



# **SPPA Annual Report**

## **2021-2023**

*March 2023*

### **Social Pedagogy Professional Association**

Registered Charity Number: 1183411

Private Limited Company by guarantee without share capital use of 'Limited' exemption

Registered in England and Wales 1077107





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# 1 Introduction from our Chair of Trustees

## *Navigating a difficult journey - part 2*

Dear Members and Supporters

This report is for the period July 2021 - Feb 2023 and shows who we are, how we operate, what we do and have done, our impact and future priorities. The need for social pedagogy as a function of the UK and Ireland has remained strong since our last annual report, and yet also we have much to achieve. SPPA has been working as hard as we can to support its professional development and we are pleased to share our journey in this report. We are making progress in some areas but due to funding limitations, and the way we have been structured, we have more progress to achieve. To this end we have recently restructured, so that we have a flatter operational form that is more aligned with social pedagogy, so that we can share the tasks more equally and so we have more opportunities to grow and develop social pedagogy in our five nations.

As you might know we were deeply saddened to hear of the untimely passing of Helen Jones OBE, our previous Chair of Trustees, at the end of last year. Helen's contribution to children in care in the UK and particularly to social pedagogy was pivotal in getting us to where we are, and we continue to mourn her loss. You can read our tribute to her [here](#). In her honour, we will be announcing the Helen Jones award for exceptional social pedagogy research, practice or education at our online conference in October.

SPPA would be little without Adriana Burciaga our Executive Assistant and Office Manager who holds everything together and keeps the wheels moving: she has our endless thanks! I would also like to thank all our brilliant trustees who work hard for SPPA in addition to their exceptionally demanding full time jobs – we could not do this without you! And I would like to particularly thank Cecile Remy and Yvalia Febrer for volunteering to share the complex and many responsibilities of the chair – we hope that the new way of working that we present at this AGM will engender the best environments for us all to more effectively collaborate, develop as a charity and achieve our aims.

Finally, but by no means lastly, thank you to you! Our members and supporters are at the core of SPPA. We know that this latest financial crisis has placed an additional burden on many if not most people in our countries and know that the effects for our clients and service users are grim – we thank you for continuing to support people in social pedagogical ways. We are deeply grateful for your continued support of SPPA and hope you enjoy reading this annual report.

With warm wishes

*Robyn Kemp*

Chair & Co-chair  
East London, UK



## 2 Who we are & what we do

SPPA is a membership based organisation that was created to support the Social Pedagogy Development Network by providing formal structures to social pedagogy, co-creating a charter and [Standards of Practice in Social Pedagogy \(SOPs\)](#) and [Standards of Education and Training \(SETs\)](#), [which we hold](#).

### 2.1. Our journey so far...

#### 2017-2018: The dream becomes real

- SPPA was incubated at the IOE
- **21<sup>st</sup> February 2017** – SPPA is formally launched at The British Academy
- Claire Cameron was the CEO and Helen Jones the Chair of Trustees. The board of trustees was formed by: Robyn Kemp, Tanya Alder, Simon Johr, Hannah Severn, Melissa Desvignes, Laurence Alfred, Lowis Charfe, Robert Koglek, Joerg Schultzer and Patricia Walls. SPPA also had paid staff and access to the IOE resources.
- **6<sup>th</sup> October 2017** - the first annual conference 'Social Pedagogy as education in its broadest sense' was held in London.
- **28 September 2018** - The annual conference 'Growing up, growing old. Staying well: a social pedagogical approach' took place in Edinburgh.



#### 2019: New beginnings

- SPPA became independent of IOE.
- **14<sup>th</sup> May** – SPPA is officially registered as a charity.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> October** - The SPPA annual conference: Creativity and Social Pedagogy - Towards transformative practice was held in Manchester, with almost 100 attendees.
- At the AGM, Helen Jones stepped down and Robyn Kemp took over. Laurence, Lowis, Robert, Joerg and Patricia step down too and SPPA welcomes four new trustees: Bianka Lang, Andy Craven, Yvalia Febrer and Elaine Hamilton.
- Adriana Burciaga our current Executive Assistant joined the SPPA team.
- Since then, SPPA has relied solely on the volunteer work of its trustees, the support of its members and Adriana.





## 2020: Adapting to the unexpected

- The new Board of trustees met in January at the IOE to talk about the future projects and plans for SPPA.
- The Annual Conference and AGM were postponed due to the COVID pandemic.
- SPPA launched monthly ‘online gatherings’, organised webinars and collaborated with Thempra in the Free Webinar Series: Exploring Social Pedagogy Concepts at Turbulent Times as well as The Social Pedagogy Reading Club, led by Janet Grauberg.



## 2021 – Navigating a difficult journey

- Melissa Desvignes and Andy Craven stepped down from their roles as trustees and the Board went from 9 to 7.
- **17<sup>th</sup> June** - online AGM, where important changes happened:  
Professor Claire Cameron became the new SPPA Patron, and we passed [three special resolutions](#).  
7 new trustees were appointed: Cecile Remy, Colin Paterson, David Kingswood, Kelly Gittens, Maggie Baggley, Mairead Nevin and Norika Menendez. Norika stepped down the same year and the board of 13 trustees kept working together.
- **9<sup>th</sup> September** - we held our first ever online conference ‘Social Distance & Togetherness: The Role of Social Pedagogy in Navigating Difficult Journeys’ and we are proud to say it was a big success.
- SPPA kept working in partnership with Thempra, SPA in the USA, and many others to start a dialogue about the Global Alliance of Social Pedagogy.



## 2022 – The journey continues...

- A different operational model based on 5 working groups was agreed upon: Communications, Endorsement, Events, Finances and Membership.
- **January & February** - The Membership group conducted online consultations with individual and organisational members.
- The SPPA charter was reorganised ([see here](#)).



- **April** - the SPPA trustees met in person to clarify SPPA's Vision & Mission and set a direction of work for the future of the charity considering the information gathered through the consultations (see our revisited Mission & Vision below). New plans to address financial difficulties were discussed and agreed upon.
- The AGM was postponed.
- **20<sup>th</sup> October** – Our first hybrid conference “Food for our thoughts: the role of social pedagogy in sustainable wellbeing” took place at Kingston University London.



## 2.2. Revisited Mission and Vision 2022



**SPPA**  
 Social Pedagogy  
 Professional Association

# Vision

To make social pedagogy widely recognised and practised across the UK and Ireland so people and communities are treated humanely.

# Mission

To form a stronger **community of practice** with a shared language for all, where social pedagogy is understood, valued, and encouraged.  
For this purpose, we aim to:

be the connecting hub of social pedagogy across the UK & Ireland by bringing together likeminded people from all over the world

professionalise social pedagogy by endorsing programmes and highlighting the value of social pedagogy across different sectors and disciplines



## 2.1 Governance: a new operating model for SPPA 2023

Our previous operating model placed too much responsibility on too few people for SPPA to do things particularly well and in a timely fashion. To address this, we have recently agreed on a new model that is aimed at creating greater clarity and connectivity, co-creating more opportunities for dialogue and learning and increasing our opportunities for income security and growth.

Our [current board of trustees](#) is formed by 12 members, Robyn as Chair is now supported by Yvalia Febrer and Cecile Remy as Vice Chairs and Tanya Alder as Treasurer; Adriana Burciaga remains our Executive Assistant. We have organised into 6 areas of activity (see below) for which Yvalia, Cecile and Robyn co-ordinate two each and all other trustees contribute to two groups. Yvalia, Cecile and Robyn will meet twice per month to share the progress so that we all have an up to date understanding of all the areas of responsibility, besides, the chair and vice-chairs will meet twice a month with Adriana.

We are using group chats to keep on top of things, confidential shared file storage, and now have a project group that can support other groups' activities. We are very aware of how much Adriana holds and this structure is aimed at better supporting her in her complex and often demanding role.

Our top priorities for this new structure are:

1. Strengthening financial security and operational capabilities
2. Communicating our vision widely and clearly
3. Establishing a more coherent offer for our members and endorsed courses







SPPA is a membership organisation with the mission of supporting its members in their socio-pedagogical work in whatever way they see fit. This mission is, however, challenging as influencing the social care and social work sector in the UK in a meaningful way necessitates a significant investment of resources. Organising knowledge exchange events with policymakers and government representatives takes time and money, and SPPA does not yet have the capacity to address all these aspects.

Currently, SPPA has 41 individual members and 9 organisational members. Increasing membership during the past years has been difficult given the current circumstances, nevertheless, we have been working on finding new ways of connecting and reconnecting with the social pedagogy community. In 2022 we conducted a series of consultations with members which have been fundamental to steering the direction of SPPA and a key aspect for the restructuring of our membership model and the new membership packs that we will launch at this AGM, and which are described in this report.

### 3.1. Membership overview

#### Individual membership

##### How many individual members do we have?

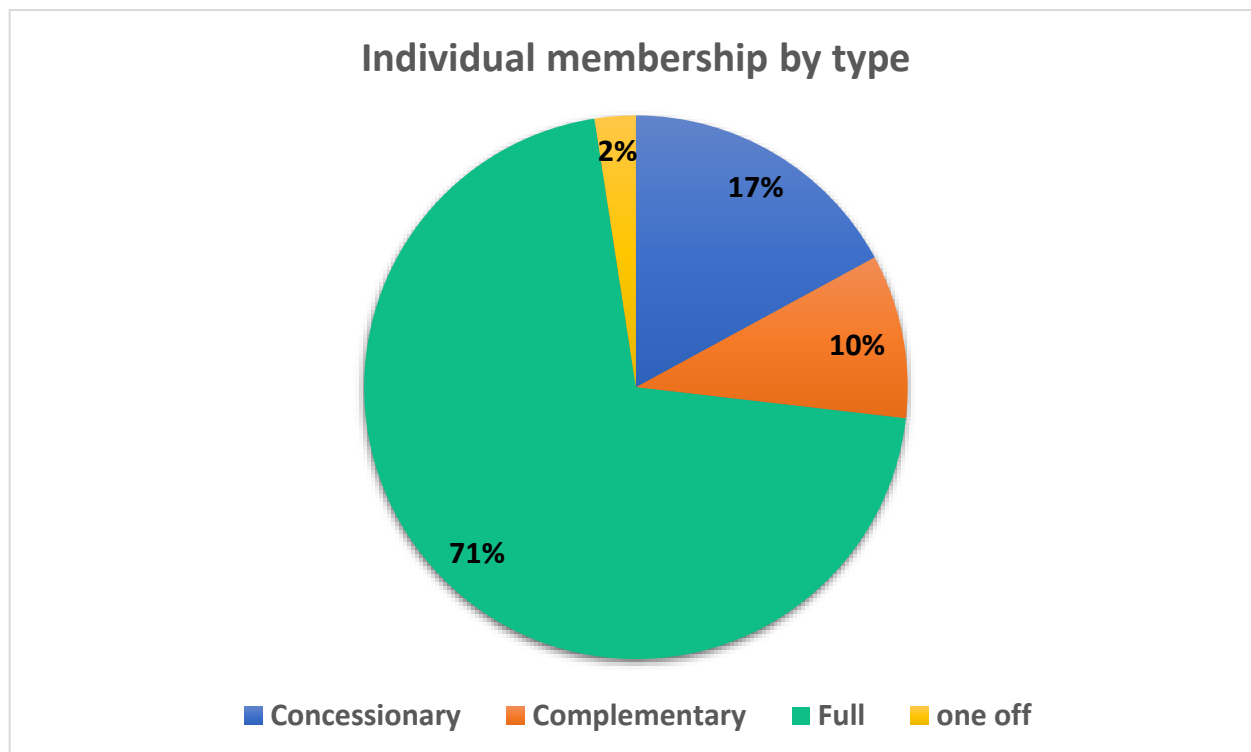


- SPPA has **41** current members as of 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023.





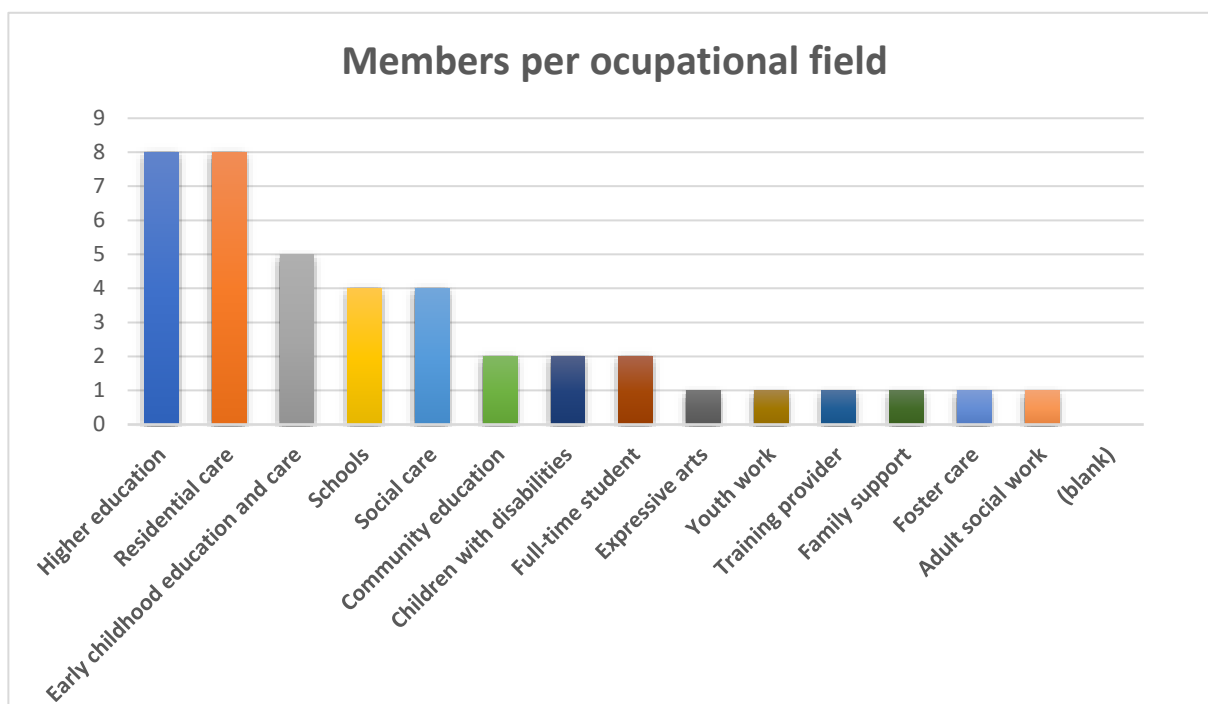
- Of these **41** individual members, **29** are full memberships, **7** are concessionary, **4** are complementary (free individual memberships part of the organisational membership packs) and **1** is a one-off payment (three months membership).



## What do our members do?



Most of our members work in the Higher Education sector and Residential Care









## Organisational members

Currently we have **10** organisational members from different sectors:



### 3.2. New membership packs!

The goal of this new membership structure is to be more representative of our members, the social pedagogy community and our values. We want people from all social and economic backgrounds to join SPPA; yet we know that most people who work in social care and social work do so in difficult conditions and that is why the concessionary rate membership will remain in place. Besides, we have added a new “Supporter” option.

Through the members’ consultation, we learned that some members felt a strong sense of belonging to our community of practice, while others talked about being on the edge of a community that had already formed. As a response, we have included a series of introductory sessions for new members. Moreover, we are working on a new online directory that will allow SPPA members to create a profile and invite others to connect (learn more about this in the [Website section](#)).

Responding to the characteristics of our organisational members we have tailored the previous packs, instead of green, bronze, silver, and golden memberships we now have three different types of organisational memberships: small organisations; larger organisations and one for further and higher education institutions.



## INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP 2023

For supporters

For members

Use of SPPA logo



Voting rights at the AGM

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✓

Access to members' directory & own profile

Consult the directory only

Access the directory + get your own profile

Access to members only area of the website including recordings

✓

✓

Opportunity to contribute to SPPA newsletter and

✓

✓

Introductory 90 minutes SPPA webinar

✓

✓

Publish a blog on SPPA website

-

✓

Discounted rates at the conference

-

25% off

One speaking slot at SPPA annual conference (on request)

-

✓

Fee




£5

£70 full  
£25\*

\*Concessionary rate for students, unwaged & foster carers.



## ORGANISATIONAL MEMBERSHIP PACKS 2023

	Services with less than 25 employees	Organisations with more than 1 service & +25 employees	Further & Higher Education institutions
Use of SPPA logo			
Your organisation's logo and description on SPPA website	✓	✓	✓
Free individual membership for staff (includes profile for each & access to members' directory)	5	10	10 (staff or students)
Access to members' only area of the website (includes recordings & access to members' directory)	✓	✓	✓
Voting rights at the AGM	✓	✓	✓
Opportunity to contribute to SPPA Newsletter & publish blog	✓	✓	✓
Access to SP audit tools	✓	✓	✓
Social media promotion (on request)	✓	✓	✓
Discounted rates at our annual conference	25% for all staff	25% for all staff	25% for all staff
Introductory 90 minutes SPPA webinar	✓	✓	✓
One speaking slot at SPPA annual conference (on request)	✓	✓	✓
Opportunity to share information at our conference	✓	✓	✓
-20% on endorsement application fee	-	-	✓
Fee	£ 300	£ 500	£ 550



### 3.1 SPPA Special Interest Groups (SIGs)



One of the ways SPPA can support its members in pursuing their interest in social pedagogy is by facilitating Special Interest Groups. These are online communities that seek to encourage people from all over the world to share, discuss and promote social pedagogy topics of their choice.

Some of the SIGs that were created in 2019 were not very active and we decided to close some of these groups and give space for new ones. The Social Pedagogy in Scotland SIG will remain open, and we will have a new SIG about Social Pedagogy and Physical Education, which will be run by Aspasia Dania, associate professor from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece.

If you have a topic you would like to explore with other SPPA members and supporters, we would love to hear from you. Contact [membership@sppa-uk.org](mailto:membership@sppa-uk.org) for more information.

#### Physical Education with a Social Pedagogy focus

**By Aspasia Dania, Assistant Professor, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece**

Within the field of physical education, holistic teaching and learning approaches have been adopted with great interest by practitioners worldwide. As part of these approaches, tenets of social pedagogy are growing (e.g., the whole child, family, lived experiences, society and community, etc.). However, until now there is a lack of resources that bring together social pedagogy and physical education perspectives under a unifying framework. Such a framework could enable school-based physical education to move away from what we see as its dominant narrow, technical and highly instrumental incarnation.

This SIG is novel and important as it initiates a practice-informed discussion on the educational qualities of physical education teaching through a social pedagogy perspective. Our contention is that a social pedagogy orientation is mostly needed within physical education for upholding children's unique value as human beings and investing in social help for enhancing the quality of their educational experience through and for community wellbeing. With the scope of improving social justice and promoting democracy and social cohesion, our SIG could provide a valuable context (a) for developing social pedagogical teaching and learning tools with a physical education orientation, and (b) enacting practitioner dialogues based on the improvement of practitioners' consciousness on the ties between social pedagogy and physical education.





Since our last AGM in 2021, the Endorsement Application Form has been updated again, and now we have a form for Categories 1 and 2 and a separate one for Category 3 programmes. The Social Pedagogy Practice Learning Handbook has also been updated and we have created a dedicated space on our website to provide Endorsement information.

We have mapped out potential courses for Endorsement across Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England, and Northern Ireland, and are in the process of making contact with these.

We partnered with the National Youth Agency in England, in December 2022, to pursue dual validation of courses, and are delighted that Youth Work and Social Pedagogy now have a collaborative relationship to develop.

We currently have 3 Endorsement Applications being processed, and 3 Courses Endorsed under Category 2 and we aim to increase numbers as we develop relationships with more further and higher education organisations.

We are working with Thempra to pursue Recognition of Prior and Experiential Learning (RPEL) endorsements, and the possibility of co-delivering a Social Pedagogy qualification, in order to broaden the range (currently all endorsed courses are University programmes).







Communication has been a central theme throughout our practice this past year; from our newsletter to our membership consultation, we have tried to grow and develop along with our community. We have spent time reflecting on how we as a trustee group can communicate in an effective and meaningful way not only with our members and “not yet” members, but also between ourselves.

In a world that is becoming seemingly fuller and more demanding for many of us, we have taken the time to consider the link between compassionate communication and our sense of well-being. With that in mind we are acutely aware that our central source for communication, our website, remains a little stagnant and in need of some refurbishment. We have been by no means idol or complacent in trying to address this, yet we have had to overcome some challenges that have been out of our control.

We hope that our engagement with social media and the newsletter which members are actively encouraged to contribute to has helped keep some flow of communication and we are excited for the potential we can achieve in the year(s) ahead.

### 5.1 Social Media



*\*Comparative from 12/06/2021 to 17/03/2023*

We have seen a steady rise in engagement through our Social Media channels, most noticeably with our LinkedIn presence – seeing us grow from 120 followers in 2021 to 655. Twitter remains our most frequented social media outlet as we use this to not only promote our activities but highlight and share good and meaningful practices that we come across and love to celebrate.

In 2022 we started the **Article of the Month** campaign to share and promote content that we find interesting. We will continue with this campaign and will encourage our members to take a more active role.



## 5.2 Website

### New membership plug-in

The membership area of our website will be completely revamped to make it more user-friendly; most of all we want to highlight the idea of spreading the word of social pedagogy and building a stronger community of practice. Therefore, all members will now be given the option to set up a public profile which will be used to create an open directory of people involved in all things social pedagogy. Members can choose what information they wish to show on their public profiles including contact details and interests.

All memberships will now become subscriptions that will renew automatically either annually or quarterly, with the option to cancel at any time. Individual memberships and supporter fees will be processed via PayPal while organisational membership will be paid via invoice. We expect to complete the membership section by the end of April.

### Analytics:

From 15<sup>th</sup> March to 21 March our website has been viewed 29 777 times and has had 12 259 users



## 5.3 Newsletter

Our digital newsletter is a resource that we hope to continue to develop- it is a space for us to highlight and share achievements, learning opportunities, academic resources and employment opportunities. We will keep sending our newsletter quarterly and we are sure its richness will flourish as we engage more members and continue to encourage others to share and highlight things that we can all enjoy reading about. If you have any information you would like to share or advertise, please email us at [communications@sppa-uk.org](mailto:communications@sppa-uk.org).

[Click here to join our mailing list.](#)



## 5.4 Our resources

SPPA has continued to develop its resources to support members in their learning and practice. A number of these resources are open-to-all, including:

- International Journal of Social Pedagogy
- Blogs
- Other resources and publications
- Videos
- We have also been working on new series of informative videos which will be released soon. You watch the teasers on our [YouTube channel](#).





### 6.1 SPPA Conference 2022 – A reflection

In 2022, we did not hold as many events as we did in the previous year, yet we supported some of Thempra's events, organised consultations with our members and delivered our hybrid Annual conference which took place in October 2022 at Kingston University in London. This was a unique opportunity to reflect on the difficult societal questions we need to address by setting up discussions about the role of social pedagogy in sustainable wellbeing. Moreover, we celebrated the International Journal of Social Pedagogy's 10th anniversary in style.

Our conference had 81 attendees in total (33 online and 48 in person), 2 fantastic keynote speakers: Dr Rachel Rosen and Shumela Ahmed, 5 workshops and 5 lightning talks and a wonderful group of presenters. We are extremely grateful to the speakers, volunteers and attendees for their hard work, support and patience.

The 2022 conference was particularly challenging as it required a lot of effort from all of us. We learned about the difficulties of hosting and broadcasting a virtual and in-person event at the same time and the crucial issues of planning and communication. We did manage to capture some of the presentations and discussions and will make them available to our members as soon as possible.

#### **International Journal of Social Pedagogy – 10-year anniversary**

The IJSP has been operational for 10 years now and SPPA has been supporting the journal in a number of ways, including our Patron Prof Claire Cameron serving as the managing editor and Robyn Kemp serving as a handling editor on the editorial team. We celebrated the anniversary at the 2022 conference and awards were given the most published author, and articles that had the highest impact, were most cited, and the most popular people's choice article. IJSP kindly funded lunch, refreshments and a celebratory cake which made the event extra special.

### 6.2 Collaborations

#### **Social Pedagogy Development Network (SPDN)**

The SPDN has been meeting annually (sometimes more often) since 2008 and has proved a great source of both networking and learning. We remain indebted to Gabriel Eichsteller and Thempra for leading the coordination of these events and are looking forward to the next one in June 2023. We have held online events since the pandemic and this year have responded to the well-articulated desire to meet in person, which will be achieved in a creative and engaging way. [Click here](#) to sign up!

#### **Social Pedagogy Concepts in Turbulent Times Webinar Series**

Co-ordinated by Thempra and supported in a variety of ways by SPPA, we held some more events building on the success of these during lockdowns, looking at how we might use certain social pedagogy concepts in practice, education and organisational development. These events were popular and you can read about them [here](#).



## The Social Pedagogy Reading Club

We actively support The Social Pedagogy Reading Club with Janet Grauberg, which has become a great source of connection, interest and stimulation – many thanks to Janet and to Gabriel Eichsteller for organising the monthly event, which is still ongoing and takes place on the first Monday of every month at 7 pm BST. Every month we read and discuss a paper related to social pedagogy and you are very welcome to join in, [click here](#) for more details.

## 6.3 Upcoming events

Having learned that hybrid conferences require an enormous amount of work to enable the full participation of everyone, we will hold our conference this year in two parts, one in person and one online.

### 2023 conferences

This year's theme is in line with a forthcoming Special Issue of the [International Journal of Social Pedagogy](#) on [Social Pedagogy and Transgression](#), as described by bell hooks in her seminal book - Teaching to Transgress.

#### **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023 – In Person Conference**

Social pedagogy is an educative approach to reducing inequalities and maximising wellbeing, with critical reflection and transgressing unhelpful norms as essential parts of our practice and education. We think of bell hooks as a key thinker for social pedagogy and have a number of exciting and inspirational articles from academics from Latin America and Europe, some of whom will present their ideas at our in-person conference in London (Institute of Education).

#### **October 2023, date to be confirmed – Online Conference**

We will follow this with an online conference in October that aims to bring the academic research and ideas into a variety of practice settings. Keep an eye out for information, a call for workshops etc for the October event and low-priced tickets - coming soon!

We are also keen to resume some shorter online events and events for new members & supporters, and will be making announcements in forthcoming newsletters.





### 7.1 Treasurer's Report

SPPA's current financial model is based on income generated mainly by the charity's memberships, which has been difficult to increase in the past years. With our new membership offer we hope to increase our membership and encourage further growth of the association, yet while we want to increase our income, we do not want to exclude those in difficult financial positions from supporting social pedagogy and SPPA, so we have changed our membership fee structure to reflect this.

Moreover, we have sought for strategies to sustain the charity over these years, and we have considered how to loosen the ties between our membership structure and our business model to make it more adaptable and diversify our sources of income. We designed some income generation strategies and have applied for grant funding, yet despite our efforts we struggled to secure external funding in this financial year. The economic climate and aftereffects of the pandemic remain significant issues for many charities, meaning many more applications for limited funds. We will nevertheless continue applying for external funding for specific projects as well as seeking for fundraising expertise; this is an ongoing project.

At the close of business on the 9th of March 2023 our bank balance is £10835.63 and in our PayPal account we have £871.22 which amounts to **£11,706.85**, so we are slightly better off this year compared to the same period in 2022, when the balance was £11538.69. SPPA will remain mindful of economic factors and prudent in how we both spend and increase our funds so that we can do more for our community and societies.

As the Financial officer I present this information and hope that by our next AGM I will be able to show an improved financial statement. Finally, I want to thank my colleagues for all the hard work they are doing to bring this about.

*Tanya Alder*

**SPPA Treasurer & Trustee**





### SPPA in numbers

SPPA's impact can be seen and measured at three different levels which are linked to our mission and vision:

#### 1. Membership → Building a community of practice



SPPA has **41 individual members** (down from last year but slightly up from the year before).



Our **organisation membership** grew from **8 to 10** and we have members from diverse sectors including early childhood education, children's homes and further and higher education.



We are growing more internationally, as we now have a **presence in 10** countries.

#### 2. Communications & Events → Spreading the word of social pedagogy



Our **2021 online conference** had **61 attendees** from the UK, Ireland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Japan, the US, and Italy.



**81** people attended our **2022 hybrid conference: 33 online and 48 in-person.**



From 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022 to 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023 our **website has been viewed 29,277** times.



Our social media engagement has **risen steadily**, most notably on **LinkedIn**, where we went **from 120 followers in 2021 to 655** today, representing an increase of more than **500%** in just two years! **Twitter** remains the social media platform with more followers (**1 078**) and our **mailing list** has now **780 contacts**.

#### 3. Endorsement → Professionalising social pedagogy



We have **3 endorsed programmes under Category 2** and 3 more potential courses to be endorsed this summer.

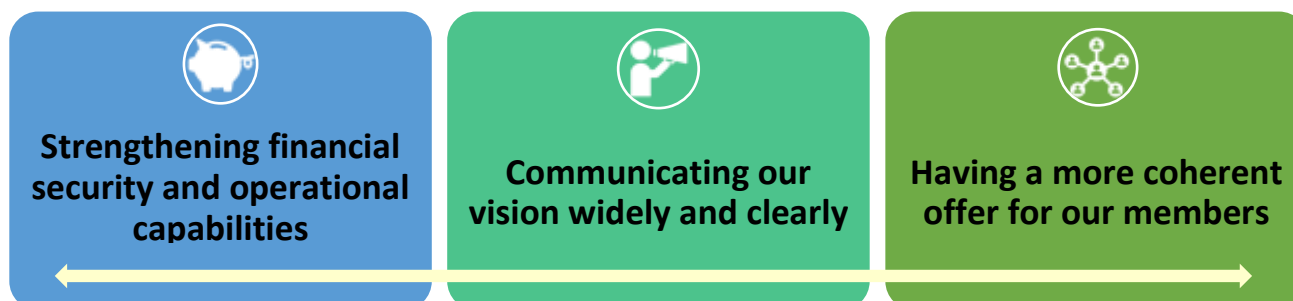


We are also now examining how we can endorse shorter courses and modules so that those who cannot access BA or MA degree level learning opportunities can be recognised.



In 2021 we proposed 10 priorities to guide the course of SPPA, this year after the consultation with members, a careful analysis of our initial financial and operating model and considering the need to work in a more organised and efficient way that adapts to our circumstances and resources we decided to set three broad priorities for the charity.

## New priorities set in 2023



These three priorities act as umbrellas for the points proposed in 2021. The previous 10 priorities have been adapted and adjusted to become objectives, some of which we have already met. Other objectives are ongoing, which means we will keep working on them on a regular basis, while some other aspects such as the website revamp, securing funding and increasing the number of endorsed programmes are in progress, meaning that we have already taken concrete steps to achieve them, but the outcome has not been met yet (See table below).

Status	Objectives
Ongoing	1. Recruit new and maintain existing individual and organisational members.
Ongoing	2. Co-create a communication/consultation system to have a range of mechanisms for regular, active participation and steering from all our members.
✓	3. Identify and implement a sustainable operating model for SPPA.
In progress	4. Improve our collective understanding of fundraising and secure charitable funding for projects.
In progress	5. Improve and update the functionality and ease of the user journey on our website.
Ongoing	6. Improve SPPA's representation at events and conferences, and maximise collaboration opportunities with other organisations
In progress	7. Step up our collaboration with further and higher educational establishments to increase the number of course endorsements.
Ongoing	8. Develop our role as the go-to organisation for enquiries and information relating to social pedagogy professions in the UK & Ireland.
In progress	9. Put on a range of high-quality events that support and challenge practitioners, educators and the public.
Ongoing	10. Raise the profile of social pedagogy in the UK and influence central, national and local government policy.



## 10 Conclusion

Our top priority since 2019 has been to maintain and increase our membership, and this remains a fundamental objective for 2023. Our numbers show that over the last year individual membership decreased considerably, as we went from 91 members in 2021 to 42 in 2023. Nevertheless, we are pleased to say that the number of organisational members increased from 8 to 10. We are grateful to the organisations that have continuously supported us over these years, and we are equally happy to welcome new organisations. We are also delighted that SPPA is gaining international recognition and that members from different parts of the world are showing interest in what we do; their contributions are undoubtedly valuable to our community. To each one of you: welcome to SPPA and thank you for joining us in our quest to build a larger and stronger community of practice.

This year, one of our major accomplishments was to conduct consultations with individual and organisational members. Cecile Remy and Maggie Bagley did a great job organising these events and carefully listening to our members' valuable feedback. The information gathered during the consultations helped us better understand who our members are and what they want to see from us. The message was clear: to build a social pedagogy community of practice and spread the word of Social Pedagogy in UK and Ireland while learning from international perspectives and experiences. Developing the practice of social pedagogy in the UK takes many forms: solving problems together, finding information, re-using ideas and tools in new and original ways, documenting projects, discussing new developments. We want our members to engage with each other more and we hope that the work we have done is providing them with more opportunities to exchange and dialogue. In 2023, we will continue to communicate with our members in various ways, including through email, consultations, gatherings, and training sessions.

In terms of raising the profile of Social Pedagogy, the communications team has been working hard to increase the number of social media followers, particularly on LinkedIn. The website revamp has been on our agenda since 2021, yet we had to put this on hold due to a lack of funds and other technical difficulties. We agreed that instead of having a whole new website, we would focus on improving the membership area. We are currently working on this, and we expect to formally launch the new membership section this summer.

Regarding events, during the past years we did not organise any webinars since we concentrated on organising our hybrid annual conference at Kingston. In addition, we kept actively supporting events such as the SPDN, the reading club, and the social pedagogy webinars in partnership with Thempra. We aim to be more active this year, and as such, we are already planning a series of online and in person events for the upcoming months, so stay tuned!

Our main challenge continues to be obtaining funding and improving our financial situation. We understand that this is necessary not only to keep SPPA running, but also to organise high-quality events, launch new projects, and have a greater impact on research and policy. We are looking for more efficient ways to operate and manage our finances, and we hope to see positive results soon.

We also aim to bring social pedagogy closer to becoming a function of our societies, and we are grateful for your support and inspiration. We truly believe that social pedagogy offers an educative approach to reducing inequalities and maximising wellbeing - if there ever was a good time for social pedagogy to flourish, it is now!



# 11      **Annex I. Special resolutions passed in 2021**

1. To increase the representation of SPPA Trustees from 13 to 15
2. To increase the number of trustees that can be elected by ballot from 6 to 10 and to increase the number of trustees that can be elected by the trustees, from 3 to 5;
3. To increase Trustees' automatic retirement and the maximum term of office, from 3 to 5 years to provide continuity and cohesion to the organisation.



## A Charter for Social Pedagogy in the UK & Ireland



**SPPA**  
Social Pedagogy  
Professional Association



1. We consider ethics and social justice to be the foundation for practice.



2. We believe in the importance of engaging with others and the world of which we are a part, in ways that are congruent with our values and beliefs (Haltung) and informed by theory.



3. We value the capacity of all to foster compassion, community, love, care, and empathy.



4. We believe in walking alongside others, recognising their uniqueness and, with them, co-creating meaning and purpose.



5. We understand the value of our participation in everyday activities as a basis for creating human connection, enhancing a person's sense of wellbeing and quality of life.



6. We endeavour to develop authentic and reliable relationships.



7. We believe in relationship-centred practice that recognises and engages with the whole person and the networks, systems and communities that impact upon their lives.



8. We value creative and playful approaches to lifelong learning that are theoretically informed, risk sensible and draw on people's potential.



9. We value professional curiosity in our work with every individual, group, and family.



10. We use theory, critical reflection, and self-awareness to inform practice.



11. We value teamwork, mutual aid, and collaboration with others.



12. We strive to bring about positive change for individuals, groups and families and communities, built on an understanding that practice is affected by political, social, and cultural contexts as well as by individual differences.



13. We believe in the social and political agency of individuals and groups to make significant choices about their lives and to contribute to their community.

This is the value base that informs  
Social Pedagogy practice in the UK & Ireland

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[info@sppa-uk.org](mailto:info@sppa-uk.org)



**SPPA**  
Social Pedagogy  
Professional Association