

Written evidence submitted by Triangle Adventure Playground (TAPA) [CBE 124]

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Ethos and unique service:-

- A free service for CYP aged 6-17 years
- Close liaison with parents, children are registered
- Children are free to come and go and free to choose their activities and are consulted and listened to
- Outdoor child-led free play in natural green environment
- Integral part of the inner-city community for generations
- Integral part of LB Lambeth CYP Services, working closely with local schools and safeguarding.
- Staffed by trained, paid professional staff, full-time seniors with over 20 years experience, part-time sessional staff including ex-users, students, locals.
- In addition we support young adults into employment via our volunteer to playworker graduate scheme
- Charity management Committee with local and professional knowledge and skills.

We are London's oldest adventure playground, since 1957. registered Charity 303145, Environmental Body 284635.

Open every day Monday to Friday, term time 3.30 - 6, holidays 12 - 6. Last year 569 different registered young people made a total of 12545 visits to play. Local primary schools have weekly afternoon free play visits

Our purpose:-

- Improve health, wellbeing and happiness
- Promote physical, social and emotional development
- Build fine and gross motor skills, resourcefulness and resilience, self-esteem, confidence and cooperation
- Give community cohesion and local pride

The site has:-

- A small building with lights and kitchen, but no heating
- A green environment, trees to climb, bushes to hide in, campfires, dirt to dig holes in, birds, insects, foxes and bats, garden to grow food
- wide range of recreational activities, play structures (including skateboarding half pipe, big and little swings, zipwire, "skywalk" 35m treetop walkway, enough tarmac for bike riding)
- Arts & crafts and creative play, all sports and group games
- Self-built teens' hang-out, hidey holes, rain-shelters and quiet spaces
- movable equipment, tools, junk and materials for CYP to make dens, go-karts, mend bikes, make and break things
- Our service also provides snacks and fresh fruit daily and regular trips for young people

Financial details 2022/23

income: £233,530

- expenditure: £206,905
- Free Reserves - £100,000 for 6 months plus closure cost
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Fundraising strategy and income generation activities

Prior to 2010 Triangle received grant aid funding from LB Lambeth as part of a Children's Play Service supporting 15 adventure playgrounds and around 100 community-run playschemes and after-school clubs, similar to many other Inner-London boroughs. Since 2010 we have become self funded. Our current fundraising strategy is focused on grants obtained from charitable trusts, foundations and grant giving organisations which account for the majority of our income. We also have individual donations from our local community and further afield, many of whom have committed to regular monthly donations, totalling c.£12k pa from c.80 donors. The Triangle has benefited from a multi year corporate partnership that has contributed c.£60k pa. to our core costs for the last four years. This will conclude this year and we are actively seeking a new corporate partnership. A multi year Early Intervention and Prevention Services (EIPS) contract delivered as part of a consortium of North Lambeth youth work and playwork organisations further contributes to our core costs. We regularly seek funding via LBL grants such as Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) to support provision of free meals during all school holidays. We are exploring ways to utilise our site outside of current service hours to further diversify income.

Funding Challenges:-

-Quantity. Foremost is the limited number of grants available where their criteria specifies funding adventure playgrounds or organisations that deliver free open access play for a wide age range. The competition is fierce for small to medium sized charities and there are few multi year grants for substantial funding.

- Quality. Many grants are project specific, under £10,000 and funding is restricted to a limited time period or part of our service. Therefore it is difficult to plan ahead beyond 12 - 18 months. Unrestricted funding is absolutely crucial.

-Proving the value of play. The nature of our play is holistic and long term. We support young people from childhood to young adulthood. The impact and benefits for children's lives from free outdoor play is not overtly measurable in short periods of time that reflect funding and monitoring periods, so are not yet fully appreciated, understood or valued by some in the wider society.

-“Reinvent the wheel” - Funders can seek or favour trend based priorities and methods of engagement instead of supporting traditional free outdoor play, proven to have long term benefits to young people's physical and mental health.

-Capacity. The great number of grants required increases the time spent on writing monitoring reports for the grant giving organisations. In turn this decreases our capacity to research and apply for new grants.

Secured grants/ contract for 2024

Postcode Lottery - 20k - Core service

UK Youth 20k - Core

EIPS North Lambeth Youth Consortium 24k - Core

NDYP Upscale Mentoring Contract 10k - Targeted youth mentoring project

Lambeth Community Fund 10k - Term time play sessions

Berkeley Foundation 30k - Capital works

Mayors Fund for London Kitchen Social - 2k - provision of meals for 20 days per year

The National Lottery Awards for All - 18k Term time service Sept 24 - Dec 24

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- **Dr. Helen Dodd, Professor, Child Psychology Reading University (2019)** "Triangle Adventure Playground provides a rich community resource where children can engage in adventurous play. The quality of play that I observed during a recent visit was exceptional.

There is no doubt in my mind that the mental health of the children who play here is better as a result of this playground and the opportunities it provides."

- **Mr S. Ingram, Headteacher St Marks Primary School (2023)** Do you feel that the regular visits to TAP have had a positive impact on the overall learning experience and academic progress of your students? "Yes, it allows children to release energy. Children develop good communication skills, collaborative skills and problem solving which in turn helps them academically."
- In your opinion, what are the benefits of taking your class to the Triangle Adventure Playground? - "Improved Self confidence, Improved problem-solving skills, Improved Mental health and emotional wellbeing."
- **Florence Eshalomi, MP for Vauxhall (2022)** "So many children growing up in Vauxhall and beyond have no access to outdoor play. But this adventure playground is so much more than just that - it's a safe space for children to learn vital skills and development to help them for many years to come."
- **Children's consultation - What do you enjoy about Triangle?** "
 - Well I get to see all my friends from school... I get to play and I get to play for how long I want" - aged 8
 - "I could play basket ball, go on a zipline go on a swing, you can go to the garden it's like a friendly place you can just hang out and do whatever you want " - aged 12
 - "I feel I can be myself and express myself in Triangle since it's really really fun and exciting" - aged 11
 - "Other adventure playgrounds are fun and that... but Triangle is for the people!" - aged 15

Post summer CYP survey 2023

68% replied YES to the question "Have you learnt anything new at Triangle"

82% replied YES to the question "Have you tried a new activity for the first time?"

Parent Summer Survey 2021

Has Triangle Summer Playscheme improve your child's physical health? 60% - Greatly Improved, 40% - Improved a bit

Has Triangle Summer Playscheme improve your child's mental and emotional health? 100% - Greatly improved

March 2024