Legacy is the buzz word around these games. A new adventure playground in Baltic Street is being developed as a legacy for the local children near the main Games' site.

Wouldn't it be amazing if another legacy, was one of the playfulness being retained, and all the people who attended the Games or came to Glasgow to soak up the atmosphere really remembering why Play is so fundamental to us all.



Fizzy Magic Sand

What you need:

- Play sand
- Cold water
- Baking soda
- Basin
- Food colouring
- Vinegar (in squeezey/trigger bottle)

What to do:

Mix the play sand and one box of baking soda in the basin. (The more baking soda that is used the more magic there will be!) Add a small amount of water at a time until feels like wet sand. Build a few sandcastles.

To make the magic: add food colouring to the vinegar and spray onto your sandcastles, this will make them fizz!

Homemade Silly Putty

What you need:

- 2 parts white glue (all purpose glue)
- 1 part liquid starch
- Small mixing bowl
- Food colouring (optional)
- Airtight container (to store)

What to do:

Combine glue (food colouring) and starch in a bowl and mix well, let this sit for 5 minutes. Set on paper towel to get rid of any excess. Knead putty for 5 to 10 minutes. Note: If the putty sticks to your fingers add a few drops of liquid starch. If it doesn't stick together, add more glue. Silly putty should "bounce"

Sand Sculpture Clay

What you need:

- 2 cups fine sand
- 1 cup cornstarch
- 1 cup water

What to do:

Put all off the above into a pot and heat on the stove. Stir until thickens. Once cook you can mould this into your desired work of art!

Playday is for everyone, including the Minister!

Information & Communication Services

The 27th National Playday was held on 6th August across the UK. Every year support for Playday continues to grow across Scotland as children and young people and communities enjoy playing out to celebrate the importance of play.

“I am delighted to be able to spend Play Day at Kay Park this year as it is always fantastic fun, attracting thousands of families. It is really wonderful to see that in addition to all the activities that regular visitors have become used to, this year East Ayrshire has included some Commonwealth flavour to build on the positive momentum of the Games. Who knows, the taster sessions could be the first step for our future sporting champions.”

Aileen Campbell MSP, Minister for Children and Young People

This year to support Playday the Children’s Play Policy Forum released ‘The Play Return; A review of the wider impact of play initiatives’ by Tim Gill. The report presents evidence to build the case for improving the play opportunities of children and young people. Its focus is on children of school age, and on free play that takes place out of doors. It looks at quantitative evidence of the wider outcomes and impact of play interventions and initiatives. The report looks at four types of intervention that each involve setting aside time and space for children to play: improving opportunities for free play in school break times, unstaffed public play facilities, supervised out-of-school play provision and street play initiatives.

“Children’s play is crucial to wellbeing and their development physically and psychologically. It is vital that we support it by providing spaces for families to use and encourage young people to be active and develop their independence. I would like to thank and congratulate everyone who has helped put together events across Scotland today.”

Aileen Campbell MSP, Minister for Children and Young People

This can be found on the Play Scotland website:
<http://www.playscotland.org/who-we-are/playday/the-play-return-a-review-of-the-wider-impact-of-play-initiatives/>



Membership

Membership to Play Scotland is now FREE!!

To obtain a form please email info@playscotland.org or download from website at <http://www.playscotland.org/who-we-are/membership/>

Play Scotland offer the following range of services through its information service: Website, research and policy documents, Briefing papers, Information sheets, CPD events, Media articles, newsletters and information emails.

Website: www.playscotland.org

For fast and up-to-date information on Play follow us:



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Bored kids?

Play Scotland have a ParentsZone and Kids Zone on our web page which has lots of cheap ideas for messy play and creative play.

Messy Play Booklets

We have three messy play booklets which are available on pdf. Two more Messy Play booklets will be published in 2015.

You can also follow on us on Pinterest, If there is a Board you would like to see please let us know.



www.pinterest.com/playscotland/



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 (to November 2014)

Play Scotland is the National organisation for play in Scotland, working to promote the importance of play for all children and young people, and campaigns to create increased play opportunities in the community.

Aims

- Influencing Policy towards achieving a Statutory commitment to Play
- A Regional Infrastructure to grow and support the Play Sector throughout Scotland
- Support develop and resource opportunities for Play in Scotland
- Lead contributor in the Professional Development of Play and the Play Workforce in Scotland
- Initiate and increase research and academic based information on the benefits of Play, including Free Play, Risk management, Challenges, Play-Friendly Community Spaces

Objectives

- Promote Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child - the Child's right to Play
- Seek commitment from the Scottish Government to make Play a Statutory requirement so that Local Authorities provide high quality, affordable and accessible, formal and informal play sites and challenges, supported by a Universal Play Fund
- Work with Scottish Government to ensure that Play is prioritised within Local Authority Planning
- Work with Strategic Partners to deliver good quality Play opportunities in diverse settings for all children and young people in Scotland
- Promote local Play Associations and build clusters, networks and forums to sustain "free play opportunities"
- Promote equity, inclusion and diversity in Play provision
- Provide continuous professional development opportunities for Playworkers
- Work with relevant Sector Skills Councils to ensure Employers needs are met in the Play Sector
- Promote research which demonstrates the benefits of Play
- Commission research into Play Provision in Scotland



Save the date

Play Scotland AGM – 24 February 2015

Play Scotland Annual Conference, Play for Life 2 – 7 March 2015

Play on the Longest Day – 21 June 2015

Playday – 5 August 2015

Managing Risk in Children's Play and Learning Seminars

Thursday 12 March - Inverness

Friday 13 March - Aberdeen

Thursday 19 March - Glasgow

Friday 20 March – Edinburgh



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