



**Impact Report
2020-21**



The importance of play in children's lives is the foundation on which this charity is built. And not only the foundation – every brick, beam and joist! Yet we still at times felt awed (though never truly surprised) by the power of play during the pandemic.

We saw how it helped children stay strong through a most unexpected and difficult year. How our sessions enabled connection, gave space to share worries, and shored up resilience. And how support to play at home helped families cope with lockdowns.

The worst of times shone a light on what promotes resilience in the most ordinary of times. Challenges will always come, whether at a global or personal scale, and so play in the community must be a constant in children's lives – for this among many other reasons.

Play Midlothian's playful, creative culture enabled us to adapt, learn and persist. I am so proud of, and grateful to, Play Midlothian's staff, trustees, children, families, stakeholders and donors for your courage, commitment and flexibility over this time.

Susan McIntyre
Chief Executive



We want all children to access everyday adventures through play, which help them to learn, grow and develop. We address the additional barriers to play for children experiencing disadvantages, including disability. Find out about our various services on our website.

Our key outcomes:

Children and young people have improved confidence and resilience

Children and young people have improved health and wellbeing

Children and families build transferrable skills

PLAY
midlothian
OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

Over 400 individual children
(aged 0-14) benefited

400

334 sessions
of play and
support for
children and
families

334

2 virtual play forums on
the impacts of Covid-19

2

1 service, for disabled children,
ran throughout Midlothian

1 service ran at
the Gypsy and
Traveller site

1

90 individual
adults
participated

90

3 services ran
in 3 areas –
Dalkeith, Mayfield
and Gorebridge

3

2 services involved parents
in the learning and fun

2

50 activity packs delivered

50

1/3 digital sessions,
2/3 in-person sessions

1/3

Most in-person sessions were
entirely outdoors this year

+



79% of children responding to our survey said that we helped them stay more active.

"If you get bullied, you can come and play and you don't get bullied. If other people were in the park I never came. Out2Play helped me with being able to come out and play and feel safe. Sometimes I come at other times now, but mostly only with Out2Play. I used to bite my nails a lot but now I've stopped, because I can play without being bullied." **Child**

"Thank you so much for the ideas... His Health Visitor and Speech and Language have said he's come on leaps and bounds in his development and a part of that is you."

Parent, Play for All

60% of parents responding agreed Stay for Play had helped their family cope with the impacts of coronavirus 'a lot'.

"With indoor play being stopped due to covid outdoor sessions have been a godsend."

Parent, Stay for Play

"The best thing about these sessions is that they keep us entertained because it's pretty boring as there is no park here." **Child**

"My Granddad was really unwell and in hospital but coming to Out2Play helped me not think about it as much." **Child**

"I feel gives me play ideas for my children and felt supported by play staff."

Parent, Stay for Play

100% of parents responding to our survey said Stay for Play has helped their young child's development.

Play for All families reported a 72% increase in how often they set up play activities at home because of our support.



"We were finding it hard particularly over lockdown looking for things to do with our boys, it is quite difficult to get them to play together normally as Archie is non-verbal and finds socialising difficult.

We were given ideas of activities the boys enjoyed doing together, I have definitely noticed a difference in their play, they actually enjoy playing together. Joshua really enjoys playing outside with Archie and also plays with him in his room too.

Before Covid-19, it was easier to plan days out with the boys to keep them amused, but we found it very difficult being stuck in the house so we were really in need of some advice and although things are not quite completely back to normal, it's definitely better now we have been given some support.

Since we've done the musical game every day, their relationship has improved. We found Archie in Joshua's bedroom last time, not playing together but still in the same space. Big win!"

Parent, Play for All

"When we first started coming to Stay for Play, options to join in activities were very limited, so this was a welcome opportunity to get out and be with peers. It gave us somewhere to go and fill time with play and pick up some ideas for activities to try at home. It really helped to be out and social, and share experiences with others who were going through the same limitations."

Parent, Stay for Play

"Out2Play was useful during Covid – both mum and me felt nervous. But not at Out2Play because there's always people to help when there's a question in my head and I can't get it out. At another club I go to I have to use hand sanitiser and it hurts; but here I get help with it, and if the soap hurt my hands I wouldn't be afraid to say."

Child

"I come because I love playing and I'm usually free after school. I've learned the pedal go and the stilts. Out2Play gives me a place to go; I used to stay in all day and I didn't like that."

Child

Together we can: there are lots of ways you can support us to help children and families to thrive.

Donate

**Hold or take
part in a
fundraiser**

Volunteer

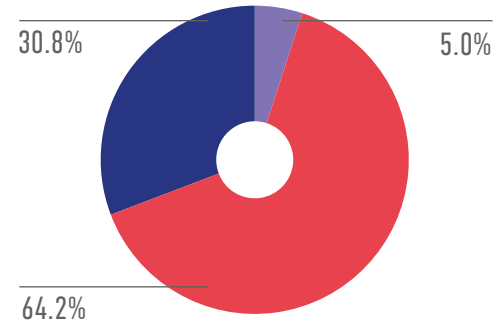
Please do get in touch!



Sources of income

- Service charges / contracts = £ 13,158
- Restricted donations / grants = £168,945
- Unrestricted donations / grants / other = £81,047

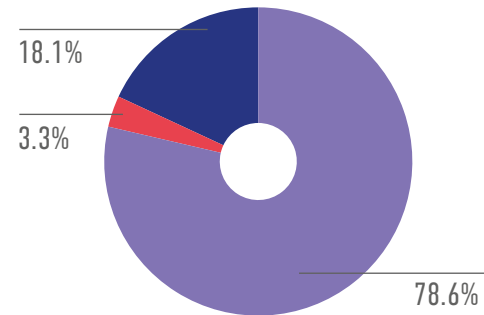
Total = £263,150



Expenditure

- Salaries, national insurance and pension = £120,609
- Non-salary service costs = £5,034
- Premises and other overheads = £27,737

Total = £153,380



Later in this year, appeals for our 2021-22 services raised income to hold in restricted fund balances for then, including towards a new mental health service to launch April 2021. A large grant from Adapt and Thrive was held in a designated fund for implementation of our Covid-19 recovery plans in 2021-22. Details can be viewed in our accounts on our website.

An enormous thank you to all the people and funders that supported our services in 2020-21. Your generosity makes children's lives better. This includes:

Adapt and Thrive	Miss Isabel Harvey Charitable Trust	The Len Thomson Charitable Trust
Baillie Gifford Community Awards	National Lottery Community Fund	The Mugdock Children's Trust
Bank of Scotland Foundation	New Park Educational Trust Ltd	The Mushroom Trust
Barrat East Scotland Community Fund	Ponton House Trust	The Nancie Massey Charitable Trust
BBC Children in Need	Postcode Local Trust	The Orcome Trust
Coalfields Covid Adapt and Thrive Programme	Response, Recovery and Resilience Fund	The PF Charitable Trust
Colleagues from Lloyds Banking Group	Russell Trust	The Pleasance Trust
Cordis Charitable Trust	Scotmid	The Pump House Trust
Corra Foundation	SCVO	The Robertson Trust
Dr Guthrie's Association	Souter Charitable Trust	The Robina Goodlad Memorial Trust
East Lothian Council	St James's Place Charitable Foundation	The Rozelle Trust
Foundation Scotland	STV Children's Appeal	The RS Macdonald Charitable Trust
IKEA (Edinburgh store)	Swinton Paterson Trust	The Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust
Inspiring Life: Evie Douglas Memorial Fund	Tesco Bags of Help Covid-19 Communities Fund	The Stafford Trust
Inspiring Scotland	The ABC Foundation	The Stevenston Charitable Trust
Michael Cornish Charitable Trust	The Albert Hunt Trust	The True Colours Trust
Midlothian Council	The Alchemy Foundation	The W M Mann Foundation
Midsafe	The Edward Gostling Foundation	Third Sector Resilience Fund
	The Ironmongers' Company	Warburtons Community Grants



Contact

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<https://localgiving.org/charity/playmidlothian>

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