

# Playschemes Report 2024



**Community  
Foundation**





## Overview

### 2024 saw the third iteration of the Community Foundation's Summer Playschemes programme.

The programme, which was set up in 2022 in response to new criteria that excluded many struggling families from Government-funded summer holiday activity schemes, remains as important as ever. Support for children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds during the long summer holiday can be the difference between returning to school ready to learn and falling behind their peers, sometimes irretrievably.

Holiday hunger continues to be a significant challenge that makes school holidays a stressful time for families. This is exacerbated by the difficulty of finding affordable activities for their children that stimulate them physically and mentally. Parents and carers themselves are also affected, often having to make a choice between spending time at home and working to provide for their families. This summer was further complicated by the threat of, and fallout from, the riots that affected multiple towns across the country.

However, there are several hundred organisations and projects located across the North East working hard to meet the challenges that the summer presents for so many. The Playschemes programme has once again been able to help some of these charities to provide regular support for as many disadvantaged children and

young people as possible, regardless of whether they have been able to access Government funding.

This year, the programme supported 17 of 48 applications with grants of up to £8,000. This funding has translated into more than **1,500 hours** of provision, comprising in-part nearly **10,800** individual meals for participants.

This would not have been possible without the generosity of our donors, who collectively gave **£122,695** from their own Funds or through additional donations, complemented by a contribution from our own Cost-of-Living Fund. We are also pleased that many have given regularly to the programme and that some have already pledged their support in the future.

This report will hopefully provide a flavour of what has been achieved thanks to the programme this year.

**Ross Wilson**  
Senior Philanthropy Advisor  
October 2024





"The team building was a good way to build up trust and get the support that was needed for the summer. The community team have said that the levels of antisocial behaviours were much less over the summer compared to last summer, due to the targeted interventions."

**Cramlington Voluntary Youth Project**

"Youse have been a godsend, Lenny has loved every minute."

**Parent, Parker Trust**

"The recent riots presented a significant challenge to our summer holiday activities, but we remained steadfast in our commitment to supporting our community during this turbulent period."

**Peace of Mind**

"My two sons loved going to the camp.

They made new friends and it kept routine for them during the holidays. With not being able to access the other camps with not being on free school meals, I can't afford to pay for them both to do anything like this usually, so it has been a massive help for during the holidays. They can't wait to go back if it's available in October."

**Parent, South Shields FC Foundation**

"Thank you so much for everything over these 5 weeks. Having the girls in here has really helped me with work and the girls have kept a routine. With being a single parent, I sometimes struggle with my mental health, having to juggle the girls, work and home life."

**Mum, Blaydon Youth and Community**

"My mam said she was going to take me here but it's too expensive."

**Child on attending Alnwick Gardens, Meadow Well Connected**

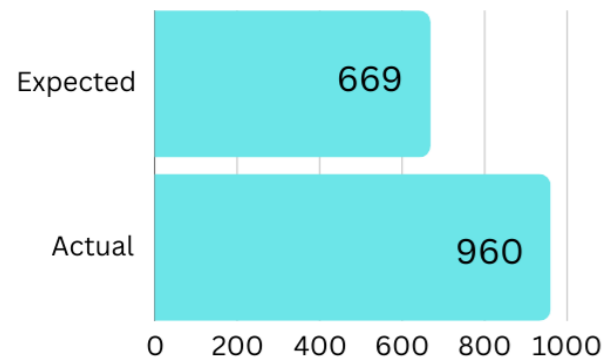
"This Project has really helped those families that are struggling in difficult financial situations to find something on their doorstep that is free for their child to attend. It has given parents the opportunity to do other things while their child is taking part in something positive in the area."

**Centre West**

# Statistics

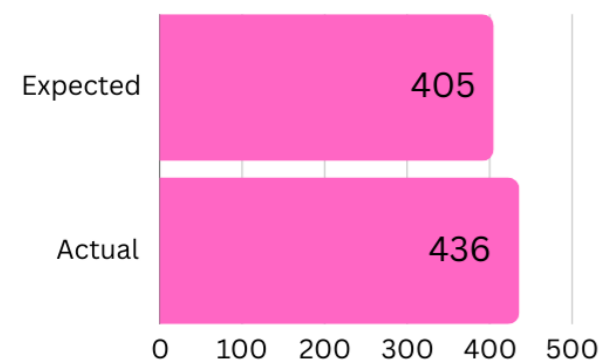
All of our grantees submit monitoring at the end of their grant period, and the Playschemes programme is no different. We asked them to set their own targets against pre-agreed objectives, and we are really happy with the outputs recorded!

## Total children and young people supported



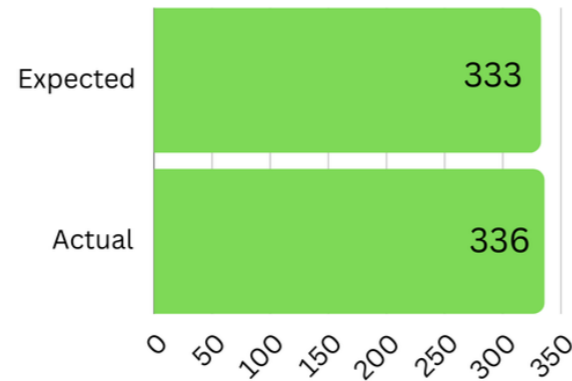
An average of 56 per playscheme

## Total individuals attending each session



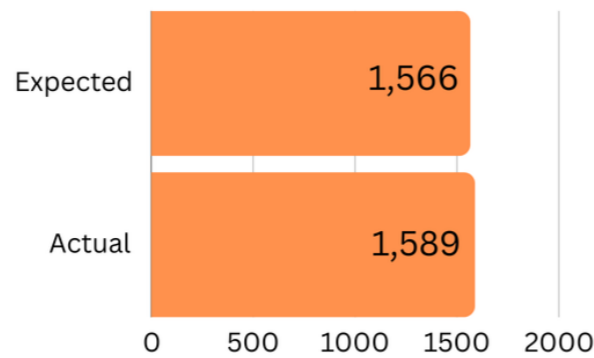
An average of 25 per playscheme

## Total sessions provided



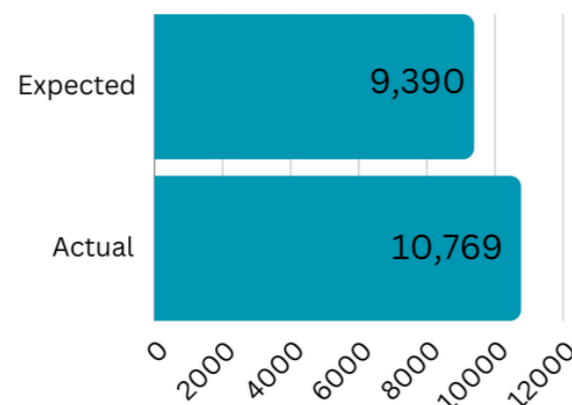
An average of 20 per playscheme

## Total hours provided



An average of 93 per playscheme

## Total meals provided



An average of 633 per playscheme

# Case Studies



## Peace of Mind

Peace of Mind is a refugee-led community organisation that supports refugees and asylum seekers to integrate into the new and unfamiliar surroundings of living in the UK and to overcome some of the difficulties they face, including cultural and social differences, language barriers, and health issues (particularly mental health problems, diet, and lifestyle). It hosts advice and practical support sessions, runs training and educational sessions around Universal Credit and parenting, works to reduce food poverty, promotes volunteering, and maintains networks and partnerships to assist service delivery. Although based in Gateshead, Peace of Mind also supports refugee and asylum-seeking communities

from Newcastle and South Shields.

Peace of Mind has been a regular recipient of funding from the Playschemes programme. It has received grants totalling £20,851 for activity over the summer holidays in 2022 and 2023, together with the Easter break of last year. In 2024, it received £7,990 to support 40 children and young people at ten, five-hour sessions during the summer, with the aim of providing 400 meals. The organisation surpassed this target, supporting 46 individuals at almost all of its sessions, some of which were extended to seven hours, including trips into Northumberland extended to seven hours.

“This grant has had a profound and





multifaceted impact on our organisation, as well as on the families we serve. Ensuring that children had access to healthy, culturally appropriate meals during the summer holidays directly addressing food poverty and alleviated a significant stressor for many families. The programme's diverse range of activities helped bridge gaps in access to quality experiences and resources; by offering engaging and educational activities, we promoted equal opportunities for all participants, regardless of their background, fostering a more inclusive environment."

The grant has enabled Peace of Mind to strengthen community partnerships too. Healthwatch Gateshead's involvement was "instrumental in providing valuable health information and resources to the families, enhancing their understanding of local health services." Supported by local guides, a trip to Allendale "exposed children to the natural beauty of the countryside, offering an enriching experience that many had not previously encountered." And "collaboration with Northumbria Police was instrumental in allowing us to continue our vital work during the recent riots. Their assistance

enabled us to provide a safe environment for our activities and to communicate effectively with our refugee and asylum seeker community, helping to alleviate fears and maintain a sense of stability during this challenging time."

### Parker Trust

Parker Trust's mission is to nurture and create positive opportunities for children and young people by offering life building experiences with the ultimate aim of enabling them to participate in society and give them hope for their futures. The organisation provides a welcoming place for young people to access drop-in support, recovery support and a programme of educational and social activities, including how to cook and prepare healthy meals, grow food, apply for jobs, interview skills, and refurbish furniture. Based in the Pallion area of Sunderland, it also teaches basic self-preservation skills such as avoiding digital self-harm, the risk of sexual exploitation, and the long-term effects of alcohol and drug misuse.

A frequent grantee of the Community

Foundation in 2023, this year's grant of £7,950 was the organisation's first Playschemes grant. Parker Trust reported that its scheme was oversubscribed, with 109 individuals accessing its 30 five-hour sessions, each of which were attended by an average of 31 children and young people.

Thanks to "the generosity of local supermarkets, parent/carer donations, a local café donation, and Fareshare produce" the organisation was able to provide 840 meals across the summer, well in excess of the expected 450. These meals were rich in variety and quality, with a paediatrician from Sunderland Royal Hospital querying whether their team could signpost parents and carers to Parker Trust's non-holiday provision.

The scheme has also enabled the organisation to reach more local families, who have been signposted to regular weekend activities. It also provided an opportunity to upskill three team members to add further capacity to these Saturday morning play sessions in the longer term.





Grants	Amount
Amble Youth Project	£7,747
Bilton Hall Community Trust	£7,580
Blaydon Youth and Community Centre	£7,921
Broadway Youth & Community Centre	£6,190
Centre West (Newcastle)	£7,831
Cramlington Voluntary Youth Project	£7,920
Fenham Association of Residents	£8,000
Meadow Well Connected	£7,729
More than Grandparents	£8,000
North Tyneside Disability Forum	£5,448
Pallion Action Group	£7,990
Parker Trust	£7,950
Peace of Mind	£7,990
Pendower Good Neighbour House Project	£1,770
South Shields FC Foundation	£8,000
Throckley Community Hall	£7,060
YMCA North Tyneside	£7,675
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£122,801</b>

Contributing Funds
Bellway
Carrie Reay Grassroots
Chapman
Dickon Trust
FB & PFB Lough
G S May Family
Joseph Brough Charitable Trust
McIntosh
Muckle
Northumberland Village Homes Trust
Readman Family Grassroots
Reeds Grassroots
Sara Alexandra Bernstone
Shobha & Trikoli Srivastava Community First
Squires Foundation
Star
Stephen Byers
Tess
Wellesley Trust





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**Photography:** Peace of Mind, Parker Trust, North Tyneside Disability Forum Ltd, Amble Youth Project Ltd, Pendower Good Neighbour House Project, Fenham Association of Residents.