



CASE STUDY / Adventure Playground: Oval

CONTEXT

- All children benefit from being outside, interacting with their environment, learning from nature and developing through play. These experiences can be especially powerful for children with disabilities.
- Inclusive play makes opportunities available to all children, regardless of disability and background.
- One in 100 children in the UK have a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder.
- Within education, children with special educational needs such as autism are almost seven times more likely to be excluded from school than children with no additional needs.
- We support an adventure playground near Oval Cricket Ground which provides innovative and inclusive outdoor play and learning opportunities. We have undertaken several projects there since 2011.

PROJECTS

- In 2011: A light refurbishment of the main building sponsored by Freshfields, adding colour and life to the site.
- In 2016: The design and construction of a new stand-alone office in 2016 which was sponsored by Genworth.
- In 2018: A comprehensive feasibility review for the site, in partnership with the management at the time, and this was sponsored by Touchstone.
- In addition, for over a decade, until 2019, we were able to provide maintenance overseeing corporate volunteer groups on site through the spring and summer months. This involved teams of up to 20 at a time.
- The site not able to operate during most of 2020, but we are pleased to be able to assist the new appointed service providers, Oasisplay (www.oasisplay.org.uk) who already run a very popular play facility in Stockwell.
- There will be an ongoing partnership for us helping develop and maintain the facility, using corporate support.

OUR ROLE

- Over the years we have had multiple roles at this adventure playground which demonstrate the diverse and flexible approach we can take to supporting Community Groups to realise their local vision and aims:
- Project Management and design services to oversee feasibility, planning and construction stages of projects.
 - Securing funding and volunteers to help finance and provide a workforce to undertake maintenance, enhancement and improvement works to benefit organisations and help them to be more sustainable.
 - We have an in-house design team where our architects have been able to work with those who are closest to the service delivery, and their beneficiaries, to create a design process that involves and engages them.

IMPACT

- We have enabled nearly 2000 volunteers to give their time and energy to the projects over the years, and raised over £220,000 of capital funding through corporate supporters for those projects.
- This kind of inclusive play facility improves family and community members' wellbeing, knowledge and skills; and strengthens relationships among community members of all ages.
- Long-term partnership over time has enabled a more strategic approach to be taken to developing these adventure playground facilities. We are currently working with Oasisplay on the next exciting phases.
- Oasisplay understands that finding suitable, exciting and safe provision for disabled children can be challenging so they've developed an 'Inclusion Project' around what children and their families need.
- Many hundreds of children have been served over the years at this venue and we anticipate, with the expansive vision Oasisplay are bringing to the site, many more will be well-served for generations to come.