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

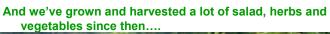
- •The Glasgow Children's Orchard
- •The Children's garden in the Botanic Gardens
- •The Cool Fruit Company

...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.















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 occuring 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



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!







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





....including tree planting







...and pressing apples





Hamiltonhill Family Learning Centre garden















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?