

## **Bristol City Council's relationship with Playing Out**

Playing Out is a not-for-profit Community Interest Company which began in Bristol and has been supported by Bristol City Council, which allowed the city's first street closure for play in 2009 before trialling the country's first 'Temporary Play Street Order' from September 2011 – September 2012, allowing residents to open their street for play up to three hours a week.

The trial was a success and the council made the process permanent. Applications are processed by the Highways Network Management team. As of October 2014, 70 streets have applied for a TPSO in Bristol and at least 20 other local authorities including Hackney, Worthing, Brighton and Reading have initiated their own play street trials based on the Bristol model.

## **Funding**

As a not-for-profit company offering a unique service, Playing Out relies on financial contributions or being commissioned to provide resources and a national advice service for residents and organisations interested in activating street play. Any funding provided by the council follows normal procedures, which vary depending on the type of funding, the amount and the reasons for making a payment – for example a grant is different from purchasing a service.

Below are details of payments made to Playing Out by the council, partnerships involving the council or by local Neighbourhood Partnerships.

### **Active Bristol (NHS Bristol)**

June 2010, £2780

Greville Road Residents' Association applied to the Active Bristol Community Fund which was managed by Quartet for NHS Bristol. Organisations could apply for up to £5K. The panel which made the decision consisted of a Deputy Director of Public Health, Active Bristol Manager, Quartet manager and a member of the public on the Quartet panel.

July 2011, £4995

Playing Out was set up as a Community Interest Company. They submitted a positive evaluation from the previous funding and committed to rolling out the scheme beyond their local area. The Quartet panel as above agreed this funding.

July 2012, £30,000 annual service contract for three years

Playing Out provided a positive evaluation of impact on children's physical activity levels, carried out by Bristol University. A decision was made between the Active Bristol Manager and the Director of Public Health to commission Playing Out for three years. This was to cover the core costs and allow the organisation to become sustainable in the long term. This commitment is until March 2016.

### **Bristol City Council play service**

March 2011, £3,310

July 2011, £1769.40

July 2012, £10,000

Funding was provided from the council's play service to support the pilot of Playing Out. This included officer decisions to provide just over £3,000 to pilot a workshop for residents and

around £1,800 to provide street play at an annual Playday event. In July 2012 a councillor Portfolio Holder decision was made to provide £10,000 to support local streets through the Playing Out pilot.

### **Creative Seed Fund**

March 2013, £2,500

This funding is from the Community Arts Strand of the council's Creative Seed Fund for 2013. The fund is one of three strands which run annually to support community and arts activity focused on the city, its citizens and cultural development.

The awarding panel is made up of Bristol City Council officers who assess applications against set criteria and make final funding decisions.

### **Local Sustainable Transport Fund**

November 2012, £49,000 over two and a half years (agreed on 1<sup>st</sup> November, following October panel assessment)

December 2014, £7,500

Money was awarded from the LSTF following consideration by a grants panel. This was made up of council officers from Neighbourhoods, Public Health, City Transport and LSTF with input from Highways and Road Safety teams.

In December 2014 a one-off grant of £7,500 was provided to purchase traffic management equipment needed to comply with legislative signing requirements.

### **Neighbourhood Partnerships**

March 2011, £7,500

April 2011, £1,000

September 2012, £2,000

Funds have been awarded through various Neighbourhood Partnerships to enable Playing Out to deliver activities in their area. Funding decisions were made by a Neighbourhood Committee, which is a committee of the elected councillors from the wards within the Neighbourhood Partnerships. Their decision is based on the recommendations of a panel of councillors and local residents who review funding applications.

### **Sparkplugs**

June 2010, £1,000

This was a partnership fund open to community groups in Bristol. Funding was granted to and distributed via the Greater Bedminster Community Partnership acting as a constituted organisation as at this time Playing Out had yet to become a Community Interest Company.

### **Greater Bedminster Community Partnership Wellbeing Fund**

November 2014, £800

January 2015, £400

Funding for work in BS3 area, voted on by members of the Greater Bedminster Community Partnership, the local neighbourhood forum.

In early 2015 Playing Out received an additional £400 from the GBCP under their Green Capital funding to support work in BS3 to raise awareness of Playing Out and increase the number of streets taking part.

**The Mayor and Playing Out**

Bristol Mayor George Ferguson is the father of Playing Out founder Alice Ferguson. He has no financial interest in the not-for-profit company, and has not been involved with any decision relating to Playing Out.

He took office on 19 November 2012, meaning the majority of funding decisions pre-date his time in office.