For me play is imaginative exercise freely chosen for amusement. I believe Play Scotland fulfils this definition by being at the forefront of promoting activities to enhance the lives of our children through play. Heartiest congratulations on your 10th Anniversary.

Best wishes,
Rhona Brankin, MSP

Age 10; well out of nappies, able to articulate what’s needed for children’s play – and still be stroppy enough to challenge grown ups who should know better! Happy Anniversary Play Scotland!

Best wishes,
Perry Else

Many congratulations to Play Scotland on its 10th Anniversary. You have certainly punched above your weight and put the vital issue of the importance of play on the map with relevant and innovatory campaigning. Play and communication are clearly key things for children’s progress in life. All good wishes for your future success.

Robert Brown MSP, Liberal Democrat, Glasgow.

Well done Play Scotland - thanks to your efforts we are at last seeing Play on the political and Parliamentary agenda. Here’s to the next ten successful years.

Ken Macintosh MSP

Many happy returns to Play Scotland from SkillsActive - keep up the fantastic work in 2009

Paul Bonel,
Playwork Unit at skillsActive

Congratulations on your 10th Anniversary, we look forward to working with you over the next 10 years!

National Playbus Association
Lesley Paterson, NATLL

Happy 10th Birthday
Play Scotland

Well out of nappies, able to articulate what’s needed for children’s play – and still be stroppy enough to challenge grown ups who should know better! Happy Anniversary Play Scotland!

Best wishes,
Perry Else

Many congratulations to Play Scotland on its 10th Anniversary. You have certainly punched above your weight and put the vital issue of the importance of play on the map with relevant and innovatory campaigning. Play and communication are clearly key things for children’s progress in life. All good wishes for your future success.

Robert Brown MSP, Liberal Democrat, Glasgow.

Well done Play Scotland - thanks to your efforts we are at last seeing Play on the political and Parliamentary agenda. Here’s to the next ten successful years.

Ken Macintosh MSP

Many happy returns to Play Scotland from SkillsActive - keep up the fantastic work in 2009

Paul Bonel,
Playwork Unit at skillsActive

Congratulations on your 10th Anniversary, we look forward to working with you over the next 10 years!

National Playbus Association
Lesley Paterson, NATLL

Happy 10th Birthday
Play Scotland

Well out of nappies, able to articulate what’s needed for children’s play – and still be stroppy enough to challenge grown ups who should know better! Happy Anniversary Play Scotland!

Best wishes,
Perry Else

Many congratulations to Play Scotland on its 10th Anniversary. You have certainly punched above your weight and put the vital issue of the importance of play on the map with relevant and innovatory campaigning. Play and communication are clearly key things for children’s progress in life. All good wishes for your future success.

Robert Brown MSP, Liberal Democrat, Glasgow.

Well done Play Scotland - thanks to your efforts we are at last seeing Play on the political and Parliamentary agenda. Here’s to the next ten successful years.

Ken Macintosh MSP

Many happy returns to Play Scotland from SkillsActive - keep up the fantastic work in 2009

Paul Bonel,
Playwork Unit at skillsActive

Congratulations on your 10th Anniversary, we look forward to working with you over the next 10 years!

National Playbus Association
Lesley Paterson, NATLL

Happy 10th Birthday
Play Scotland

Well out of nappies, able to articulate what’s needed for children’s play – and still be stroppy enough to challenge grown ups who should know better! Happy Anniversary Play Scotland!

Best wishes,
Perry Else

Many congratulations to Play Scotland on its 10th Anniversary. You have certainly punched above your weight and put the vital issue of the importance of play on the map with relevant and innovatory campaigning. Play and communication are clearly key things for children’s progress in life. All good wishes for your future success.

Robert Brown MSP, Liberal Democrat, Glasgow.

Well done Play Scotland - thanks to your efforts we are at last seeing Play on the political and Parliamentary agenda. Here’s to the next ten successful years.

Ken Macintosh MSP

Many happy returns to Play Scotland from SkillsActive - keep up the fantastic work in 2009

Paul Bonel,
Playwork Unit at skillsActive

Congratulations on your 10th Anniversary, we look forward to working with you over the next 10 years!

National Playbus Association
Lesley Paterson, NATLL

Happy 10th Birthday
Play Scotland

Well out of nappies, able to articulate what’s needed for children’s play – and still be stroppy enough to challenge grown ups who should know better! Happy Anniversary Play Scotland!

Best wishes,
Perry Else

Many congratulations to Play Scotland on its 10th Anniversary. You have certainly punched above your weight and put the vital issue of the importance of play on the map with relevant and innovatory campaigning. Play and communication are clearly key things for children’s progress in life. All good wishes for your future success.

Robert Brown MSP, Liberal Democrat, Glasgow.

Well done Play Scotland - thanks to your efforts we are at last seeing Play on the political and Parliamentary agenda. Here’s to the next ten successful years.

Ken Macintosh MSP

Many happy returns to Play Scotland from SkillsActive - keep up the fantastic work in 2009

Paul Bonel,
Playwork Unit at skillsActive

Congratulations on your 10th Anniversary, we look forward to working with you over the next 10 years!

National Playbus Association
Lesley Paterson, NATLL

Happy 10th Birthday
Play Scotland

Well out of nappies, able to articulate what’s needed for children’s play – and still be stroppy enough to challenge grown ups who should know better! Happy Anniversary Play Scotland!

Best wishes,
Perry Else

Many congratulations to Play Scotland on its 10th Anniversary. You have certainly punched above your weight and put the vital issue of the importance of play on the map with relevant and innovatory campaigning. Play and communication are clearly key things for children’s progress in life. All good wishes for your future success.

Robert Brown MSP, Liberal Democrat, Glasgow.

Well done Play Scotland - thanks to your efforts we are at last seeing Play on the political and Parliamentary agenda. Here’s to the next ten successful years.

Ken Macintosh MSP

Many happy returns to Play Scotland from SkillsActive - keep up the fantastic work in 2009

Paul Bonel,
Playwork Unit at skillsActive

Congratulations on your 10th Anniversary, we look forward to working with you over the next 10 years!

National Playbus Association
Lesley Paterson, NATLL

Happy 10th Birthday
Play Scotland

Well out of nappies, able to articulate what’s needed for children’s play – and still be stroppy enough to challenge grown ups who should know better! Happy Anniversary Play Scotland!

Best wishes,
Perry Else

Many congratulations to Play Scotland on its 10th Anniversary. You have certainly punched above your weight and put the vital issue of the importance of play on the map with relevant and innovatory campaigning. Play and communication are clearly key things for children’s progress in life. All good wishes for your future success.

Robert Brown MSP, Liberal Democrat, Glasgow.

Well done Play Scotland - thanks to your efforts we are at last seeing Play on the political and Parliamentary agenda. Here’s to the next ten successful years.

Ken Macintosh MSP

Many happy returns to Play Scotland from SkillsActive - keep up the fantastic work in 2009

Paul Bonel,
Playwork Unit at skillsActive

Congratulations on your 10th Anniversary, we look forward to working with you over the next 10 years!

National Playbus Association
Lesley Paterson, NATLL

Happy 10th Birthday
Play Scotland

Well out of nappies, able to articulate what’s needed for children’s play – and still be stroppy enough to challenge grown ups who should know better! Happy Anniversary Play Scotland!

Best wishes,
Perry Else

Many congratulations to Play Scotland on its 10th Anniversary. You have certainly punched above your weight and put the vital issue of the importance of play on the map with relevant and innovatory campaigning. Play and communication are clearly key things for children’s progress in life. All good wishes for your future success.

Robert Brown MSP, Liberal Democrat, Glasgow.

Well done Play Scotland - thanks to your efforts we are at last seeing Play on the political and Parliamentary agenda. Here’s to the next ten successful years.

Ken Macintosh MSP

Many happy returns to Play Scotland from SkillsActive - keep up the fantastic work in 2009

Paul Bonel,
Playwork Unit at skillsActive

Congratulations on your 10th Anniversary, we look forward to working with you over the next 10 years!

National Playbus Association
Lesley Paterson, NATLL

Happy 10th Birthday
Play Scotland

Well out of nappies, able to articulate what’s needed for children’s play – and still be stroppy enough to challenge grown ups who should know better! Happy Anniversary Play Scotland!

Best wishes,
Perry Else

Many congratulations to Play Scotland on its 10th Anniversary. You have certainly punched above your weight and put the vital issue of the importance of play on the map with relevant and innovatory campaigning. Play and communication are clearly key things for children’s progress in life. All good wishes for your future success.

Robert Brown MSP, Liberal Democrat, Glasgow.

Well done Play Scotland - thanks to your efforts we are at last seeing Play on the political and Parliamentary agenda. Here’s to the next ten successful years.

Ken Macintosh MSP

Many happy returns to Play Scotland from SkillsActive - keep up the fantastic work in 2009

Paul Bonel,
Playwork Unit at skillsActive

Congratulations on your 10th Anniversary, we look forward to working with you over the next 10 years!

National Playbus Association
Lesley Paterson, NATLL

Happy 10th Birthday
Play Scotland

Well out of nappies, able to articulate what’s needed for children’s play – and still be stroppy enough to challenge grown ups who should know better! Happy Anniversary Play Scotland!

Best wishes,
Perry Else

Many congratulations to Play Scotland on its 10th Anniversary. You have certainly punched above your weight and put the vital issue of the importance of play on the map with relevant and innovatory campaigning. Play and communication are clearly key things for children’s progress in life. All good wishes for your future success.

Robert Brown MSP, Liberal Democrat, Glasgow.

Well done Play Scotland - thanks to your efforts we are at last seeing Play on the political and Parliamentary agenda. Here’s to the next ten successful years.

Ken Macintosh MSP

Many happy returns to Play Scotland from SkillsActive - keep up the fantastic work in 2009

Paul Bonel,
Playwork Unit at skillsActive

Congratulations on your 10th Anniversary, we look forward to working with you over the next 10 years!

National Playbus Association
Lesley Paterson, NATLL

Happy 10th Birthday
Play Scotland

Well out of nappies, able to articulate what’s needed for children’s play – and still be stroppy enough to challenge grown ups who should know better! Happy Anniversary Play Scotland!

Best wishes,
Perry Else

Many congratulations to Play Scotland on its 10th Anniversary. You have certainly punched above your weight and put the vital issue of the importance of play on the map with relevant and innovatory campaigning. Play and communication are clearly key things for children’s progress in life. All good wishes for your future success.

Robert Brown MSP, Liberal Democrat, Glasgow.

Well done Play Scotland - thanks to your efforts we are at last seeing Play on the political and Parliamentary agenda. Here’s to the next ten successful years.

Ken Macintosh MSP

Many happy returns to Play Scotland from SkillsActive - keep up the fantastic work in 2009

Paul Bonel,
Playwork Unit at skillsActive

Congratulations on your 10th Anniversary, we look forward to working with you over the next 10 years!

National Playbus Association
Lesley Paterson, NATLL

Happy 10th Birthday
Play Scotland

Well out of nappies, able to articulate what’s needed for children’s play – and still be stroppy enough to challenge grown ups who should know better! Happy Anniversary Play Scotland!

Best wishes,
Perry Else

Many congratulations to Play Scotland on its 10th Anniversary. You have certainly punched above your weight and put the vital issue of the importance of play on the map with relevant and innovatory campaigning. Play and communication are clearly key things for children’s progress in life. All good wishes for your future success.

Robert Brown MSP, Liberal Democrat, Glasgow.
2008 was a tremendous year for Play Scotland who were instrumental in developing the play priorities in the Early Years Framework. Through participating and leading in the task group concerned with play, improving outcomes and children's quality of life through play is one of the main priorities that national and local government consider as important factors for success.

Play Scotland now have an important role to play in working with the Scottish Government, the police and the Care Commission, in leading a debate on understanding the benefits of play against risk. As in the short-term, we are all determined to address the importance of ensuring that parents, communities and professionals recognise and value the long-term benefits of play and exposure to risk - both in terms of physical health and in developing resilience and mental wellbeing.

It is through measures such as these that we can research our long-term goal of having high-quality play opportunities in every community. So please, accept my best wishes for Play Scotland for the new year and I look forward to working with you during the implementation phase of the Early Years Framework.

Adam Ingram MSP
Minister for Children and Early Years
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.

About Play Scotland
- Formed in 1998 to support the Child's Right to Play and make children's play rights a reality in Scotland
- Membership organisation funded by the Scottish Government. Membership benefits include: Members Only Section of Website, GRANTfinder, regular newsletters, discounted entries to conference and much more. Please see www.playscotland.org for further information.

Priorities for Play Scotland
- Political Lobbying for a Play Policy and a Strategic Approach to Play in Scotland
- Developing Strategic Resources to support the Play Sector in Scotland
- Workforce Development of the Playwork Sector
- Research into Play Provision in Scotland (space to play, time to play, funding for play, best play)

Targets for 2008
1. To publish the Scottish Play Commission Findings at the Scottish Parliament with Cross Party support
2. To promote the Importance of Play in the proposed Early Years Framework
3. To develop the Pinc and BLEW project
4. To use Core Grant for Play Scotland as leverage for external funding to support the Play Sector
5. To publish Research Findings, Developing Play in Scotland Survey
6. To work for a Policy Framework for Play in Scotland
7. To support SkillsActive in its relicensing bid as a Sector Skills Council, to retain Playwork in its footprint
8. To promote national Playday 2008 – Give us go!
9. As part of the Play Safety Forum to develop and promote Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation guide

Here’s to the great achievement of 2008 – the strong commitment to play in the Early Years Framework... congratulations Play Scotland and all your partners. Now let’s keep up the pressure - there’s a really good chance that 2009 will be the year the tide finally turns and the whole country recognises how vital play is to Scotland’s future. Onwards and upwards,
Sue Palmer, Author

Well done for 10 years of successfully raising the profile of play in Scotland
Colin Rennie, Fields in Trust

Happy Birthday Play Scotland!
Congratulations on ten years of support for the child’s right to play. Play Scotland’s campaigning, lobbying, research and advocacy has put play on the policy map in Scotland. Here’s to many more years of continuing the good work.
Wendy Russell
A warm welcome to Play Scotland’s Annual Report 2008, which marks Play Scotland’s 10th birthday!

Play Scotland was first launched in Glasgow on 14 December 1998 and took as its aim making the child’s right to play a reality in Scotland. This aspirational goal was made at a time of great change in Scotland, for on the 19th of November 1998 the Scotland Act provided for the establishment of a Scottish Parliament. Following the first elections in May 1999, Play Scotland produced The Importance of Play … A ‘Play Agenda’ for the Scottish Parliament which highlighted the issues for play which fell within the portfolios of Scottish Parliament Ministers and called for them to receive attention in a government report on the ‘State of Play in Scotland’.

There was no significant Scottish Government response to the ‘State of Play in Scotland’ Report. And so in 2008 Play Scotland initiated the Scottish Play Commission to examine the ‘current state of play’, with the aim of producing high level recommendations to inform and guide future policy and strategy on play. The findings have been published in the report Raising the Bar which was launched at the Scottish Parliament by Adam Ingram, Minister for Children and Early Years in June 2008.

Another significant event of 2008 has been the launch of the Scottish Play Policy Forum at the Dynamic Earth in May 2008. Supported by the Reference Group Play Scotland administers the Forum which has been created to discuss, and when relevant coordinate, work at a policy level in Scotland in order to support the development of quality play opportunities for all children.

2008 has also seen a new level of partnership working with the Scottish Government itself. The Minister for Children and Early Years has recognised the importance of play as an integral part of children’s development and acknowledges the active partnership approach that Play Scotland has pursued. As a result, Play Scotland warmly welcomes the inclusion of play as a priority in the Scottish Government and COSLA’s Early Years Framework, published in December.

A year ago I looked forward to 2008 as a year with the promise of change. Ten years on from the birth of Play Scotland we seem to be on the cusp of change, with the importance of play being placed at last on the agenda of the Scottish Parliament!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have made reaching our ten year milestone possible. My thanks go to all of the unsung volunteers who have given their time to serve on the Board of Play Scotland, both past and present, to Sue Palmer for chairing the Scottish Play Commission and the Scottish Play Policy Forum, and in particular my thanks go to the Play Scotland staff team for the enormous scope of their tireless work on behalf of Play Scotland in 2008, and I ask them to prepare for the changes and challenges that 2009 is sure to bring!

Margaret Westwood, Chair Play Scotland
Chief Executive Report

2008 was a landmark year for Play Scotland. PLAY has finally come to the forefront of Scottish Government attention and is firmly located within a policy framework for the first time. This meets a key Play Scotland objective: ‘To increase awareness of the importance of play in the development of children and young people in Scotland’.

A long term objective of the Scottish Government is now to provide “High quality play opportunities in every community and increased play and physical activity”. This objective is shared by Play Scotland who campaigns ‘To ensure that all children and young people in Scotland have equal access to diverse and quality play opportunities that meet their individual need’.

A huge thank you to all of you who participated in, and supported the Scottish Play Commission events and conversations – YOU made this happen!

Play Scotland had a truly memorable year in 2008. From the IPA World Conference, Hong Kong in January, to the ‘Highland Yak’ in February to the ‘Round Up’ event of the Scottish Play Commission, Glasgow in May, to the Launch of the Findings at the Scottish Parliament in June. We held our 10th Birthday Celebrations in Ayr in November and celebrated Play in two Scottish Government Policy documents: Equally Well and Anti-Poverty Initiatives.

However, the best was yet to come. The Early Years Framework, jointly published by the Scottish Government and COSLA in December, acknowledged Play Scotland’s role as a partner, and listed play as one of the 10 priorities for transformational change, “Improving outcomes and children’s quality of life through play”.

You the membership, friends and supporters of Play Scotland, made this possible; “a huge thanks to you all”. However, our job is not done yet - in 2009 we need to work hard to turn the welcome rhetoric into reality!

Marguerite Hunter Blair, Chief Executive

Treasurer’s Report

Once again I am delighted to present the annual accounts for Play Scotland for the financial year 2007-2008. I am pleased to report that the Play Scotland account closed in surplus.

I am particularly happy to report that Play Scotland received two Investing Ideas Awards from the Big Lottery and is close to reaching its reserve target. This together with the expansion of the Board will ensure that Play Scotland will go from strength to strength in the coming years.

Alan Aithie, Treasurer

PLAY Scotland Board
Margaret Westwood - Chair
Kenny Abbott - Vice Chair
Alan Aithie - Treasurer
Gary Love - Company Secretary
Lillian Burnett
Tammy Devlin
Denise Havard
Simon Knight
Malina McDonald
John McKendrick
Andrea McMillan

PLAY Scotland Staff
Marguerite Hunter Blair, Chief Executive
Email: marguerite@playscotland.org
Amanda Godsell, Development Manager
Email: amandagodsell@playscotland.org
Sharon Forrester, Office & Information Manager
Email: sharonforrester@playscotland.org
Susan McIntyre, Development Coordinator
Email: susanmcintyre@playscotland.org

Changes to Board November 2008
Kenny Abbott and Lillian Burnett resigned from the Board.
New Board members: Susan Elsley, Ross Dunn, Harry Harbottle and Debbie Willett.
PLAY SCOTLAND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2008
DELIVERING A PLAY COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND

Developing the Policy Framework for Play
To support the development of play, Play Scotland has worked hard to influence and improve the national and local policy context. 2008 brought great outcomes at a policy level, with play high on the agenda nationally.

The Play Commission and participation in the Early Years Framework were major pieces of policy work. Additionally, consultation responses were submitted on:

- The Children’s Environment and Health Strategy
- Glasgow 2014 – Delivering a Lasting Legacy for Scotland
- The Forest Enterprise Scotland Framework Strategic Plan
- A Positive Start for Every Child
- Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts

Research was undertaken by Play Scotland on the new Single Outcome Agreements that local authorities must agree with the Scottish Government, including references to play and the mechanisms for contributing to SOAs locally. Related tools for the play sector to use locally for campaigning and development of play will be available early 2009.

Play Scotland, with a reference group of organisations (the National Playbus Association, the National Association of Toy and Leisure Libraries, the Scottish Pre-School Play Association and the Scottish Childminding Association), set up the Scottish Play Policy Forum to facilitate play policy work at a national level.

Delivery
The Scottish Play Commission was established to examine the state of Play in Scotland and make recommendations to the Scottish Government to support the development of a National Play Strategy for Scotland.

The Scottish Play Commission was funded through the Big Lottery Fund in Partnership with Play Scotland. A “Kick Start” event was held on 19 November 2007 and a formal Launch at the Scottish Parliament on 13 December 2007 by Adam Ingram MSP, Minister for Children and Early Years and Professor Kathleen Marshall, Scotland’s Commissioner for Children and Young People. The Scottish Play Commission was chaired by Sue Palmer, author of Toxic Childhood. The launch was sponsored by John Scott MSP.

The Structure of the Commission was designed to allow for maximum participation from the children’s sector, parents, planners and service providers in local authorities, health, the private sector and the voluntary sector.
The Scottish Play Commission gathered a wide range of views and recommendations on the state of Play in Scotland in 2008. A number of key events were held throughout Scotland with smaller workshops and focus groups held in local communities. The 'Developing Play in Scotland' survey (Play Scotland 2008) also informed the findings of the Scottish Play Commission. Our website also hosted an on-line forum.

The Findings of the Scottish Play Commission were launched at the Scottish Parliament in June 2008 by Adam Ingram MSP, Minister for Children and Early Years.

A full report on the findings 'Raising the Bar' is available from Play Scotland. They are summarised here:

**Scottish Play Commission Findings**

1. **Develop a National Play Strategy, 0-18 years, in consultation with children and young people, which will inform local play strategies and address the themes identified**

2. **Create a National Play Indicator, with minimum actions and standards, national monitoring and resources to support its implementation across all local authorities**

3. **Promote the critical role of Play in child development and raise public awareness of the value of Play**

4. **Build the capacity of communities to support a wide range of Play opportunities and monitor the benefits**

5. **Support the Playwork Profession to develop as a valued Workforce**

**Establish the Scottish Play Policy Forum**

The mission statement of the forum is “To discuss and when relevant coordinate work at a policy level in Scotland, in order to support the development of quality play opportunities for all children and young people, age 0-18yrs. Particular attention may be required to ensure that the right to play of children who are sometimes excluded, such as those who are disabled, disadvantaged or marginalised in any way, is upheld.”

The SPPF launched in May 2008 with an event at Dynamic Earth including presentations by Don McGillivray from the Scottish Government on the policy context for play and Sue Palmer, author of Toxic Childhood. Sue Palmer took up the task of chairing the forum over the first year. The forum meets four times per year and includes representatives from a wide range of national organisations with an interest in play. In 2008 the SPPF focused on the UNCRC reporting and monitoring process.
10th Anniversary Conference 19-20 November 2008

Play Scotland held their 10th Annual conference on the 19 & 20 November at Ayr Race Course. This was a special event as it commemorated 10 years of Play Scotland. SkillsActive certified CPD Certificates for all delegates.

To celebrate our 10th Birthday in December 2008 and to mark this historic event ten awards celebrating achievements in play were awarded at our annual conference ‘Play Ranges’ at Ayr Racecourse in November.

The ten awards were made in recognition of outstanding achievements in supporting and providing diverse and quality play opportunities for all children and young people in Scotland.

1. Mary Fagan, Chair of Parent Action for Safe Play
   Award in recognition of her work promoting play in the local community

2. To Play or Not to Play
   Award for their campaigning role for play and in particular for the success of their petition for a play strategy for Scotland lodged at the Scottish Parliament (PE913)

3. Secret Garden Outdoor Nursery, Fife
   Award for best practice provision, outdoors

4. Sue Gutteridge
   Award for the development and promotion of best practice in design for innovative play spaces

5. Alan Rees
   Award for lifetime achievement of supporting play Locally, Nationally and Internationally and as founding member of Play Scotland

6. Teresa Casey, President of the International Play Association
   Award for supporting play Locally, Nationally and Internationally

7. Bob Hughes, Play Education
   Award in recognition of outstanding contribution to playwork theory and practice

8. Wendy Russell, Gloucestershire University
   Award in recognition of innovative contribution to professionalising the playwork sector

9. Kathleen Marshall, Scottish Commissioner for Children and Young People
   Award for championing promoting proportionate protection, allowing children to take appropriate risks, and identifying underlying barriers to children not playing out and lack of volunteers to work with children and young

10. Margaret Westwood, Chair of Play Scotland
    Extraordinary contribution to the work of Play Scotland
Over the two days, delegates were inspired with inputs from Professor Rodger Mackett, Wendy Russell, Bob Hughes and many more plus workshops on Play Rangers, Loose Parts and Outdoor Play.

Richard Trew, Project Manager from Play Wales gave an interesting overview of the new playwork qualification ‘Playwork Principles’, highlighting the difference course methods used to ensure the learning needs of playwork students were met.

The workshop was an opportunity for participants to see extracts from the Play Wales training film ‘pushing Eddie in the Nettles with Connor’ A resource that was made to support the learning of students aimed at the implications around training delivery.

Richard also gave an interesting input on the Play Wales Training of Playworkers describing turning theory into practice.

To celebrate our 10th Birthday we held a mousemat competition and received hundreds of entries. The winners were:

**Winner** - Victoria Cox and Charlotte Jennings-Maun from Helensburgh

**2nd Place** - Tabitha Brown from Kingussie and Sophie Catherine Mulhere from Aberdeenshire

**Runners Up** - Jenny Catterall from Ayr, Lauren Rae from Helensburgh and Niall Templeton from Inverness

We would like to thank all the entrants.

---

Best wishes to all at Play Scotland in celebrating 10 years of successful campaigning for children’s right to play – from all at SPPA!

Ian McLaughlan, Chief Executive, SPPA

Play Scotland’s work is very important to children and young people. From advocacy to improving training, the focus on making play a fun and development experience for all is vital for a healthy future. Congratulations on your first 10 years and please keep on leading the movement for better play in Scotland.

Fraser Falconer, Chair, The Nancy Ovens Trust.

Well done for positioning play firmly on the political agenda – our ‘birthday wish’ for your next anniversary is that policy is implemented so that every child enjoys opportunities for natural, outdoor play in local greenspaces

Julie Procter, Chief Executive, greenspace Scotland
Resources to Support the Play Sector

The following research documents can be found at www.playscotland.org

Acorns and Conkers
Developing Play in Scotland Survey
Raising the Bar
Local Authority Play Provision

Play Connex Scotland Project – incorporating the Pinc and BLEW Project

Play Scotland has worked to develop ways of providing support and building the capacity of play providers at a local level. Through an Investing in Ideas grant, a series of focus groups and a survey were undertaken to investigate

• Needs and issues within the play sector
• Ways of meeting those needs

Play Scotland found that the sector locally were looking for support enabling people to come together to develop play through play forums, to share information and best practice, to seek funding and to lobby for and raise the profile of play locally. Findings are available in two Play Scotland reports - 'Acorns and Conkers' and 'Developing Play in Scotland', both available on the website.

One to one advice and support to groups developing play services or infrastructure was provided by Play Scotland in 2008 as far as capacity allowed. Play Scotland will seek funding to further develop local support to the play sector, drawing on the research findings.

GRANTnet

A new service for members was launched to help with funding. GRANTnet is a comprehensive search engine that allows organisations to put in information on a project to be funded and GRANTnet provides details on relevant funders to try.

Workforce Development

Play Scotland sits on the Skills Active Playwork Education Training Councils for the UK and for Scotland. Play Scotland has had a busy year in this area taking part in the Play Research Network, the Play Design Network and the Play Safety Forum, which recently published the Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation Guide and Play Scotland will be promoting this document in 2009.

IPA International held it’s world Conference in Hong Kong, January 2008. The Board of Directors were pleased to support the Chief Executive and the Development Coordinator to attend the Conference on behalf of Play Scotland. The Chief Executive gave a Presentation on ‘The Politics of Play’ which was well received. Play Scotland also delivered a Workshop on Inclusive Play Environments.

The Yard Adventure Playground in Edinburgh have provided Pinc workshops on behalf of Play Scotland. These Inclusive Play workshops provide CPD Training to the Play Sector workforce. Play Scotland provided a Quality Control function on this.

This year, we have been involved in supporting the sector through the work of the Scottish Implementation Plan and the UK Strategy for Playwork Education and Training. Play Scotland showcase it’s work at the PETC Scotland meetings.

A Single Outcome Agreement Project with SkillsActive is under discussion for 2009.
PLAYDAY - Give us a Go!

Playday is the annual celebration of the child’s right to play and this year’s theme Give us a Go! called for children to be allowed more challenging and adventurous play opportunities with the aim of shaking off the ‘cotton wool’ culture that in today’s world can limit children’s play.

We called for children and young people to be allowed challenging and adventurous play opportunities as enjoyed by previous generations before them. The title also highlighted:

- Giving children and young people the same challenging play opportunities that we adults had when we were growing up.
- Children and young people’s voice asking adults to give them a chance to make their own judgements.
- Evokes an exciting play opportunity with children keen to have a go.
- Children’s voice, what they would say to each other whilst playing.
- Positive message.

There was also strong media interest in this year’s campaign theme and in the opinion poll research where it was revealed that half of children aged between 7 and 12 were not allowed to climb trees without adult supervision.

Although Playday is held only once a year, children and young people should be able to benefit from being able to access outdoor free play all year round.

For further information on playday www.playday.org.uk
PLAY SCOTLAND INFORMATION SERVICES

Play Scotland offer the following range of services through its Information Services:

- Website including 'Members Only' Section
- Research and Policy Documents
- Playwork Theory
- Training Information
- CPD Events and Quality Assurance
- Relevant Articles, Newsletters and eZines
- Play Scotland Publications
- Local Authority Planning Consultations
- Public Enquiries
- Detailed GRANTfinder reports
Play Policy Context in Scotland 2008

- The Early Years Framework
- The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child’s Concluding Observations for the UK
- Single Outcome Agreements

“The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to guarantee the right of the child to rest and leisure, engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts. The State party should pay particular attention to provide children, including those with disabilities, with adequate and accessible playground spaces to exercise their play and leisure activities”.

The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child’s Concluding Observations for the UK.

Play in the Frame
The Scottish Government has framed Play strategically and significantly within 3 key policy areas: Anti Poverty, Equally well and the Early Years Framework

Equally Well - The Report of the Ministerial Task Force on Health Inequalities
http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/health/Inequalities/inequalitiestaskforce

Early Years Framework
http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/Early-years-framework

Anti-Poverty Initiatives
http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Social-Inclusion/poverty/17414-1/EAPI

UNCRC Article 31:
All children have a right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of activities
The Nancy Ovens Awards were held on Saturday 6 September at House for an Art Lover, Bellahouston Park, Glasgow and presented by Adam Ingram MSP, Minister for Children and Early Years. Full details of the winners can be found on the Nancy Ovens Trust Website www.nancyovenstrust.org.uk

Best Design of a Play Experience was awarded to Castle Green Playspace, Broughty Ferry-Dundee City Council and Best Community Award for Play went to Northfield Area Forum- Allan Douglas Park, Aberdeen and to the Friends of Aberfeldy Parklands in partnership with Perth and Kinross Council. An Outstanding Contribution to Play, the top award given by the Trust was awarded to Cathy Bache and the work of The Secret Garden Outdoor Nursery in Letham, Fife. Alan Rees MBE was also given an award in recognition of his long term advocacy for children’s play in Scotland and worldwide.
Playwork Principles

These Principles establish the professional and ethical framework for playwork and as such must be regarded as a whole. They describe what is unique about play and playwork, and provide the playwork perspective for working with children and young people. They are based on the recognition that children and young people’s capacity for positive development will be enhanced if given access to the broadest range of environments and play opportunities.

1. All children and young people need to play. The impulse to play is innate. Play is a biological, psychological and social necessity, and is fundamental to the healthy development and well being of individuals and communities.

2. Play is a process that is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. That is, children and young people determine and control the content and intent of their play, by following their own instincts, ideas and interests, in their own way for their own reasons.

3. The prime focus and essence of playwork is to support and facilitate the play process and this should inform the development of play policy, strategy, training and education.

4. For playworkers, the play process takes precedence and playworkers act as advocates for play when engaging with adult led agendas.

5. The role of the playworker is to support all children and young people in the creation of a space in which they can play.

6. The playworker’s response to children and young people playing is based on a sound up to date knowledge of the play process, and reflective practice.

7. Playworkers recognise their own impact on the play space and also the impact of children and young people’s play on the playworker.

8. Playworkers choose an intervention style that enables children and young people to extend their play. All playworker intervention must balance risk with the developmental benefit and well being of children.
Coming in 2009......

• **Playday 2009, Wednesday 5 August ‘Make Time’**
  On Playday and throughout summer 2009, children, young people and communities will get out and play!

This Playday, the theme is “Make Time”. This means that everyone from parents, grandparents and carers to teachers, policy makers and planners need to make time to support children’s right to play.

For more information on how you can get involved visit [www.playday.org.uk](http://www.playday.org.uk)

• **Risk Debate**
  In the Early Years Framework launched on 10 December 2008, Play Scotland was listed along with the Scottish Government, the Care Commission and the Police as a partner organisation to lead a National Debate on understanding and balancing the benefits if play against risk.

• **Launch of Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation Guide**

• **Play Scotland Annual Conference**

• **NEW Play Scotland Website and Services**

• **Topical newsletters for Playworkers and Practitioners**

• **Remember to use GRANTnet! The new funding tool**

---

**Happy 10th Anniversary**

I am delighted to be able to offer these words of support on the event of Play Scotland’s tenth anniversary. In the course of my work as an MSP I have had considerable contact with Play Scotland and am a firm admirer of the work that they do to research and promote the benefits of play.

Play should form an essential part of childhood, encouraging interaction between children, stimulating their imaginations and spurring their intellectual development, and I look forward to continuing to work with Play Scotland over the years ahead to help ensure that the promotion of play is given the prominence it deserves.

*John Scott, MSP*