

Turtle CYP

April 2024 – March 2025



We are now in our 28th year and continue to survive through these financially challenging times. We continue to deliver all our services (except youth work training) at no cost to children, families and young people. Over the past year we have continued to deliver our playscheme, family activity sessions, after school club (Terrapins), Cygnet courses and youth work training.

This year we have had **1788** different people access our services.

The aims of our organisation are:

- To provide informal and non-formal learning through play to help maintain education levels in a fun and friendly environment, and to also give parents a break.
- To provide a safe environment for children and families to experience a range of activities such as arts and crafts, sports, team games and performing arts.
- To deliver sessions free to ensure we are inclusive as possible.
- To provide high quality training for Cygnet and Youth Work

Playscheme – 5-11 year olds

This year we delivered a whopping **84 play sessions** and had **645 different** children attend from across South Gloucestershire. These sessions are 4 hours each, and every child is provided with a free packed lunch. The sessions include arts and crafts, games and sports. All our weeks are themed – Easter, Reptiles week, Silly Science week, Olympics week and Creative Makers week. Having themes supports children to learn in an informal way. For example, in creative makers week, several children created a mini golf course from recycling materials. In reptile's week the children got to meet different reptiles and done arts and crafts based around reptiles.

Easter Playscheme: - Patchway, Kingswood & Yate – 4 sessions in each location = **12 sessions**. We had **176 different children** attend. Between them, they attended **357 times**.



Summer Playscheme: - Stoke Gifford/Little Stoke & Yate - 3 sessions a week for 4 weeks. Patchway, Bradley Stoke and Kingswood – 4 sessions a week for 4 weeks = **72 sessions**. We had **469 different children** attend **2141 times**.



Children attended the playscheme from 34 different areas across South Gloucestershire. Easter – 30% of children who attended were BAME. Summer – 40% of children who attended were BAME. In South Gloucestershire, according to the latest Census (2021)¹, only 8.8% of the population identified as BAME.

As always, we had a high number of children attending with additional needs **(73 different children)** 15% of children attending. We continue to see the level in support needs rising. On average, in South Gloucestershire Council² 10.5% of children in South Gloucestershire have SEN needs.

In each of our locations, we had a range of sensory equipment which includes a 'a blackout pop-up tent' as a safe space, a range of sensory toys, and ear defenders for those who struggle with noise levels. Before our schemes start, we talk all parents whose children have an additional need - SEN or medical / physical, to ensure we can meet their needs. We ask questions such as likes, dislikes, triggers and what helps if they are struggling / becoming dysregulated.

Activity Providers:

This year we had Bristol Reptile Encounters visit each of our locations. They brought reptiles such as snakes, tortoises, Gecko's and lizards (plus more). The children loved meeting the snakes especially. South Gloucestershire Libraries visited our Yate location in the summer to promote and help children take part in the summer reading challenge.



Parent feedback:

'Thank you so much, you are life savers. Life has been hard, and he enjoys things like this and when school closes and he loses routines, it's even harder. Thank you 😊'

'Brilliant. My son has autism, adhd amongst other disabilities. He seems to thrive at this club, unlike other clubs where it be too hectic and the leaders barely have SEND knowledge. These sessions are important for parents of SEND kids as it enables us to work while the kids can have fun. I just wish the sessions were slightly longer'

'L really enjoys the playscheme, she has to younger brothers who have autism, the playscheme gives L a chance to get out the house and do something for herself, we are really grateful to the playscheme, thank you.'

Child feedback:

'You better not change anything for next time coz I love it here'

'I enjoyed playing and having fun'

Family Activity Sessions

This year, we delivered **49 family activity** sessions across South Gloucestershire. For these sessions we provide arts and crafts, games and different sports. We also provide free refreshments. We have resources for children all ages. For example, we have baby building blocks, balance steps, baby and toddler reading books and well as things such as parachute games and nature trails for the older children to do with their family.

These sessions support parents, grandparents and carers to have quality time with their children without the distractions of homelife (cooking, cleaning, computers etc). It is also free which takes the pressure off families finding things to do with children in the school holidays which usually cost money. It also brings together people from the local community and helps build connections for all who attend.

On average, over 32% of families attending are BAME which again shows the diversity of the families we work with.

Easter Family Sessions: - Patchway, Kingswood & Yate – 2 sessions in each location = **6 sessions**. 44 different families attended which included 49 adults and 96 children.



May Family Sessions: - Patchway, Yate & Kingswood – 2 sessions in each location = **6 sessions**. 22 different families attended which included 25 adults and 44 children.



Summer Family Sessions: - Patchway, Bradley Stoke, Stoke Gifford/Little Stoke, Yate, Kingswood – 1 session a week for 4 weeks in each location = **20 sessions**. 37 different families attended which included 46 adults and 75 children.



October Family Sessions: - Patchway, Yate & Kingswood - 2 sessions in each location = **6 sessions**. 100 different families attended which included 133 adults and 226 children.



Christmas Family Sessions: - Yate & Kingswood - 2 sessions each. Kingswood 1 session = **5 sessions**. 46 different families attended which included 66 adults and 86 children.



February Family Sessions: - Patchway, Yate & Kingswood – 2 sessions in each location = **6 sessions**. 71 different families attended which included 80 adults and 146 children.



In total, we had **409 different families** attend the family sessions. These families were made up of **464 adults** and **775 children**. The families came from 38 different areas across South Gloucestershire.

Family feedback:

‘Lovely craft activities, very friendly atmosphere. Autism and disability friendly. Friendly staff’

‘We enjoyed the time together with friends and family and making crafts. Thank you’

‘We always have a lovely time here. Staff are always so friendly. Thank you’.

‘The craft was fun, there were lots of things to choose from and the snack selection was good. The staff were really nice’.

‘Absolutely wonderful experience. Everyone really friendly and welcoming. Good range of crafts, food and drink. Really enjoyed our morning here’.

‘We had a lovely time together with all families and parents. Everyone was so helpful.....had fun time. Always looking forward to these types of events. We love it’

Youth Work Training

We continue to maintain our NOCN accreditation, including direct claims which is a great position to be in and a testament to the high level of training we provide. We continue to deliver the Level 2 Award in Youth Work Principles and Level 3 Diploma in Youth Work Practice. We also continued delivering our 2-day Introduction to youth work course across the region.

We cover a wide area – Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire, Bristol, BANES, North Somerset and Somerset. We are able to do this as 80% of teaching is done online and 20% is face to face and learners have options as to attending in South Gloucestershire or in Somerset.

We attended an award ceremony which was held by Spark Somerset on behalf of the Somerset Youth Alliance. The ceremony was to celebrate the achievement of all of the learners based in Somerset and was enjoyed by all.

We continue to receive funding from The Department of Digital, Culture, Media & Sports via Youth Focus South West. This enables us to offer fully funded bursaries to youth organisations across the region to those that are unable to afford to pay for their staff to undertake youth work qualifications.

In 2024-2025, we have delivered the following courses to **104** learners:

2 x Introduction to Youth Work in Bristol funded by the Holiday Hub, Bristol City Council = **19 learners**

3 x Introduction to Youth Work in Somerset funded by Spark Somerset on behalf of the Somerset Youth Alliance = **29 learners**

April 2024 – November 2023 - Level 2 Award in Youth Work Principles & Level 3 Diploma in Youth Work Practice = **12 learners enrolled** for their Level 2 Award, **9** of these learners passed their qualification. **20 learners enrolled** for Level 3 Diploma, **19** of these passed their qualification.

November 2024 – March 2025 - Level 2 Award in Youth Work Principles Qualification = **22 learners enrolled; 20 learners are on target to pass** their qualification.

Being able to teach these courses helps to bring in unrestricted funds, and any profit made from these courses goes towards the playscheme and family activities.





Feedback from learners:

‘I now have the confidence to engage with young people on a range of issues that I didn’t know previously. This course had a big impact on me and Ternaya delivered the course to an exceptional standard. I would like to continue with my training in the future to grow and mature more in the role of supporting young people effectively’.

‘The way the training was delivered, Ternaya was passionate and knew what she was talking about. The consistent use of real-life examples also made the training easier to follow and I loved how interactive the training was’

‘I loved the 2 days and now feel inspired to continue to work as a youth worker’

Feedback from an organisation:

‘I just wanted to email you to tell you how much I appreciate the course you have been facilitating for my volunteer. As you know we are a new youth group and our volunteer has been such a help to us, guiding on the policies we need and procedures we need to have in place. They have been instrumental in ensuring we have everything in place at the Youth Café. They have developed so much since starting the course and now we are able to work in partnership to ensure that we can provide a super provision for our young people’.

Cygnnet Training

We continue to deliver the Cygnnet program which is a 7-week course for parents and carers whose children have a formal diagnosis of Autism between the ages of 5 and 18.

Our fantastic trainer is Corrina Wood and she has a Masters degree in Autism. She also has lived experience of children with additional needs.

We delivered 8 courses as per our contract. We had 81 parents / carers attend the course. These courses have been a mixture of being online or in person. We done this to try and ensure everyone has options which meet their needs.

May 2024 – Online course – **9 People enrolled**. Delivered on a Wednesday starting at 7pm. **8 people attended** and completed the course.

September 2024 – Online course – **10 people enrolled**. Delivered on a Friday starting at 10am. **10 people attended** and completed the course.

September 2024 – (was due to be in person but higher demand for online) – Online course – **7 people enrolled**. Delivered on a Wednesday starting at 7pm. **5 people attended** and completed the course.

November 2024 – In person in Cadbury Heath – **11 people enrolled**. Delivered on a Wednesday starting at 10am. **9 people attended** and completed the course.

January 2025 – In person in Bradley Stoke – **10 people enrolled**. Delivered on a Friday starting at 10am. **7 people attended** and completed the course.

January 2025 - Online course – **10 people enrolled**. Delivered on a Thursday starting at 7pm. **8 people attended** and completed the course.

March 2025 – In person in Yate – **12 people enrolled**. Delivered on a Friday starting at 10am. **9 people attended** and completed the course.

March 2025 – Online – **14 people enrolled**. Delivered on a Thursday starting at 7pm. **12 people attended** and completed the course.

Feedback from attendees:

‘I have really enjoyed attending the course. Learning more about Autism and how to support my children. Very welcoming group.’

‘Corrina did a great job of making the info relevant to us and giving examples using her own experiences and that was the most valuable aspect for me. I enjoyed hearing other people’s experiences and some of the group discussions.’

‘This whole experience has been really informative and has given me a better understanding about autism and ways to deal with different situations.’

Terrapins After-School Club

In May 2024, we started delivering a term-time only, after-school club on behalf of Staple Hill Community Hub. The sessions are free to attend and are aimed at children aged 5-11. The session includes a snack every week which is very important as children are almost always hungry after school. The children are consulted about the types of food they would like as well as the activities they would like to do. Some of the snacks they have had are:

- Fruit which they made into animals before eating
- Carrots/cucumber and pepper strips with dips such as Tzatziki, guacamole and salsa
- Jacket potatoes
- Pasta with tomato sauce
- Rice cakes

It took a while to build up attendance, but we now have a core group of around 8 young people who attend every week. These young people named the club 'Terrapins' as said it is the baby version of a Turtle. Supporting children and young people to participate and have their voices heard, such as naming the group, helps them to feel empowered and that the club belongs to them.

We have delivered **31** sessions with **10** different children attending. In total, these young people have attended **162** times between them. **4** of the children have additional needs.



We are pleased to announce that from April 2025, we will be delivering another session in Staple Hill Community Hub term time only. This club is called 'Sprouts' and is based on gardening, planting and learning about how to grow fruit and vegetables.

Intergenerational Work

In May 2024, we took **6** children from Charlton Hayes to visit Lovell Place Care home and to take part in arts and crafts with the residents. There were **10** residents who took part in making suncatchers with the children.



This piece of work helped the children to learn about the residents, as well as giving residents time to spend with the younger generation. Many residents do not have grandchildren or family nearby, so this gave them the opportunity to engage with children.

Lovell Care Home provided them all with a fantastic lunch before we left. We are hoping to run another session soon.

Volunteers

Volunteers are really important to us as they not only help deliver our services but also give people valuable work experience as well as building confidence when working with children, young people and families.

Over the past year, we have had:

4 volunteers for the playscheme and family activities (1 of which has since come onboard as a paid member of staff).

1 volunteer for Terrapins (who has also undertaken their Level 2 youth work qualification with us this year).

8 volunteers doing lunch runs for the playscheme - without these volunteers, we would struggle to deliver lunch safely to each of our venues.

We are grateful for the support of our funders including:

Almondsbury Charity
ASDA Foundation
Bradley Stoke Town Council
Bristol City Council via the Department for Education through the Holiday Activities and Food Programme
Coniston Community Centre
Garfield Weston
John Lewis & Partners
Patchway Town Council
Quartet
South Glos Council via the Department for Education through the Holiday Activities and Food Programme, Cygnet, Cost of Living Fund & Kingswood Park via The National lottery Heritage Fund
Spark Somerset
Staple Hill Community Hub
Stoke Gifford Parish Council
The National Lottery - Awards for All
Youth Focus South West - Via NYA via DCMS

Plus:

All of the youth work organisations who have funded their staff to undertake their Youth Work qualifications with us over the past year.

A big thank you to all of the venues that we have used over the past year.

Finally, a big thank you to all who have supported the organisation in its development, funding, and direction – a fantastic year has been had by all.

Ternaya Cummings, Director

¹ <https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/key-facts-and-figures-about-the-area/#:~:text=As%20of%202021%2C%208.8%25%20of,born%20outside%20of%20the%20UK.>

² <https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/static/10abcd7aea5047364fa408bb429687d6/Appendix-B-EQIA-SEND-Clusters-v0.7.pdf> (page 12)