

# The Children's Orchard Project

- Working with young families and community groups in Glasgow



- 1. Introducing the Children's Inclusion Partnership**
- 2. The Children's Garden Organisation**
- 3. How the organisations have worked together**
- 4. Issues arising and questions for discussion**

# **Introducing the Children's Inclusion Partnership**

**Children's Inclusion Partnership  
(CHIP)**

**A partnership between**

**Barnardo's**

**and**

**Stepping Stones for Families**

**A community development project linking families, children and communities in north Glasgow**



**In north Glasgow a high proportion of families live on low incomes**



**Over the past 20 years large parts of the area  
have been subject to demolition and partial  
reconstruction...**



**...with associated disruption to family  
and community life.**



**Against this background CHIP  
enables families and children  
to.....**

**Think about what is going on in their  
communities...**



**Speak out about it...**



**...feel stronger and more optimistic through  
influencing the circumstances and decisions  
that affect them....**



**...and achieve some positive change as a result.**



# The Children's Garden Organisation Glasgow

- The Glasgow  
Children's Orchard

- The Children's  
garden in the  
Botanic Gardens

- The Cool Fruit  
Company

...all branches of  
the Children's  
Garden  
organisation.





The Children's Garden started first in 2003– with a vegetable plot in the Botanic Gardens in Glasgow's West End.



And we've grown and harvested a lot of salad, herbs and vegetables since then....





Our aims are to give city children the opportunity to grow up growing healthy and tasty salad, vegetables and fruit.





**We also run regular outdoor events**



The Children's Garden in the Botanic Gardens is a great showcase – particularly for community use.



The launch event for Glasgow Children's Orchard: planting a fruit tree in George Square in the city centre.



Since then we have planted many trees in schools and nurseries, including schools for children with additional support needs.



**Drummore school, Drumchapel, for children with moderate learning difficulties.**



**We have so far planted about 400 apple trees in about 80 schools across Glasgow – working with hundreds of children aged 4 – 18.**

**None of the trees the young people planted have been vandalised**

**The Orchard fits well with the school year, with fruit being ripe in autumn and tree planting and other events occurring in winter.**

**Part of the Orchard project also involves schools running healthy eating events in school.**

**It fits well with the curriculum e.g.**

- Enterprise
- Eco-schools
- Health Promoting Schools.



**Young people love to plant trees – and if they plant them they look after them.**

**Learning to prune and maintain the trees is key to the success of the project.**



Any windfall is great for birds and butterflies, as well as people



And the fruit in autumn is magical



Apple days...discovering the 200 varieties of apples that grow in Scotland – the trees we plant are mostly old Scottish varieties.

The smell of the apples in this display was amazing wafting through the school!



Making real Juice with the old fashioned press ... is a magical discovery – and tastes great!





We have developed partnerships with schools, parks, councillors, voluntary groups, allotments and other groups. This was an SEN literacy group of eight pupils– who planted trees by the river... They all took a tree each to plant at their own school



The Cool Fruit Company has been looking at how to encourage children to buy healthy fruit rather than sweets and sugary drinks....



**Apart from schools we have also planted in a children's Hospital and in several Glasgow Parks.**

**Increasingly people have been getting interested in using the Orchard as a way of engaging with harder to reach young people.**

**We worked with "NEET" young people planting by the River Kelvin and have also been invited to help local people in Possil, in North Glasgow. Planting is also taking place at various Healthy Living Centres. Another interesting development is that the Orchard is seen as a tool for community regeneration.**

**We have had interest from other schools in Scotland who want to establish Children's Orchard networks**



The project aims to encourage more children across Scotland and the UK to plant fruit trees, and develop their own children's gardens.



Grounds for Optimism: We believe that we have developed a practical and positive approach – which can help countless children to improve their health and also improve their environment...





**How  
the organisations have  
worked together**

## Byshot Brae



## Helping a community decide how to bring a piece of derelict land back into use



...including tree planting





**...and pressing apples**





## Hamiltonhill Family Learning Centre garden









## Molendinar Family Learning Centre





## Issues and questions that have arisen for us

Healthy diet important across all populations.  
But there are particular issues in communities affected by poverty....

- Access issues (cost, geography)
- ↕
- Poverty-related family stress
- ↕
- Children lack early experience of healthy diet

### **Power, control and wellbeing...**

- Reconnecting children and families with their physical environment.
- Reconnecting children and families with food and where it comes from

### **Strengthening family and community life: challenging the 'deficit model'**

- New experiences
- A wider range of things to enjoy
- Bringing families and communities together
- Creativity

## Questions for discussion:

- Do you know of a similar project whose experience you can share?
- What 3 indicators for success would you choose for a project such as this?