



Registered Charity No. 293773

Annual Report 2005/06

presented to the

**Annual General Meeting
on 11 July 2006**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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From the Chair of the County Committee

I have continued to enjoy my role as PATA County Chair through 2005/6. The challenges that face PATA through the ever evolving national initiatives provide a great deal of material (and controversy!) for my studies and research as an undergraduate on the Early Years Foundation Degree. I feel extremely proud to be representing over 17,000 children and their families in the membership of PATA County.

In October 2005 I experienced one of the biggest roller coaster days of my life – At lunchtime I was involved in a road accident that wrote off my car and that same evening at The Gloucestershire Business Awards I accepted the Social Enterprise of the Year Award 2005 on behalf of PATA (with a lot of sympathy, support, humour and needless to say - a taxi from the County team!).

I am sure the entire membership must be delighted with the redesigned logo and stationery package that is now so flexible for us to use across all the sectors of provision, from birth to teenagers in after school care. I encourage all our members to really make the most of this resource in their individual settings.

I am thrilled to have the Rural Crèche up and running, not least of all, because it is on my own home patch, the North Cotswolds. I have every confidence in this initiative and hope that it will be a flagship for Early Years provision.

It is really encouraging to have inducted such knowledgeable and enthusiastic trustees onto our County Committee for 2006/7 and I am looking forward to the privilege of working alongside them and the County team this academic year.

Jane Connolly

PATA

PATA was established in 1992 to enhance the development and education of children primarily under statutory school age by encouraging parents to understand and provide for the needs of their children through community run groups.

PATA is a registered charity, operating on a 3-tier basis: County, Branch and Group. County PATA employs about 38 staff – 10 based at The PATA Centre, Tuffley and the remainder are home-based.

Staff and volunteers work together on the County Committee to ensure the association's skills and resources are put to the best use in pursuit of our aims.

Regular communication with our members is essential to ensure we stay in touch with the issues and challenges facing early year's settings. PATA has a responsibility to support its members, but equally important is our role in consulting with local and national authorities on issues relating to the sector.

The trustees' report and financial statement are available from The PATA Centre.

PATA ACTIVITIES 2005/06

Winners of the Gloucestershire Social Enterprise of the Year 2005

Following our nomination in 2004 for the Gloucestershire Social Enterprise of the Year Award, we were delighted to receive nomination for a second time and this time to win. Jane Connolly, County Chair, accepted the award at a glittering awards ceremony held at the Cheltenham Town Hall in November. The statuette and certificate stand proudly in the foyer at the PATA Centre and we received lots of publicity as a result.

Development of new image and branding

Throughout the year staff and trustees have been working with Beth Whittaker, a communications and marketing consultant, and Stroud Designers Co-operative to develop a new logo brand image and publication materials. We were awarded £3500 from the Association of Community Enterprises (ACE) to help towards the cost. A suite of stationery has been produced together with a booklet, leaflet blank for overprinting, and banners for displays. We were saddened by the sudden death of Duncan Weir from Stroud Designers Cooperative at Christmas which stalled some of the work, but were pleased that other members of the cooperative were able to take over the work so efficiently. A launch event took place in February and we took the opportunity to celebrate winning the Gloucestershire Social Enterprise of the Year Award 2005.

Rural Crèche Service

Following many months of work by Vicky Fowkes, taken over by Sue Barker and Maureen Price, we were delighted in January to have been awarded nearly £100,000 over two years from Rural Renaissance for the development of a rural crèche service. It will provide crèche support to training providers and other local events, initially in the north Cotswolds but expanding to other areas of the county.

The PATA Website and PATA Chatter

The webmaster, a volunteer, restyled the website after the logo changes and improved the structure. The site is now much easier to navigate and the changes have been well received. The vacancies page is popular and the search facility is well used. There are hyperlinks to other websites, useful for parents and settings. The website is PATA's interface to the world – it needs PATA members to utilise it and contribute to it.

PATA has encouraged members to engage with the Every Child Matters – Change for Children agenda by encouraging responses to consultations and keeping members informed through the regular newsletter, The PATA Chatter.

PATA Representation on External Bodies

PATA has represented its members and the voluntary sector on a number of bodies and groups including

- Assembly Board of Voluntary Sector Representatives
- Compact Steering Group
- Bookstart Steering Group
- Early Years & Childcare Service (EYCS) Information Management Group
- EYCS Grants Panel
- Fathers in Gloucestershire (FIG)
- Sure Start Boards in Cheltenham and Gloucester
- Community Enterprise Alliance (CEA) steering group
- Bristol Standard Quality Assurance Scheme, validation panel
- Gloucester Council for Voluntary Services, trustee

Staff Development

Staff have been undergoing continuous professional development throughout the year, including courses

- to support our accounting procedures
- to support the review of the Equal Opportunity and Health and Safety policies
- to support our ICT infrastructure and capabilities
- to enable us to deliver the new National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) awards
- to develop our involvement with Adult Education (AdEd)
- to strengthen our understanding of outcome measurement
- to improve our work with the media and promotions
- to gain SFEDI (Small Firms Development Initiative) accreditation

In July 2005 Vicky Fowkes, who has been thoroughly involved in PATA since its inception, left us to become an independent consultant. A reception was held at the PATA Centre to say goodbye and thank you.

Support to playgroups and out of school clubs

The Playgroup Fieldwork team continues to support playgroups and member nurseries throughout the county, undertaking termly visits and providing support via the telephone and attending meetings etc. They provide help to management committees with, amongst other things, employment of staff, financial management, and premises issues.

Fieldwork staff work closely with other professionals mainly from the Early Years and Childcare in the branches to support groups.

We had two contracts with the Early Years and Childcare Service as well our regular Service Level Agreement. The first was to produce and distribute a leaflet to help playgroups engage with the Every Child Matters – Change for Children agenda. The second was to run a series of briefing and consultation sessions on the extension to the Nursery Education Funding. These were attended by 332 people from 216 settings.

Fieldworkers have continued to run training and support sessions across the county for playgroup committees.

Anna Reeves and Anne Clayton left us during the year. Julie Hale took on the Stroud groups from Anna and Jacqui Dent took on the playgroup support as well as the toddler support for the Cotswolds. We await the appointment of a replacement for Cirencester.

Diane Vince, Out of School Support Manager, left in April 2005 and we took the opportunity to evaluate the support given to out of school clubs (OOS) and holiday play schemes. The support given to groups was increased from one visit per year to three for stand alone groups and we encouraged playgroup fieldworkers to become more involved where playgroups and OOS clubs are run by the same management committee. We employed an out of school fieldworker to do these extra visits. Ian Parker joined us in April and left in September. Tina Llewellyn took over on a temporary contact until April 2006.

Support to toddler groups

The Toddler Support Worker team continued to provide a range of support to the baby and toddler groups throughout county. The team said goodbye to Helen Caine and Kate Ind from Cirencester and Angela Haimes-Williams from Tewkesbury. Claire Sparksman took over in Cirencester and Tracey Ford in Tewkesbury.

Toddler group membership has fluctuated between 250 – 264 groups over the year. There were 16 Starter Grant enquiries and 5 applications all of which were successful in obtaining funding. We had

11 enquiries from out of county groups, mostly from the north of the country. All were sent details of PATA and a membership application pack. A group from Warwickshire enquiring about support took out PATA membership and has attended some training.

The following sessions were delivered to those groups who requested an activity:

Messy play	193
Dance & Movement	91
Music	106
Storytelling	126
Library / Bookstart	109
Sci-tots	13

Support and advice were also given on a range of issues with finance and premises being the most regularly discussed.

A range of workshops were offered some of which were in collaboration with outside partners:

	No. of Workshops	Attendees
Basic First Aid Awareness	7	59
Dance & Movement	1	15
Storytelling	2	40
Toddlers Up & Running	3	23

The Toddler Project receives funding as part of PATA's Service Level Agreement with Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), to provide direct support to groups.

A bid for £2,000 from GCC Grants to Voluntary Organisations was successful and this enabled the Project to enhance the work Toddler Support Workers do with Health Visitors by being able to attend more post natal talks.

We were invited to play a major role in Gloucestershire Library Service's distribution of the 'Bookstart' vouchers. Toddler Support Workers and Branch Fieldworkers have issued the vouchers to eligible children on their visits to our member groups.

We have had great success over the year with the Baby and Toddler groups held at the PATA Centre. We have had to increase the Toddler session from one morning to two mornings and one afternoon per week.

My thanks go to my team of Toddler Support Workers for their continued hard work and commitment to the Project.

Training and Development

Lyndsay Corbett and Claire Stefanyszyn joined us in September to manage the Adult Education (AdEd) Contract and the training and professional development programme. The quality and variety of training on offer continues to improve and a bid has been submitted to the National Lottery, Awards for All to enable us to take affordable training out into the branches.

Introduction to Children's Play – funded by AdEd.

- 123 students attended 12 courses throughout the county, 3 in Cheltenham, 4 in Gloucester, 2 in Dursley, and 1 each in Cirencester, Tewksbury, The Forest Of Dean, The Cotswolds and Tetbury.
- 6 professional development workshops took place on a variety of topics with a total of 229 people attending
- 11 Committee and Management Support session took place around the county with 66 people attending

398 people attended PATA training events in the year 2005/6

Assessment & Training Centre (A&TC)

During the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006 the assessment and verification activities conducted by the A&TC supported the following qualifications:

- Level 2 and Level 3 Early Years Care and Education (EYCE)
- Level 2 and Level 3 Children's Care, Learning and Development (CCLD)
- Assessor Awards
- Verifier Awards

466 NVQ units of competence were assessed and verified (minimum of 1400 assessment hours), this does not include workshop guidance and tutorials.

Apr – Oct 05 77 candidates were enrolled on the EYCE and A/V programmes;
 Oct 05 & Jan06 45 new candidates were enrolled on the CCLD and Assessor programmes;
 Apr 05 - Mar 06 12 candidates withdrew (relocation, change of employment, lack of employer support (release for attendance), personal reasons)

Total: 110 candidates supported = 91% achievement and retention.

38 full awards completed as at 31 March 2005; 33 awards are due to be complete by Sept/Oct 2006.

Recruitment is now taking place for new programmes starting September 2006.

The A&TC received an outstanding External Verification assessment from City and Guilds in June 2005 being awarded top 'A's throughout for all quality monitoring and management, with no action points.

Membership 2005 - 2006

PATA's membership year runs from 1 April – 31 March, although we welcome new members at any time of year. Our members therefore have renewal dates throughout the year.

	2004/2005	2005/2006
• Community playgroups	206	200
Incl playgroups which run as full daycare	13	18
• Toddler groups	180	161
+ attached to playgroups	95 = total 275	89 = total 250
• Assoc full daycare	68	51
<i>(private & maintained)</i>		
• Assoc sessional daycare	39	28
<i>(private & maintained)</i>		
• Out of School	43	46
+ attached to other settings	57 = total 100	52 = total 98
<u>Total number of settings</u>	<u>536</u>	<u>486</u>
Individual members	33	21
Misc (non-voting, e.g. staff)	48	43
<u>Total number of members</u>	<u>617</u>	<u>550</u>
New settings (all types)	50	19
<i>(N.B. this does not include expanded groups, e.g. a playgroup opening an out of school club or toddler group)</i>		

Closed (all types)

6

9

(N.B. this does not include "contracted" groups, e.g. a playgroup closing as an OfSTED registered provider but remaining open as a toddler group.)

PATA had 18 member settings in adjacent counties (7 playgroups, 9 toddler groups, 1 full daycare setting, 1 out of school club) in 2005/2006.

Total number of children attending PATA member settings, if stated, at renewal time: 17,369

BRANCH	No of settings	Age approx 0 - 2 years	Age approx 2 years (6/9m) - 5 years	School age
Cheltenham	110	1,312	1,844	989
Cirencester	42	514	636	860
Cotswold	31	239	375	122
Dursley & District	48	505	718	590
Royal Forest of Dean	69	953	1,215	123
City of Gloucester	95	1,090	1,949	710
Stroud & District	56	658	791	145
Tewkesbury & District	35	502	498	31
TOTAL MEMBERS	486	5,773	8,026	3,570

Groups In Need Fund (GINF) 2005 - 2006

PATA's Groups In Need Fund (GINF) is open to all PATA member settings: playgroups, toddler groups, associate groups such as private sessional groups and day nurseries, and out of school clubs. Its aim is to assist groups in genuine financial need to improve the quality of their facilities, or to extend and develop their activities. Grants are available for basic durable equipment, toys and play equipment, and for structural work.

The panel meets each term. For the year 2005/2006, application forms were sent with the PATA Membership Pack, 21 applications were submitted and 19 grants were made ranging from £150 to £250, with a total allocation of £3,480. No applications were received from out of school clubs nor associate (private) settings.

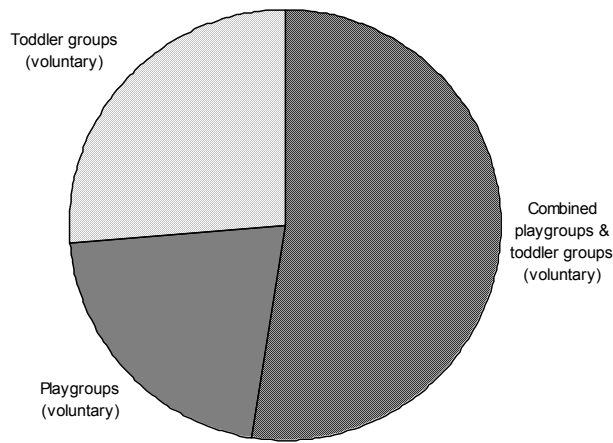
Grants were made as a contribution towards the total cost of various projects:

Physical play equipment, multi-cultural play equipment, sand & water play, small world play, small tables and chairs, rug and sofa, book racks, storage boxes, toys for babies, CD player, digital camera, printer.

GINF Grants awarded by Branch

Number of Grants

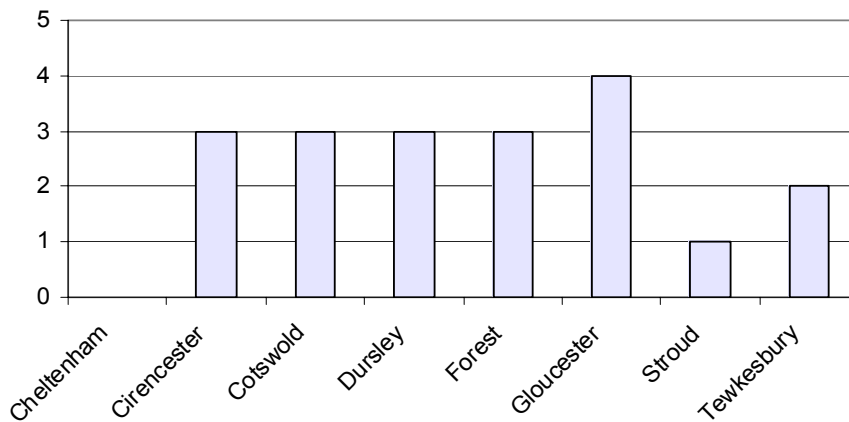
GINF Grants – setting type (Number of Grants)



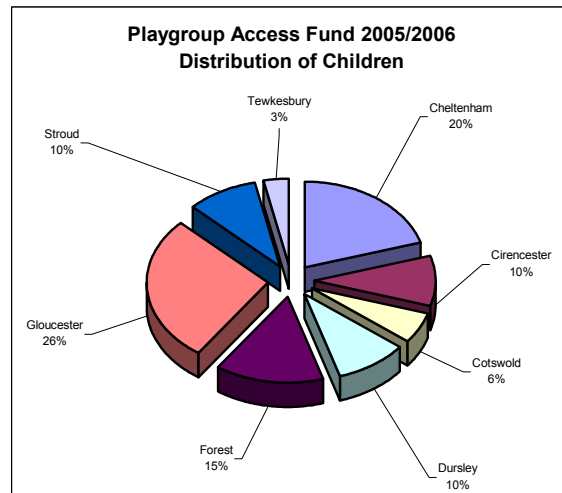
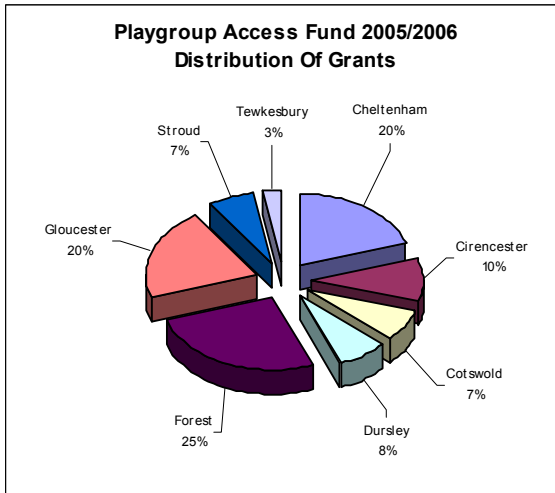
Playgroup Access Fund

2005/6 was the first year of a three-year award of £42,600. Income into the fund was £12,500. Just under £7,500 was paid directly to playgroups to support children's places. £2,000 was spent in the administration and monitoring of the grant. The remaining £3,000 will be carried forward to be spent on grants in 2006/7.

Branch	Number of children	Grants allocated	Average grant per child 05/06	Average grant per child 04/05
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Cheltenham	25	£1,469.28	£58.77	£44.95
Cirencester	12	£740.31	£61.69	£52.59
Cotswold	7	£535.34	£76.48	£54.31
Dursley	12	£569.20	£47.43	£35.90
Forest	18	£1,929.08	£107.17	£49.02
Gloucester	34	£1,541.51	£45.34	£60.82
Stroud	12	£493.07	£41.09	£62.44
Tewkesbury	4	£210.66	£52.67	£52.13
Total	124	£7,488.45	£60.39	£51.65



DEVELOPMENT OF SERVICES

PATA payroll service

The number of PATA payroll clients has risen from 30 at the beginning of the year to 42 by March 2006 – growth of 40%. We continue to welcome new clients and foresee continued growth in 2006/7. All PATA Payroll clients were able to take advantage of the £250 incentive offered by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs for online filing of payroll year end returns.

Providing Expertise

- * Parliament Early Years Centre - Garden Project
- * Project Management of Mixtures – An Early Years Music Project – Part of Youth Music Action Zone in Gloucester
- * Providing verification services to other training providers.