



Annual Report

2020 - 2021



Welcome

OutLET:Play Resource have been in a position to provide programmes which support COVID recovery, to work with children and young people who are most vunerable and to provide essential play experiences.

With strong partnerships and increased funding opportunities it has been a year of growth for OutLET. With an increase in the number and variety of programmes we provide, an increase in participants and growth of the staff team, it's been an exciting time!

We now have nine staff, with a wealth of knowledge, who work passionately to deliver our programmes. Facilitating outdoor sessions and creating spaces for so many children and young people. Thanks to our volunteers who support these sessions and allow the children and young people to gain new experiences. Special thanks for our funders and partners for supporting us to carry out this vital work.

Our Board of Directors continues to guide OutLET, this year we have had a number of changes in the Board, with new appointments and fresh leadership. Thanks to all those involved in the Board for their time, dedication and commitment.

Looking forward we are excited to build on the partnerships that we have developed. Our showcase event allowed us to give hands on taster sessions of some of our outdoor play activities. Highlighting to others the importance of our work, the impact on participants, and need for everyone to experience play. By working on marketing and finding OutLET's unique voice we want to continue to grow and work towards our target of sustainability.

Thank you for your continued support.



Chair of Trustees



Founder & Project Leader

OSCR Scottish Charity Regulator www.oscr.org.uk

Registered Charity SC050411

About Us

OutLET: Play Resource is a Scottish registered charity and social enterprise based within South Lanarkshire.



We care about all kids, accept them as they are, recognise their potential and give them outdoors space to play without pressure. We believe that young people from traumatic and chaotic backgrounds are often let down by the very education and social systems designed to serve and protect them. This is not good enough.

We nurture healthy curiosity, understanding of risk, self-discovery, relationships, trust and environmental stewardship by creating accepting, unfettered outdoor environments.

In moments of freedom and joy, outside, children build the skills to be happy for life.

We provide accredited outdoor learning experiences, with high leader-to-child ratios, augmented by specialised trauma coaching and counselling for young people through Forest School and programmes in communities. We train others to recognise the benefits and deliver outdoor play.

Our multi-skilled teams create safe, relaxed, open-air environments where young people can take supported risks, feel success and make friends. We know this approach improves self-confidence, self-esteem and self-regulation. We let children be children – to play, to connect, to grow and find their 'tribe'.

As a social enterprise, we reinvest to extend supportive and nurturing outdoor play experiences to as many children as possible.

The TherapeuticForest™ Community Interest Company
Approved Practitioner

We are a Living Wage Employer

FSA Forest School Association
RECOGNISED Forest School Provider
www.forestschoolassociation.org

North Lanarkshire Council Virtual School Forest School

Through North Lanarkshire Council's Virtual School programme, we have been supporting care experienced young people who are struggling to attend mainstream education, or who may not be attending at all. All of our Virtual School sessions are child-centred and, where appropriate, can provide the young people attending with an opportunity to work towards a recognised award or qualification.



There are 3 elements within our delivery to Virtual School:

- Long Term Forest School
- Conservation Groups
- Individual sessions where appropriate



This year we have seen some great successes with young people achieving in the Forest and Outdoor Learning Awards and John Muir Awards as well as others managing to re-engage in a classroom setting at their schools.

Our conservation groups have been working hard around woodland areas in North Lanarkshire - clearing paths, learning woodland management skills such as coppicing and learning to work and achieve together in groups.

Outdoor Alternative Education



We recognise that the last year has had an impact on young people and for some, this has translated in to difficulties and anxieties around school.

Our Outdoor Alternative Education programme was set up to provide support to young people aged 10 and over in North and South Lanarkshire who may struggle to cope in a traditional classroom environment.

It is important to us that the referral criteria is as open and inclusive as possible; referrals come directly from parents, schools, social work and third sector agencies.

Youth Foresters

Our Youth Foresters programme launched this year to give our Lesmahagow Wild Time young people something to graduate to when moving up to secondary school.

Aimed at children in Primary 7 and older, Youth Foresters is a weekly pay-to-play programme which teaches young people woodland skills and gives them the opportunity to work towards their Junior Foresters Award and John Muir Award.





Wellwoods

Our Wellwoods play sessions were launched in January 2021, in response to the pandemic. We received Covid-19 response funding from the Corra Foundation to support the emotional well-being of children and families during the winter lockdown.

While schools were not fully open and during the summer holidays, we provided drop-off outdoor play sessions for primary-aged children in Lesmahagow and Hamilton.

We also launched a weekly woodland baby and toddler group in Lesmahagow for children under 5 and their carers. This group was specifically aimed at supporting infant and parental mental health during the pandemic when other support services and networks were not available, especially for first-time parents or those who had had a baby just before, or during lockdown. This group has continued and is very popular, with parents and carers describing it as a 'lifeline' for both them and their children.

Our initial funding came to an end in October 2021, but, having seen the huge positive impact it has had for local families, we intend to continue this group for as long as we can, by subsidising its operation to keep it as affordable as possible.







Nature Club

A weekly pay-to-play woodland session in Hamilton for children under 5 and their parents or carers, focused on play, attachment, socialisation, learning about nature and having fun!
To ensure we provided the support needed, espeically to new parents who had babies during the pandemic we ran a 'Support' ticket scheme - where new parents (or any parents who felt they needed it) could bring a supporting adult along free of charge.



Wild Time Forest School

Wild Time Forest School has been running since 2016 and is out longest running Forest School Programme. This year, we launched a new Forest School in Hamilton.

These are pay-to-play sessions for primary-aged children, aimed at providing opportunities for play, learning and development, forming relationships and building resilience.





Training

This year we continued to deliver training programmes to nurseries, communitiy groups and third sector organisations - while also working in the background to grow our training offering.



We were officially welcomed into Newbattle Abbey College as an approved training provider and began creating our own training resources with the intention of delivering the FOLA Level 8 Awards in 2022.

The aim of our training programmes is to support our vision, giving everyone equal access to outdoor play and learning. We hope to empower those working with children and young people and their families to develop the skills and confidence be able to facilitate those outdoor play opportunities.





Our Year in Numbers

Session Delivery

192

Therapeutic Forest School & Conservation Sessions supporting Care Experienced Young People in North Lanarkshire

28

Outdoor Play Sessions delivered as part of our Wellwoods Project as a direct response to the COVID19 pandemic

94

Schools participated in our 'John Muir Challenge'

528

S'mores were toasted on the fire

Beneficiaries

37

Care Experienced Young People have participated in regular Therapeutic Forest School and Conservation Sessions

110

Children and Families attended sessions to support their mental health and wellbeing during lockdown

4994

School Pupils took part in outdoor activities as part of our 'John Muir Challenge'

37

Teddy Bears came out of isolation for our community Teddy Bears Picnic in Lesmahagow

Training

16

Prospective Forest School Leaders and Assistants started their Forest School Training with us

28

Adults were trained in Fire and Tool Skills to enhance their outdoor learning experiences

10

Young People completed the Forest Skills Awards between SCQF Levels 2-4

3

Outdoor Learning Packs were created to support Teachers/Schools and Organisations to take pupils outdoors during home learning

Finance 2020 / 2021

Total Income	£179,991
Total Expenditure	£126,629

Yearly Income

Income Generated through Sales of Service	£173,889
Grants Received	£2000
Job Retention Scheme	£4304

Main Expenditure

Staff Wages including PAYE and Pensions	£106,203
Office Costs and Storage	£2550
Equipment Purchase	£3389

End of Year

Closing Balance	£65,836
Profit/Loss	£56,362 profit
3 Months Reserves	£46,000
Reinvestment / Giving Back	£19,836

WE'VE MADE A FILM CLIP TO LOOK BACK AT OUR YEAR AND CELEBRATE ALL THE GREAT TIMES



Thank You

Thank you to all of our young people, families, supporters and advocates.

- Lesmahagow Community Council
- Gardeners Factory, Lesmahagow