Gainsborough Adventure Playground Ltd Annual Report 2016/17

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Chairs Remarks

Another year has been flown by, once again huge thanks go to Lisa and all the staff for the excellent work they do to make GAPA a success. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the volunteers who help out, this is very much appreciated.

It is nice to see the floor finally finished and hopefully all the problems with the leaks and the boilers are sorted out. This can't have been an easy time for the staff and children to deal with, it did seem to go on for an eternity.

There has been lots of fundraising this year including a cheque for £120 from The Gainsborough Academy, this was raised by the students over the school year and we received £1200 from The Nationwide Building Society Community Match Programme. GAPA was the winning charity for the area as voted for by the customers in The Gainsborough Branch.

A few staff changes have been made during the last year. Tom leaving though meant he was able to join the committee. I would like to thank all the directors and committee members for their help, support and input at the meetings.

GAPA is in consultation with Hillcrest about a possible merger of the nursery. Still a lot of work going on behind the scenes and we will be updating everyone as and when anything significant occurs. Once again I would like to thank everyone for making GAPA a success and look forward to another year as a director and if re-elected another year as chair.

Richy Doran Director

Company Managers Report

I would like to thank all the fantastic, hardworking and supportive staff, volunteers, parents and children for all the help, fun and laughter we have had this year, you are all amazing. Everyone has worked extremely hard this year to ensure GAPA is providing an excellent service, we have continued to move forward, stay positive and provide brilliant play opportunities, everyone involved should be extremely proud of their achievements. I am proud of you all and am privileged to have worked with you all for so long, in a job I truly believe in and have so much fun, where else could I go to work with such fun loving playful people. Thank you to Richy who has chaired the Management Board for another year and to all the other Trustees it has been a pleasure working with you and I look forward to another year with such a supportive Management Board.

Thank you to everyone that has supported GAPA over the last year not just the people that been involved in running fundraising events but to all the people that have shown their support by buying raffle tickets, visiting us on stalls, dropped money in our charity buckets or danced at our charity night it is all very much appreciated. This year we held our charity night at The United Services Club, not only did we not have to pay for the venue but once again the band, Shine the 90's Experience, gave up their time for free. We raised £555, and special thanks to Tracy Coombes who donated a brand new Radley handbag that was auctioned on

the night which helped us to reach this amazing amount! The Shine are a great group of guys and their support is really valued and has become a very important part of the GAPA's social and fundraising diary. Thank you to Sandie Webster and friends who entered a team into The Pedal Car Rally organised by the Gainsborough Rotary Club that raised £200 for GAPA. Also to The Rotary Club and local residents who donated money to us to make repairs after the site was vandalised in November.

The GAPA Nursery was first set up in 2008 and over the years has developed in to an important part of our service, offering great opportunities for children to learn and develop through play preparing them for their next step to school. The nursery has also played a major part in the sustainability of GAPA and has contributed to the financial security over the last few years. We are now in consultation with Hillcrest Academy to see how we can work together to further secure the long term future of GAPA; this could see the GAPA Nursery merging with Hillcrest Academy to form Hillcrest @GAPA. The merger would offer the children a teacher in the setting enabling them a faster progression through the EYFS in line with Ofted's requirements for an outstanding setting and improved resources and learning opportunities. Staff will have access to a wider range of good quality training and development opportunities and be able to share knowledge, ideas etc with the existing Outstanding Early Years Academy.

This year I have been invited to 10 Downing Street on two separate occasions to represent GAPA, the first was in December by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Karen Bradley. The invite was to a reception to launch Local Charities Day and had representatives of grassroot organisations from across the country. The second invitation in March came from the Prime Minister, Theresa May it was a reception to celebrate Civil Society in the Midlands. Unfortunately I was unable to attend this time but was very proud to be able to represent GAPA in December. It's a great feeling knowing that the work that goes on in



GAPA is recognised and that all the staff, volunteers and trustees that work so hard each day to provide a fantastic service are being valued not just by the local community but further afield.



GAPA Service

This year we have been funded through many grants, service level agreements and donations. WLDC has continued to support GAPA and we have just come to the end of the first year of a three year grant. We have also received grants and donations from:

Cllr Initiative Fund All Saints Parish Church Gainsborough Dispensary Charity Gainsborough Rotary Club National Citizenship Service

Children In Need Unite the Union Eminox Morrisons Uphil MUGA Group

Tesco Hexedex Nationwide Building Society The Gainsborough Academy Johnsons Fish and Chip Shop

Children in Need have supported GAPA for many years and at the beginning of the year awarded us with 3 year grant totaling £76,000 to fund 2 positions in the Adventure Playground. We had to submit an evaluation for the first year and received very positive feedback

"Thank you for submitting a good end of year report. It has been great to read about all of the differences the children and young people have experienced thanks to attending the project, especially how they have improved health and wellbeing, reduced isolation and increased confidence and self-esteem.

You have clearly taken on the feedback provided last year and the differences really describe the journey the children and young people have been on through the use of mini case studies.

Thank you for reflecting back honestly in the learning section - it sounds like the children and young people were not affected at all which is brilliant considering the whole floor needed to be replaced and it is thanks to you that they were still able to access the critical support you provide. Above all it is a safe space that allows the children and young people to have fun and that is so important, good luck with the year ahead!"

Anna Ducie **BBC Children in Need**

We have also had lots of support from local businesses and the general public

who have provided cash, prizes and handmade items that are all used to generate income for the playground. A special thank you goes to Tesco and Morrisons who have both been extremely supportive this year allowing us opportunities to fundraise within the stores and donating prizes and food for events and activities. As well as our own fundraising the children have been involved in fundraising for other charities including Comic Relief, Children in Need and Cancer Research.

There have been lots of developments to the site over the year and we have totally transformed the outdoor area in the nursery and made lots of improvements in the adventure playground. In July and August two groups of 30 young people from the National Citizenship Service helped us to achieve this and we really wouldn't have managed it without them. They all gave up 30 hours of their time and prior to this fundraised to be able to purchase paint, brushes, wood etc. for the projects they had planned and designed themselves. They were all from the local community and acted as great role models for the children attending GAPA.

In July 14 Directors and Senior Managers from Hexedex Ltd came to carry out site work as part of a team building activity. They spent the day with the playworkers on the site totally revamped the fire pit area for the children. It was a great day and something we are going to look into in the future as we feel that we could offer team day events to companies to generate revenue.



We have been able to take the children on many fantastic trips thanks to funding from the Gainsborough Dispensary Charity, Unite the Union and tireless fundraising events, the trips have included visits to Clifton Park, Mablethorpe and Sherwood Forest, some children never get the chance to visit these places so it is great to be able to offer them the opportunity and to be able to offer places to parents/carers so families can experience days out together. This year has been full of highlights and the children have been given lots of exciting and varied activities in particular was the opportunity to be visit Lincoln Drill Hall children and families were lucky enough to be able to watch Beauty and the Beast Pantomime as part of the Christmas celebrations.

GAPA has worked with many organisations this year including Uphill MUGA Group, Positive Futures, Pete The Music Man, Unbeatable Energy, LCC's Early Years and Child Care Support and many more enabling us to give the children a varied and exciting play and learning experience throughout the year. We have continued to offer high quality groups and a fantastic nursery provision throughout the year. All the groups have been planned to ensure good partnerships with parents so together better outcomes for children can be achieved. Parents are the key to the success of this service and the support and friendships we have built up are a real strength of the GAPA team.

Over the year GAPA has supported a large number of families through the TAC process and have attended multi-agency meetings for families who are the on the Child in Need register or subject of Child Protection Plans. This has meant having to many attend meetings, appointments with other professions, attending appointments with parents who need support, home visits etc. The work has seen us supporting a large number of children and parents through some very difficult times. The staff have had to make very difficult decisions at times and have had to pass on very sensitive information to other professions but it has been carried out within the GAPA policies and procedures and we have been able to maintain good relationships with the families. Issues have included self-harm, alcohol abuse, child protection, housing issues, poverty, ant social behaviour, attachment issues and mental health.

We have been able to offer GAPA as a venue for a youth club that has been set up by Positive Futures it runs during term time every Tuesday 6pm – 8pm. It is well attended by local young people who are able to use the indoor and outdoor facilities and now the new multi-use games area (MUGA) that was completed last year which is situated just outside the GAPA gates. The MUGA was built using Wren funding, this was secured and now managed by the Uphill MUGA Group who is made up of local people including residents and Lincs Police. The MUGA was officially opened in October with



the buffet and reception being held at GAPA. Gainsborough Home School group also use the premises on a Friday afternoon, working with this group has enabled us to offer children the use of the site to take part in activities such as Spanish classes, nature studies and allows the children and families to get together for mutual support and advice.

GAPA nursery is for children aged 2 - 4 years and is registered with OFSTED it opens 8.15am - 6pm, 47.5 weeks per year. Children access 15 hours of free nursery entitlement and extra sessions and lunch clubs are purchased at very competitive rates. We have 39 children that regularly access the nursery each week, the beginning of the year started very slowly with no new 3 year olds starting and most the places being taken by 2 year olds (which due to ratios means less children) but by Christmas we were operating to full capacity and having to turn down people

looking for 2 year old places. We are now currently in consultation with Hillcrest Academy and looking at merging the nursery provisions. We feel the children will have even better opportunities easing the transition to school and that the teacher input will have a positive impact on learning and development.

GAPA's open access service is for children aged 5 – 14 years and is open, afterschool, Saturdays and during the holidays. There is a large indoor space and two and a half acres of open space that enables us to fulfil basic childhood needs. – running, jumping, climbing, swinging, racing, yelling, rolling and making a big mess. GAPA's environment fulfills children's basic need for freedom, adventure, and experimentation, risk taking, and just being children. Over the last year we have opened all year round after school and on Saturdays and have held 5 busy Playschemes in the school holidays. Easter Playscheme ran for 2 weeks the Playscheme was free for all children attending we held a family bingo and Spring Fayre to raise money to help to offset some of the costs. The May, October and February playschemes ran for one week they were very well attended and saw trips including Grimsby Heritage Centre, workshops were also available costing £5 per child. We then held our Summer Playscheme for 5 weeks across the summer holidays. The Playscheme was another great success and allowed the children to be involved in lots of exciting free play activities. We incorporated outreach sessions into the Playscheme and visited lots of different sites around the town including Richmond Park, Aisby Walk, The Levellings and Castle Hill Woods. We also took the children and families on trips to Mablethorpe and Clifton Park. The buses for the trips were part funded by Gainsborough Dispensary Charity and this enabled us to offer the seats for a subsidized rate so families could afford to take their children out of Gainsborough and spend quality time together in places they may not have any other opportunities to visit. The Christmas Playscheme saw the playground open for most of the holidays with the exceptions of the Bank Holidays again the sessions were well attended and we were lucky enough to secure funding for a trip to the Pantomime!

Staff, Apprentices and Volunteers

GAPA currently employs 12 staff this year all have received training and opportunities and we are very proud to of give the following staff the opportunity to gain the following qualifications:

Katie Bratley	Level 2 Childcare
Michelle Young	Level 2 Childcare
Jo Wright	Level 2 Team Leading

Various training courses have been offered to all staff who all have a qualification in Paediatric First Aid, Safeguarding Children, Health & Safety and either hold a Level 2 or 3 in Early Years or Child Care. We are committed to developing the staff and take advantage of many courses both face to face and online.

GAPA has an excellent track record of working with Apprentices who after completing their training with us either secure full time employment in the child care sector or are offered permanent contracts with GAPA. The first apprentice came to GAPA over 14 years ago and our most recent Apprentice is now working in the Adventure Playground with a permanent full time contract after impressing us so much with her passion and enthusiasm for working with children.

GAPA has offered lots of volunteering opportunities this year with 2025 hours of time given, volunteers have been made up of over 70 different parents, members of the community, and participants in organisations such as the National Citizenship Service. Chloe Anderton came to GAPA on work experience from Gainsborough College and is now a regular volunteer in the Nursery. Long term volunteer Tracy Jackson is still helping to lead the 0 - 4 groups and her help is so much appreciated as it has been difficult this year as we have had problems with the floor and the groups were put on hold for a while. Karen started in October as a voluntary Admin worker and within a few weeks had secured a full time job we were sad to see her go but very pleased that she was able to find paid work. Volunteer, Hayden Young is helping to keep the site looking good and is doing a great job with the mammoth job of keeping the grass cut, Hayden made a major decision recently and from September will be studying art at Lincoln College. We have provided many placements for students studying level 2 & 3 qualifications and also placements for adults who are seeking employment and received good news in March that a former placement had secured a position as a school crossing patrol officer.

Lisa Pinkney Company Manager





Monthly Attendances by children for 2016/17

Month	0 - 4	5 - 7	Over 8	Nursery	Total
	years	years	years		
April	133	240	406	863	1642
May	159	143	342	1104	1748
June	139	207	458	1035	1839
July	129	164	397	526	1216
August	128	252	640	67	1087
September	61	115	294	600	1070
October	112	203	471	522	1308
November	67	219	588	916	1824
December	66	152	343	670	1231
January	73	160	382	922	1537
February	47	165	446	809	1467
March	74	173	350	1026	1623
Total Attendances for 2016/17	1188	2193	5117	9060	17592
Total Attendances for 2015/16	9103	2200	5583	10317	27203

Monthly Attendances by parents for 2016/17

Month	Parents
April	970
May	1203
June	1054
July	642
August	350
September	727
October	707
November	1067
December	670
January	1044
February	809
March	1172
Total	10415
Attendances	
for 2016/17	
Total	12547
Attendances	
for 2015/16	

As you can see from the two tables above since the withdrawal of funding in 2015/16 from Lincolnshire County Council, we have seen a massive drop in attendances of 0 - 4 year olds and parents. The withdrawal of funding saw the closure of all the day time groups for children under 5. In April 2017 there are plans to start up one group per week and if we feel there is a need in the local community we will start to look for extra funding to expand the service further. The nursery has seen a drop in attendances this is due to most of the places in the nursery being taken by 2year olds at the start of the year meaning less places available due to ratio requirements.

Monthly Attendances by volunteers for 2016/17

Month	Volunteers
April	145
May	216
June	182
July	567
August	624
September	45
October	31
November	44
December	37
January	42
February	43
March	49
Total hours for 2016/17	2025





GAPA Survey for parents/carers using the Adventure Playground 2017





What are the main reasons your child attends the Adventure Playground



How does your child benefit from attending the Adventure Playground



Other:

*My child gets to go on trips and be involved in events and is never excluded from anything that is going on, the staff ensure that everything is inclusive and affordable.

We asked the parents/carers 4 further questions:

- 1. Please tell us how you think as a parent/carer you have benefited from your child using the Adventure Playground?
- Helping and speaking to other parents and also being able to approach the staff with anything that concerns you.
- I have made friends and am able to join in events and activities with my child, most other places you have to drop your children off and are not encouraged to join in.
- My daughter can come and play and I don't have to worry about her safety.
- I am able to relax and know my children are safe while they are playing out with friends. My children have learned valuable safety skills at GAPA, which reinforces what they learn at home making my life easier. I have been able to get support during times when I'm not sure how to deal with/support my children through some stages of their development.
- Having time out and making new friends.
- Keeping my children safe while out playing as I don't like my children playing on the streets.
- It allows me to have time to myself
- 2. If you attend the Adventure Playground with your child how do you spend your time when you come? What sort of support do you get?
- I volunteer to help.
- I come to fun days and have been on some of the trips. The staff have time for parents and make you feel welcome.
- I chat to parents over a coffee.
- Chat to other parents, have coffee and watch my child take part in activities.
- Talk to parents or staff about any issues. Advice taken on how others have dealt with similar situations.
- The staff are always there to help they have been there for me and my children. I have made new friends by coming to GAPA and also helped my confidence and I have started to help and volunteer.
- Making new friends.
- When I am with my children I talk to other parents and staff. I play with my children and make pictures with them. I get different help and support depending on what I need. Sometimes it's a listening ear, when I'm worried about something I get advice and a staff member helped me teach my son how to ride a bike.
- I can come and have a drink with other parents and if I have any problems the staff are always happy to help.
- I have received a lot of help and support for my children when I've struggled at home (im a single parent) setting boundaries. I can always come to members of any staff for help they are always willing to help me and support me.

3. How can activities and services at the Adventure Playground be better? What are your ideas?

- Its open access at GAPA there is always activities and trips out. Plenty of outdoor area for the children to play so I think if offers a good service.
- Open 7 days a week so my children stop being upset it's closed.
- More activities outside.
- It is a shame the groups for younger children had to stop, I know families that really benefited and miss the groups a lot.
- GAPA is a brilliant place for children to come there's so much for them to do the service is brilliant

4. Do you have anything else you would like at add?

- GAPA has supported my child, helped with my child getting in touch with right people.
- GAPA has made my child more confident and encouraged him to make new friends.
- By coming to GAPA my children have slowly built there confidence, they are so happy when they attend and staff have supported my children through a bad time.
- My child has benefited from the use of GAPA after school as if GAPA was not open there would be nowhere for my child to go and play safe.
- My daughter can come and play and I don't have to worry about her safety.
- GAPA gives my children more confidence in themselves, there is lots of things for children to do, without GAPA they would be nothing for the children to do. GAPA's the only place in Gainsborough for children and I know my children are safe and I trust staff.

Survey for children using the Adventure Playground 2017















We asked the children 3 further questions:

- 1. What is the best thing about GAPA?
- Is the staff
- When my friend comes
- Going in the woods
- I get to meet my friends
- Tom
- Playing outside
- Everything
- The best thing about GAPA is bottle flipping and everything
- Playing outside
- Doing activities that we can do and enjoy it and make new friends
- Having fun
- The waterfall
- The trips
- That we can bring bikes and scooters
- Riding the bikes
- The woods
- Having dinner
- Playing on the swing
- Playing
- That most of my friends go
- Playing manhunt and the trips
- I enjoyed the Halloween party
- I like my pictures going on the wall
- I like going to the woods and playing on the tree swing and hide and seek

2. What is the worst thing about GAPA?

- I don't like the burgers they are too big
- The woods
- I get told off if I'm naughty
- Not enough activities outside
- It gets loud
- No animals
- Sometimes I don't like dinner

3. Please tell us anything else about GAPA

- I really like the boat
- I like playing in the fountain
- I want a farm
- Make the building bigger
- I like going swimming
- My favourite meal is burgers
- When I'm in trouble the staff always help me when I need it
- Need more things to do on Saturdays like football, rugby, challenges
- I like playing table tennis

- People fighting
- Not enough make up
- People ruining my pictures
- When I get tigged first in manhunt
- Loads of little kids here and can be boring
- I don't like playing in water I don't like getting wet
- My favourite trip was Clifton Park
- We need more bikes and I like the cheese burgers
- I like playing at GAPA with my best friend
- Its good because you get to do lots of things
- I have enjoyed all the trips I've been on.
- I like all the staff
- My favourite dinner is jacket potato
- I like playing with play dough and I enjoy coming
- Please can be more pictures be put up
- I want more toys at GAPA
- The staff at GAPA are kind

Case Study

Annie is a 15 year old girl. She lives with her Mum, Dad and younger brother. She has been coming to GAPA unaccompanied since she was 7, and attends most sessions. Annie has Autism and struggles to control her emotions and behaviour. She is not allowed to play out with friends, GAPA is the only place she is able to meet them as her Mum does not believe she will be safe anywhere else. Her Mum says that Annie-May is very naive and trusting, which makes her vulnerable. She says she wouldn't feel comfortable letting her out where she can't guarantee people are thinking of her best interests.

When Annie first started coming to GAPA she found it difficult to interact with the other children appropriately. Her moods were quite unstable and she would often disrupt other children's play, for example throwing activity resources at them when they were making something. This caused quite a lot of arguments between the children. Annie says that when she first started coming she remembers feeling nervous and not sure about what to do. She used to get really upset and angry and she didn't know what to do about it. The staff realised that Annie had problems identifying and responding to play cues and that she was unsure in social situations. We spoke with her parents and worked out a plan to help her adjust and to settle in. Annie responded well to adults, so the staff spent a lot of time with her; doing activities and encouraging positive behaviour within a group. The staff worked with Annie on methods to control her behaviour, and to express herself without getting angry.

Over time we found that Annie was more comfortable with children who were younger than her, she was better able to respond to them and was happier and more settled during activities. She began making clear friendship groups and joined in more with planned activities, even coming up with ideas and helping other children.

Since Annie started coming to GAPA there has been noticeable improvements in her confidence, behavioural management and social interaction. Her Mum says that this has been the case at home too. She says that thanks to the regular talks the staff have had with her over the years she has been able to work with her at home as well. This has helped maintain the consistency Annie needs. Her Mum says that she would hate to think what Annie would be like if she hadn't had the support from GAPA, she says that she doesn't know what she would've done if there was nowhere for Annie to go as there were times when she just needed a break.

Annie says that she loves coming to GAPA. She loves how there is always someone here for her, all her friends and the staff. She says that GAPA is the only place she can see everyone properly because her friends are in different classes at school. Annie says she doesn't know what she would be doing if she didn't come to GAPA, but she says she would probably be at home on her computer.



Date: 26 06 17

Debbie Barker Senior Youth & Community Development Officer Lincoln & West Lindsey Children's Services 'The Hub' Lincoln & West Lindsey Area Youth & Community Development Office Gainsborough Academy Sweyn Lane Gainsborough Lincs DN21 1PB Tel: 01427 612379 Mob: 07799 478443

Just a note to express our delight in the services on offer by GAPA to not only the children and young people but to myself and all the agencies we work and engage in.

As the senior youth & community development officer I am delighted with the joint working we have engaged in by offering the young people within the area a youth club session. The session is proving to be very successful offering a range of activities and a safe place to go to some of our most disaffected and at risk children and young people in Gainsborough.

Can I also say as the chair of the 'Gainsborough Positive Activities Steering Group' how our relationship has grown with GAPA playing a significant role in supporting, children, young people and families in Gainsborough make a real difference to their lives.

With many regards

Debbie Barker