

Charity registration number 1068926

PLAY WALES / CHWARAE CYMRU
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

PLAY WALES / CHWARAE CYMRU

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PLAY WALES / CHWARAE CYMRU

TRUSTEES REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

Our objectives are to provide and assist in the provision for facilities and services for play recreation, education and other leisure-time occupation for all children residing in Wales. We act as a champion for children's play; increasing awareness and understanding throughout Wales of the critical importance of play to children and their well-being. To maintain and ensure appropriate representation and consultation on matters affecting children's play in Wales. To contribute and support playwork education training and workforce development in Wales so as to further the play interests of children through quality play service provision and advocacy.

In meeting these objectives our aim is to foster a more tolerant, understanding and informed active response among adults who are in a position to meet children's play needs both directly and indirectly and therefore to improve the well-being and participation of children within their communities.

The focus of our work

The principal activity of Play Wales/Chwarae Cymru is to influence policy, strategic planning and practice of all agencies and organisations that have an interest in and a responsibility for children's play. This is achieved by providing information, technical advice and guidance related to play provision and workforce development; helping to identify needs and contributing to the increasing recognition of the profound importance of play as a critical component of children's development. Play Wales/Chwarae Cymru provides a forum for playwork throughout Wales and undertakes a national representational role for playwork.

As the national organisation for children's play in Wales our strategic aims during the year were to:

- Act as a critical friend of the Welsh Government
- Promote children's freely chosen independent play
- Advocate for children and their play needs
- Uphold their right to play on behalf of all the children of Wales
- Raise awareness of play needs at every level from national Government to local play schemes
- Represent play providers and playworkers offering expert advice, guidance, support, networking opportunities and conferences related to play, play policy, play provision and workforce development.

These strategic aims are achieved through the following principal activities:

- Information Service
- Workforce development
- Play policy, advice and support.

Ensuring our work delivers our aims

Our work is regularly reviewed throughout the year, through Trustees meetings and meetings with advisory groups, and through the reporting mechanism for Welsh Government. The management team has also instituted an annual review and forward planning process that evaluates our work and identifies areas for further development to effectively meet our aims.

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TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

We have referred to Charity Commission guidance on public benefit in conducting reviews of our aims and objectives. Trustees routinely consider how proposed or current work contributes to the aims and objectives of Play Wales/Chwarae Cymru.

Public benefit statement

Play Wales/Chwarae Cymru is the national organisation for children's play in Wales; an independent charity funded by the Welsh Government. The work of Play Wales/Chwarae Cymru benefits the people of Wales by:

- Responding to children's request (through consultation) for more and better places and opportunities to play
- Upholding and advocating for children's right to play (as stated in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) within national and regional forums and with decision making bodies
- Gathering and disseminating information relating to the benefits of playing to anyone who is in a position to further children's play interests
- Promoting quality provision for play that is inclusive of all children and young people – meeting the needs of disabled children and children who are disadvantaged or excluded
- Sharing expertise and providing guidance and advice, thus enabling children's services within local authorities and voluntary agencies to offer quality play provision that meets children's needs – and to get the maximum benefit for children from financial provision for play
- Promoting and supporting quality training for playworkers and trainers – thus contributing to the development of a skilled, expert workforce that also meets children's play needs.

Quality play services contribute to the health and well-being of children and young people and also to the health and vibrancy of communities (Welsh Government Play Policy 2002).

Who used and benefited from our services?

Our aims and objectives relate to benefiting the children of Wales – where in 2021 there were more than half a million children aged 0-15 (among a total population of just over three million).

Our services are largely offered free – some publications and events being offered on a non-profit making basis.

Trustees receive no benefits and give their time voluntarily. Any expenses claimed are set out in the accounts.

Our services were used by:

- Parents and carers
- Government officials
- Members of the public campaigning to instate or preserve play provision
- Organisations providing or supporting children's services – both local authority and voluntary
- Organisations providing children's play services – both local authority and voluntary, as well as community councils
- Playworkers, play development workers and play development officers
- Playwork trainers and managers of playworkers
- Teachers, head teachers, governors and educational psychologists
- Academics and university institutions

In the furtherance of these aims, the Trustees of Play Wales/Chwarae Cymru have complied with the duty in section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's published general and sub-sector guidance concerning the operation of the Public Benefit requirement under the Act.

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TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Achievements and performance

Information Service

Objective: To promote the value of children's play in Wales through the provision of timely and current information to our stakeholders

Outcome: Play Wales produced and disseminated a wide variety of bilingual information and services including:

Play Wales

Website:

- Launched a new website in May 2023. As well as redesigning and restructuring the website, the work also included reviewing and updating all existing website content in-house and working with an external editor.
- Provided and maintained the on-going development of a website which is regularly updated with current items of interest to members and to those who have a responsibility for or an interest in children's play, playwork and play provision. We attracted a significant audience to the website – over 160,000 page views by approximately 55,000 users – over the year.

Publications:

- Produced and published *Play for Wales*, our bilingual magazine, twice a year – distributed free both printed and electronically to approximately 4,000 recipients who can further children's play interests in Wales. The Spring/Summer 2023 issue was printed and distributed later than planned (October 2023) and the Autumn/Winter 2023 issue published on 1 March 2024 to mark Dydd Gŵyl Dewi.
- Continued working on the literature review we commissioned external academic researchers to undertake on our behalf. Outputs included:
 - Publishing a short bilingual briefing to introduce the literature review
 - Publishing a summary of the literature review which was also distributed to the 100 delegates who attended our national conference
 - Commissioning Welsh translation of full report
 - Proofing and editing of full report before commencing design work.
- Redesigned a number of existing resources – information sheets, top tips and briefings – to fit with the new Play Wales brand. This work is ongoing and offers a good opportunity to review the content of our existing resources.
- Produced and disseminated a range of new and updated resources, including:
 - *Ministerial Review of Play – A Play Wales summary*
 - *Play deprivation: the causes and consequences for child development, and the potential of playwork* information sheet
 - *A reading list for teachers – supporting children's play in schools.*
- Continued to distribute printed copies of our three storybooks, *Fun in the dungeon*, *Fun in the garden* and *Fun in the playground*.
- Worked with our cartoonist to develop new resources to support learners undertaking our training and qualifications.
- Disseminated and raised awareness about Play Wales' existing and updated resources, including information sheets, toolkits and storybooks.
- Celebrated Adult Learners Week 2023 by making our series of playwork guides available in print for the first time.
- Continued promotion and dissemination of child friendly resources for the International Play Association to promote Article 31 of the UNCRC and the key messages of General Comment no. 17.
- Produced and displayed five posters showcasing Play Wales work and partnership projects.

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TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Engagement:

- Continued to post regularly on Play Wales' bilingual social media channels and kept a watching brief on the continued usefulness of various platforms. Over 8,000 follow our Facebook pages and 9,000 follow our accounts on X (formerly Twitter).
- Put together and distributed a monthly e-bulletin to approximately 4,000 recipients, which provides an overview of what's new on the Play Wales website.
- Promoted play through the media thus raising awareness of the barriers to children having quality play opportunities and emphasising the importance of children's play.
- Maintained regular contact with Members of Parliament and Members of the Senedd through magazines, events, meetings and information sheets – thus raising awareness of the importance to children of playing and the necessity to promote play-friendly decisions among planners and decision makers. Also, we sent a letter on behalf of all children in Wales to each Member of the Senedd to invite them to get involved in Playday 2023 events in their constituency.
- Contributed to online and in-person events in Wales – promoting the work of Play Wales and promoting quality play provision for children. An increase in online events since the pandemic has brought Play Wales and its work to a broader audience.
- Raised the profile of play in Wales and Play Wales internationally by regularly contributing to play and children's rights related blogs, magazines and journals.
- Continued to promote free Play Wales membership – rebranded as 'supporters' – using existing evergreen promotional materials to promote the offer.
- Conducted an evaluation of the Play Wales Information Service via an online survey and one-to-one interviews with key stakeholders. Overwhelmingly positive response to our work and we will use constructive feedback provided to inform future work.

Miscellaneous:

- Launched a new Play Wales logo and brand to coincide with the new Play Wales website.
- Contributed to the UK national Playday steering group and resources – thus supporting play services in providing Playday events for children, but also providing Welsh representation and support to a UK campaigning group highlighting barriers to quality play experiences and recommending action. Outputs included:
 - Playday website amended in Spring 2023 in readiness for the annual campaign.
 - Reviewed Terms of Reference for the steering group (Play Wales led on the original drafting) in readiness for 2024 campaign.
 - Developed and distributed electronically bilingual resources to publicise Playday 2023 events – used across the four nations (Play Wales led on the design work).
 - Playday 2023 theme launched in May 2023 – 'Playing on a shoestring'. In March 2024 commenced in-house and four nations discussions about the theme for 2024 campaign.
 - Playday website updated to allow organisers to register and promote their 2023 events online – moderating work shared between Play Wales, PlayBoard Northern Ireland and Play Scotland.
- Continued to add new publications to the Play Wales' library, which offers the most comprehensive resource of play and playwork materials in Wales. This is open to visitors by appointment (although not promoted since the pandemic restricted this possibility), and largely supports our team with up to date information, as well as play professionals and students studying play and playwork.
- Completed and launched *This is why play is so important*, a new documentary film to celebrate and promote children's play in Wales. Two successful and well attended launch events held in Cardiff and Wrexham prior to making it available online. English and Welsh versions of the film produced with narration provided in both languages by Matthew Rhys.
- Film entered into film festivals and shown at international conferences such as the IPA World triennial conference in Glasgow in June 2023 and Child in the City in Brussels in November 2023.
- Commissioned agency to produce a montage of the play memories originally gathered for the film to be used at our national conference in November 2023 and to further promote the film and the importance of play.
- Commissioned agency to produce short evergreen clips on specific topics from existing film footage for continued use on websites and social media to broaden appeal and engagement.
- Worked with a photographer to capture new photos for our library of images to be used on our websites, social media, campaign materials and in publications.

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TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

- Maintained and updated Children's Play Policy Forum and Play Safety Forum websites on behalf of the four nations.
- Continued to work to ensure that our database and communications are compliant with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

Playful Childhoods:

- Worked with a web developer to redesign and build a new website, which was launched on 20 November 2023 to mark World Children's Day. Website development included a significant restructure of the content to improve user experience. The new website is hosted on a more cost-effective open-access platform.
- Continued to update the website, which is aimed at parents and carers, and promotes the importance of play and offers practical advice and guidance on providing play opportunities at home and in the community. Over the year, the website attracted 50,000 page views by 33,000 users.
- Continued to build our audience and increase engagement on bilingual pages on social media: Facebook and Instagram. Over 5,000 follow our Facebook page and over 1,000 follow our Instagram account.
- Commenced the work of redesigning resources to fit with the new brand to ensure consistency with the new website.
- Continued to invest in Google Ads grant support to improve search engine rankings for *Playful Childhoods* with the aim of driving more traffic to the website – this continues to result in a significant traffic increase to the website.
- Worked with a PR company to develop and deliver a successful summer campaign aimed at target audiences to raise awareness of the importance of play and spreading the word about the *Playful Childhoods* website as a resource. Our five-week 'Playing on a shoestring' campaign, to fit with the 2023 Playday campaign, resulted in a 450% increase in traffic to our English website and over 700% increase on the Welsh website during the campaign. Invested in advertorials for the first time, which was a key part of the campaign's success.
- Continued to engage with Welsh Government colleagues to share messaging as part of the 'Parenting. Give it Time' campaign (now under the Teulu Cymru brand).
- Worked with a PR agency to produce short evergreen video clips to help support parents give their children time, space and freedom to play at home and in their neighbourhood – all low-cost play ideas to take into account the cost-of-living crisis. Using the clips on an on-going basis via *Playful Childhoods* website in blog articles and on social media, as well as sharing with our e-mailing list.
- Using findings from external evaluation of the *Playful Childhoods* website and social media, which included an online survey and focus groups with parents and those who work with children and families to inform our work and explore future developments, where budget allows. Positive and constructive feedback received which has resulted in us commissioning new written content.

Workforce development

Objective: To contribute to the professional development of the play and playwork workforce in Wales

Outcome: Play Wales was active in a range of activities relating to training and workforce development to further the play interests of children in Wales, including:

- Supported and advised the Welsh Government on issues relating to the play and playwork workforce.
- Provided specific advice and guidance in relation to workforce issues to inform the Welsh Government's Ministerial Review of Play Action Plan.
- Provided specific advice to the Welsh Government on emerging workforce related issues including: the review of the Exceptions Order and National Minimum standards and on plans to regulate the playwork workforce.
- Delivered four Playwork Education and Training Council Wales (PETC) meetings – supporting a dialogue between playwork employers, national organisations, the Welsh Government, Social Care Wales and Qualifications Wales.
- Continued to work to actions within *A play friendly workforce for Wales*, Play Wales' plan for the ongoing development of the play and playwork workforces.

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TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

- Developed the infrastructure for the national delivery of playwork qualifications by supporting the development and continued operation of six Training Centres. This includes the quality assurance of L2APP, MAHPS and P3 qualifications as well as supporting trainers and assessors, reviewing assessment methods and advising on delivery.
- Supported the review of Agored Cymru playwork qualifications.
- Appointed a part-time freelance qualifications co-ordinator to support with training and qualifications.
- Developed a business case for the review of the National Occupational Standards for Playwork, on behalf of the UK Playwork NOS Consortium, in preparation for a future review. Approval was received from the UK standards and frameworks panel to take forward this work during 2024/25.
- Worked with PETC Wales and other partners to identify funding for the sustainable delivery of playwork qualifications and build the infrastructure of trainers, using a range of funding models including the Welsh Government Training and Support Programme.
- Delivered the Award in Delivering Dynamic Playwork Training (ADDaPT) to 21 learners across Wales.
- Delivered the International Playwork: Foundation Practitioner course to 10 learners in the Netherlands, working in partnership with the children's organisation Jantje Beton.
- Explored mechanisms for licensing/endorsement activity of Play Wales' training in other countries.
- Contributed to Social Care Wales' Early Years Network meeting and task and finish groups.
- Contributed to Education and Training Standards Wales (ETS Wales).
- Contributed to Playwork Education and Training Councils in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland to promote four nations planning for workforce development.
- Contributed to Social Care Wales' Qualifications Standards Advisory Group (QSAG) including membership of task and finish groups looking at the development of a transitional qualification into childcare.
- Maintained the list of *Required Qualifications to work within the Playwork Sector in Wales* and qualifications flow chart on behalf of PETC Wales.
- Developed a new Play Wales endorsed course – Let's talk about play – for approved tutors to deliver as professional development in local areas of Wales.
- Contributed to the advisory group for the 'We Care' recruitment campaign by Social Care Wales.
- Piloted *Chwarae o Safon*, a new quality assurance framework for playwork.
- Contributed to a four-nations working group for a new playwork in schools' qualification
- Provided seminars, training opportunities and conferences to facilitate the provision of quality play services to children, including delivering:
 - our first national conference since 2019 held in Cardiff in November 2023, titled Ministerial Review of Play: what next?
 - a two-day face-to-face Playworkers Forum event for 49 delegates, themes for the event were playwork in other contexts and practical skills
 - a number of papers at the International Play Association Conference in Glasgow
 - two launch events for the new *This is why playing is so important* film
 - a practical playwork skills workshop for playworkers in Denbighshire
 - a series of Continuing Professional Development in-person workshops for Cardiff Play Services team
 - a Championing play: the role of public health workshop for practitioners and managers.
- Delivered a range of presentations for:
 - Supporting Families and NEST Community of Practice
 - Community Focused Schools officers in Caerphilly
 - Cardiff University School of Geography summer school
 - Supporting Children and Families Facing Crisis Conference (British Academy Conference).
- Planned and delivered a series of themed online webinars:
 - *Playful Childhoods* webinar, Mud, mess and fancy dress aimed at promoting our campaign resources to those working directly with families
 - Exploring the links between playwork and youth work
 - Reusing stuff for play
 - What makes a great space to play
 - Stay and play project: support for play after school, aimed at schools in Monmouthshire.

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TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Play policy

Objective: To work with individuals, organisations and networks to inform the development of policy and matters related to children's play in Wales

Outcome: Play Wales was involved in a variety of UK and worldwide policy groups attending meetings of relevant organisations to ensure UK wide initiatives reflect development and best practice in Wales:

- Play Safety Forum
- Children's Play Policy Forum
- National Playday Steering Group
- International Play Association (IPA) Cymru Wales and IPA World
- Learning through Landscapes Board.

Additionally, on a UK and international level, Play Wales:

- Provided support and guidance to colleagues at Play Aotearoa (International Play Association New Zealand), Sport New Zealand and Playright (Hong Kong).
- Continued to provide support for IPA World to adhere to requirements as an international charity registered in England and Wales.
- Collaborated with colleagues in Portugal to form an agreement regarding the use of Play Wales publications.
- Provided secretariat support for International Play Association (IPA) Cymru Wales branch and delivered a range of presentations, workshops and poster presentations for the IPA World triennial 2023 conference.
- Hosted a student placement from Cardiff University to gather data for all-Wales survey work.
- Engaged with various local public health teams to promote the importance of play.
- Collaborated with Starlight Children's Foundation to support Hospital Play Specialists in Wales.
- Supported the co-ordinating and judging the Annual Playwork Awards at the National Playwork Conference in Eastbourne.
- Continued research partnerships with University of Bristol, University of Gloucestershire, Swansea University and Cardiff University advising on a wide range of research topics:
 - Play in schools
 - Play and humour
 - Play in the early years and family engagement
 - Play, physical activity, and wellbeing
 - Play and engagement with children.

Play Wales also responded to relevant national consultations:

- Child Poverty Strategy for Wales
- Structure of the school year
- Professional registration of workforce
- Use of Dormant Funds
- Children, young people and the built environment (co-ordinated by UK Government Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee)
- National Practice Framework
- Do disabled children and young people have equal access to education and childcare? (inquiry undertaken by the Children and Young People and Education Senedd Committee)

Additionally, Play Wales:

- Undertook activity to sustain learning from the Community Play Ambassador Project, a three-year project funded by the Healthy Active Fund, including the development and production of an endorsed play and playwork course.
- Implemented the Play Awareness Project, funded by the Aneurin Bevan Gwent Public Health Team.

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

- Undertook an audit of play in hospital for Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Health Team.
- Developed and implemented an early years outdoor play project for Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Public Health.
- Acted as secretariat and report writers to the Ministerial Review of Play Steering Group.
- Contributed to various academic publications.
- Undertook fundraising activity in line with our Fundraising Strategy, which resulted in securing funding to:
 - develop and provide resources for stakeholders and partners to implement after school play projects
 - pilot a project to develop a project to understand and support the play needs for children in temporary accommodation.

Advice and support

Objective: To provide specialist knowledge regarding all issues about and affecting children's play

Outcome: Play Wales was involved in a variety of Wales wide working groups to ensure that children's play acquires the status it deserves:

- Wales UNCRC Monitoring Group
- Early Years Action Group
- Children's Rights in Early Years Network
- Children in Wales Policy Council
- Active Healthy Kids (AHK) Wales Expert Group – lead on active play indicator
- Welsh Government Building a Healthier Wales Task and Finish Group – Ministerial Priorities
- Welsh Government Anti-Racist Wales Childcare and Play Governance Group and associated sub-groups
- Welsh Government Childcare and Play Stakeholder Group
- Welsh Government Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Action Plan Stakeholder Group
- Senedd Cross Party Group for Children and Families
- Care Inspectorate Wales Childcare and Play Working Group.

Outcome: Play Wales has supported the development of a strategic approach to children's play through:

- Contributed to actions arising from the Ministerial Review of Play, such as:
 - Published a summary of the Ministerial Review of Play Steering Group report
 - Developing a children's version of the Ministerial Review of Play Steering Group report
 - Reviewed the Play Sufficiency Assessment Template and Toolkit, with local authority play sufficiency officers.
- Collaborated with Early Years Wales and Sport Wales on The Foundations Framework Developing Good Practice in Physical Activity and Sporting Environments for Children aged 3-11 years.
- Facilitated meetings for play sufficiency leads.
- Gathered examples of play sufficiency from local authorities across Wales for future dissemination.
- Facilitated check-in meetings for open access playwork providers.
- Collaborated with the National Centre for Population Health and Well-being Research (NCPHWR) to pilot an app which supports children to rate their communities for play and physical activity.
- Published a pan-Wales analysis of children's play satisfaction surveys.
- Continued to work with commissioned researchers to update the evidence on the value of play from a public and social policy perspective in Wales.
- Contributed to the UNCRC Monitoring Group's Civil Society Alternative Report to the UN Committee.
- Provided advice for the development of Community Focused Schools guidance.
- Collaborated with Welsh Government play policy, active travel and education officials to plan and deliver a local authority engagement event to promote funding and partnership opportunities.

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TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Outcome: Play Wales has supported play at delivery level through:

- Ensuring that local community groups are signposted to and supported appropriately by local support networks. We received and responded to a broad range of queries via social media, telephone and email from parents, elected members, schools and small organisations during the last year. The queries include questions about qualifications, research queries from students, funding for play equipment and play areas, support for saving school playing fields, job advertising and requests for letters of support for funding applications.
- Providing non-managerial professional development support to play development officers throughout Wales.
- Providing advice regarding play officer recruitment to local authorities and voluntary organisations.
- Providing support for voluntary sector play projects.
- Presentations at local (online and in person) play sufficiency events and conferences throughout Wales.
- Providing advice regarding play space design and development.
- Supporting local communities and several communities to establish resident-led street closures for play.
- Working with organisations and council officers to develop street play initiatives in Bridgend.
- Working with Vale of Glamorgan Council to develop and implement a street play programme.
- Working with partners in the Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend to consider play in secondary schools.
- Working with Bridgend and Carmarthenshire local authorities to develop projects which source and supply loose parts materials for play.
- Providing support for Wrexham Play Network to consider a strategy for a 'Capital of play' for a future City of Culture bid.

Quality Assurance

We continue to maintain the systems, reviewing and updating as appropriate, developed when Play Wales achieved the PQASSO Quality Mark Level 1 (NCVO quality assurance scheme).

Financial review

Play Wales continues to be reliant upon core funding from the Welsh Government. The funding from the Welsh Government has been secured until 31 March 2025. The charity made an unrestricted deficit of £19,461 for the year ending 31 March 2024 (2023: surplus of £58,602).

Defined Benefit Pension Scheme

Play Wales is a member of the Local Government Pension scheme operated through Cardiff and The Vale of Glamorgan. The defined benefit scheme currently has a surplus of £1,320,000 (2023: surplus of £940,000). The Trustees recognise that the current pension surplus is highly volatile due to changes in accounting estimate and assumptions used by the actuaries when valuing the scheme. A surplus is only recognised to the extent of reduced future contributions to the plan.

Reserves Statement

Play Wales intends to maintain the level of free reserves that equates to between six and twelve months of annual expenditure. The financial reserves are set aside to ensure financial stability for staff and its members and to ensure that the current activities would be maintained in the event of a period of unforeseen difficulty. The calculation of the required level of reserves is integral to Play Wales's planning, budget and forecast cycle. The free reserves available to the charity (excluding the fixed asset, the designated fund and the pension reserve) were £254,173 (2023: £295,164).

Investment Policy

The Trustees regularly review the amount that the organisation requires to ensure that they are adequate to fulfil its continuing obligations. Currently the charity takes a cautious approach to investing, minimising the level of risk.

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TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Plans for the Future 2024-2025

Play Wales will continue to work to promote children's play and act as an advocate for children and their play needs.

Particularly, we anticipate that we will undertake the following:

- Continue to support providers of play opportunities to respond to changes in the social, political and financial landscape in a play friendly way.
- Support the Welsh Government to achieve the milestones set out in the Ministerial Review of Play.
- Continue to deliver a communication service aimed at our broad constituency through the provision of focused publications, direct mailing and up to date websites as well as social media engagement.
- Contribute to and inform local, national and international advocacy through project work and membership of committees and groups.
- Support local authorities and third sector organisations to engage and respond to national policy through events, network facilitation and advice.
- Continue to work with The National Centre for Population Health & Wellbeing Research (NCPHWR) to identify what children say about access to play and what they would like in terms of play.
- Review and implement *A play friendly workforce for Wales*, our workforce development plan based on findings from the Welsh Play Workforce Study undertaken by Swansea University.
- Work with approved centres to ensure that the delivery of Agored Cymru playwork qualifications, and other training, continues to be of quality and responds to the needs of the workforce.
- Pilot and launch the *Chwarae o Safon* Playwork Quality Assurance Framework.
- Work with local Public Health Teams to agree and share messages regarding children's play.
- Undertake and publish a pan-Wales report of surveys completed by children across local authority areas in Wales as part of their Play Sufficiency Assessments in 2025.
- Deliver a range of *Playful Childhoods* campaigns to support parents and carers to provide sufficient opportunities for children to play at home and in their communities.
- Continue to promote our latest film to celebrate children's play in Wales and promote the importance of play in every child's life.
- Develop and deliver a range of events and training opportunities for playworkers and others whose work impacts on children.
- Review, update and implement our Fundraising Strategy to enable delivery of additional projects.
- Work with Starlight Children's Foundation to support the health play sector in Wales.
- Lead the review of the National Occupational Standards for Playwork, on behalf of the UK Playwork NOS Consortium.
- Work with International partners to support them to deliver endorsed playwork training.

To ensure these services are developed and delivered as effectively as possible we will:

- Continually review and develop Play Wales' operational plan.

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TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Structure, governance and management

Governing documents

Play Wales / Chwarae Cymru is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered on 28 March 1998 and governed by its “foundation” model constitution resolution dated 18 February 2019. Governance is undertaken by a Board of Trustees.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Every trustee is appointed for a term of three years and in selecting individuals for appointment as a charity trustee, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO. There must be at least three charity trustees. If the number falls below the minimum the remaining trustee or trustees may act only to call a meeting of the charity trustees or appoint a new charity trustee. There are currently nine trustees appointed. There is no maximum number of charity trustees that may be appointed to the charity.

Trustee induction and training

New Trustees meet the Director and other Trustees prior to their first meeting and receive an induction pack containing the following:

- Minutes and papers of last three Board meetings
- A copy of the current version of constitution
- Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements (latest)
- Trustee Specification and Terms of Reference
- Play Wales membership information and form
- Welsh Government Play Policy Implementation Plan
- Play Wales leaflets and poster
- *The First Claim...* publication
- The latest issues of *Play for Wales* magazine.

Functions of the Board of Trustees include:

- To have control of the Charity and its property and funds
- To have responsibility for overall governance and strategic direction
- To develop the aims, objectives and organisational goals in accordance with the governing document, legal and regulatory guidelines
- To ensure that Play Wales / Chwarae Cymru and its representative's function within the legal and regulatory framework of the sector and in line with the organisation's governing document, continually striving for best practice in governance
- To uphold the fiduciary duty invested in the position, undertaking such duties in a way that adds to public confidence and trust
- Interviewing, appointing and monitoring the work and activities of senior staff.

The Board of Trustees is accountable in varying degrees to a variety of individuals and organisations including service users, members, funders and The Charity Commission.

Organisational structure

Play Wales is a membership organisation. The members of the charity are its Board of Trustees. The trustees have created an associate non-voting membership which is open to organisations and individuals from voluntary, statutory and independent sectors, however these members do not qualify as members for any purpose under the Charities Acts, General Regulations or Dissolution Regulations.

PLAY WALES / CHWARAE CYMRU

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Director is responsible to the Board of Trustees for the day-to-day management of the organisation. At the end of March 2024 there is a Director, an Assistant Director, Office Manager, Communications Manager, Workforce Development Officer, Finance Officer and an Administration & Events Assistant.

Relationships with related parties

Play Wales has Memorandums of Understanding with Social Care Wales; Play England, Play Scotland and PlayBoard Northern Ireland.

Risk management

A risk register has been established and is updated frequently with an appropriate action plan. Where necessary, systems and procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces. Controls are in place to minimise internal risks by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Health and safety reviews are carried out regularly.

The Board of Trustees has conducted a review of the major risks to which the organisation is exposed. It has identified that a disproportionate reliance on Welsh Government funding remains a high risk to Play Wales and sources of other funding need to be sought so Play Wales can continue to provide the service it delivers to Wales. They also identified that the change in Welsh Government cabinet ministers could have a detrimental effect on the relationship Play Wales has with its main funder. The Board of Trustees is also aware that fundraising activities have a high risk of ending unfavourably for Play Wales. A fundraising strategy linked to the strategic plan has been developed detailing actions that may be considered to mitigate this risk.

PLAY WALES / CHWARAE CYMRU

TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Reference and administrative details

Charity name Play Wales / Chwarae Cymru

Charity number 1068926

Principal office Park House
Greyfriars Road
Cardiff
CF10 3AF

Trustees Dr Anne Crowley - Treasurer
Rhian Barrance
Malcolm King
Keith Towler - Chair
Ronan Lyons
Dr Jacky Tyrie
Dr Elspeth Clark
Hana Hersi
Dr Matluba Khan

Key management personnel Mike Greenaway - Director
Marianne Mannello - Assistant Director

Auditors Azets Audit Services
Ty Derw, Lime Tree Court
Cardiff Gate Business Park
Cardiff
CF23 8AB

Bankers The Co-Operative PLC
PO Box 250
Skelmersdale
WN8 6WT

CAF Bank PLC
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Solicitors Geldards
4 Capital Quarter
Tyndall Street
Cardiff
CF10 4BZ

PLAY WALES / CHWARAE CYMRU

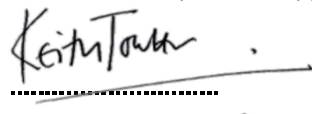
TRUSTEES REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Insurers

Keegan & Pennykid Insurance Brokers Limited
50 Queen Street
Edinburgh
EH2 3NS

The trustees report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Towler', is written over a dotted line. The signature is cursive and includes a long horizontal stroke at the end.

K Towler - Trustee

Dated: 12/12/2024.....

PLAY WALES / CHWARAE CYMRU

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

PLAY WALES / CHWARAE CYMRU

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF PLAY WALES / CHWARAE CYMRU

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Play Wales / Chwarae Cymru (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

PLAY WALES / CHWARAE CYMRU

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF PLAY WALES / CHWARAE CYMRU

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the entity through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

PLAY WALES / CHWARAE CYMRU

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF PLAY WALES / CHWARAE CYMRU

Other matters

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

This has been done in order for the financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with current Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Azets Audit Services

Azets Audit Services

6 January 2025
.....

Chartered Accountants

Statutory Auditor

Ty Derw, Lime Tree Court
Cardiff Gate Business Park
Cardiff
United Kingdom
CF23 8AB

Azets Audit Services is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

PLAY WALES / CHWARAE CYMRU

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

		Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
	Notes						
<u>Income from:</u>							
Donations and legacies	3	10,075	-	10,075	-	-	-
Charitable activities	4	468,356	12,000	480,356	800,411	47,343	847,754
Investments	5	11,852	-	11,852	2,449	-	2,449
Total income		490,283	12,000	502,283	802,860	47,343	850,203
<u>Expenditure on:</u>							
Charitable activities	6	509,744	6,582	516,326	744,258	36,761	781,019
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources		(19,461)	5,418	(14,043)	58,602	10,582	69,184
Other recognised gains and losses							
Actuarial loss on defined benefit pension schemes		(70,000)	-	(70,000)	(150,000)	-	(150,000)
Net movement in funds		(89,461)	5,418	(84,043)	(91,398)	10,582	(80,816)
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		672,638	10,582	683,220	764,036	-	764,036
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		583,177	16,000	599,177	672,638	10,582	683,220

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

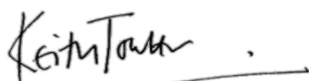
PLAY WALES / CHWARAE CYMRU

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		-		-
Current assets					
Debtors	12	35,362		318,426	
Cash at bank and in hand		721,084		675,167	
		756,446		993,593	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(157,269)		(310,373)	
Net current assets			599,177		683,220
Total assets less current liabilities			599,177		683,220
Net assets excluding pension liability			599,177		683,220
Net assets			599,177		683,220
Income funds					
Restricted funds	16		16,000		10,582
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds	17	329,004		377,474	
General unrestricted funds		254,173		295,164	
			583,177		672,638
			599,177		683,220

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 12/12/2024



Mr K Towler
Trustee

PLAY WALES / CHWARAE CYMRU

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	21		34,065		(201,610)
Investing activities					
Investment income received		11,852		2,449	
Net cash generated from investing activities			11,852		2,449
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			45,917		(199,161)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			675,167		874,328
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			721,084		675,167

PLAY WALES / CHWARAE CYMRU

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Play Wales is a charitable incorporated organisation whose principal office is Park House, Greyfriars Road, Cardiff, CF10 3AF.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

These accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis. The charity is predominantly funded from public sector grants from Welsh Government. The funding arrangements from Welsh Government have been agreed until March 2025.

The Trustees have prepared forecasts for the next twelve months. The trustees believe that these forecasts are based on realistic income assumptions and are confident that the charity will continue to be able to meet its liabilities as they fall due. Accordingly the Trustees believe that it is appropriate for the financial statements to be prepared on the going concern basis.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

PLAY WALES / CHWARAE CYMRU

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Investment income is included when receivable.

Income from grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred. Capital grants are released to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of receipt. Fixed assets relating to capital grants are capitalised, and depreciation charged is offset against the grant income, in a restricted fund.

Income from conferences and events is recognised at the date the conference takes place.

Match funding

Where a project has been undertaken on the condition that the grant funding will be matched by funding from the charity's reserves the income from the grant funder is shown as restricted income and only the expenditure reclaimed by the grant funder is shown as restricted expenditure. That part of the project expenditure which is met by the charity is included within unrestricted expenditure. A summary of the matched funding is included in the notes to the accounts.

1.5 Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent.

Costs associated with conferences and events are recognised at the date at which the conference takes place.

Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs relating to the furtherance of the charity's objectives as stated in the trustee's report and their associated support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures and fittings	20% reducing balance
-----------------------	----------------------

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

Furniture, fixtures and fittings and computer equipment costing less than £5,000 are not capitalised but are expensed through the Statement of Financial Activities.

PLAY WALES / CHWARAE CYMRU

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.8 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Derecognition of financial assets

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the charity transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

PLAY WALES / CHWARAE CYMRU

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.9 Employee benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense, unless those costs are required to be recognised as part of the cost of stock or fixed assets.

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.10 Retirement benefits

The cost of providing benefits under defined benefit plans is determined separately for each plan using the projected unit credit method, and is based on actuarial advice.

The change in the net defined benefit liability arising from employee service during the year is recognised as an employee cost. The cost of plan introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments are recognised as incurred.

The net interest element is determined by multiplying the net defined benefit liability by the discount rate, taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments. The net interest is recognised in income/(expenditure) for the year.

Remeasurement changes comprise actuarial gains and losses, the effect of the asset ceiling and the return on the net defined benefit liability excluding amounts included in net interest. These are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses in the period in which they occur and are not reclassified to income/(expenditure) in subsequent periods.

The net defined benefit pension asset or liability in the balance sheet comprises the total for each plan of the present value of the defined benefit obligation (using a discount rate based on high quality corporate bonds), less the fair value of plan assets out of which the obligations are to be settled directly. Fair value is based on market price information, and in the case of quoted securities is the published bid price. The value of a net pension benefit asset is limited to the amount that may be recovered either through reduced contributions or agreed refunds from the scheme.

1.11 Leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to expenditure on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

PLAY WALES / CHWARAE CYMRU

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

(Continued)

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

Defined benefit pension scheme

As set out in notes, the charity operates a defined benefit pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The accounting cost of these benefits and the present value of the pension liabilities involved judgements about uncertain events including such factors as the life expectancy of members, the salary progression of current employees, price inflation and the discount rate used to calculate the net present value of the future pension payments. Estimates are used for all of these factors in determining the pension costs and liabilities incorporated in the financial statements. The assumptions reflect historical experience and judgement regarding future expectations and external actuarial specialists are also used to assist the exercise.

The present value of the defined benefit obligation is less than the fair value of plan assets as at 31 March 2024 and therefore the defined benefit plan is in a surplus position. An entity can only recognise a plan surplus to the extent that it is able to recover the surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the plan. The plan surplus has therefore been restricted as seen in the Retirement benefit scheme note.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Total
	2024 £	2023 £
Donations and gifts	10,075	-

PLAY WALES / CHWARAE CYMRU

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

4	Charitable activities	Information services		Workforce development		Play policy, advice & support		Total 2024		Information services		Workforce development		Play policy, advice & support		Total 2023	
		2024	£	2024	£	2024	£	£	£	2023	£	2023	£	2023	£	£	
	Publications and merchandise	5,760		-		-		5,760		2,847		-		-		2,847	
	Grants	140,000		140,000		157,150		437,150		250,286		239,857		316,921		807,064	
	Other earned income	1,141		6,023		25,517		32,681		1,179		7,399		27,520		36,098	
	Conferences and seminars	2,725		2,040		-		4,765		1,745		-		-		1,745	
		149,626		148,063		182,667		480,356		256,057		247,256		344,441		847,754	
	Analysis by fund																
	Unrestricted funds	149,626		148,063		170,667		468,356		256,057		247,256		297,098		800,411	
	Restricted funds	-		-		12,000		12,000		-		-		47,343		47,343	
		149,626		148,063		182,667		480,356		256,057		247,256		344,441		847,754	
	Performance related grants																
	Welsh Government	140,000		140,000		140,000		420,000		250,286		239,857		264,857		755,000	
	Sport Wales – Healthy and Active Fund	-		-		-		-		-		-		36,761		36,761	
	National Lottery Community Fund	-		-		-		-		-		-		2,500		2,500	
	Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board	-		-		2,000		2,000		-		-		2,221		2,221	
	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	-		-		-		-		-		-		8,150		8,150	
	The Parent Network CCB	-		-		-		-		-		-		1,332		1,332	
	Save the Children UK	-		-		-		-		-		-		1,100		1,100	
	Moondance	-		-		12,000		12,000		-		-		-		-	
	Other	-		-		3,150		3,150		-		-		-		-	

PLAY WALES / CHWARAE CYMRU

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

5 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2024	2023
	£	£
Interest receivable	11,852	2,449

6 Charitable activities

	Information services	Workforce development	Play policy, advice & support	Total	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	-	10,000	12,875	22,875	53,689
Printing, translation, art and advertising	1,400	38	12,840	14,278	15,418
Training and consultancy	21,306	27,159	9,664	58,129	172,966
Administration and meeting costs	-	40	5,000	5,040	3,565
Computer and website	-	-	682	682	12
Other staff costs	-	11,756	1,186	12,942	16,150
Publications costs	108	-	-	108	-
Conference and project costs	-	5,864	19,099	24,963	-
	22,814	54,857	61,346	139,017	261,800
Share of support costs (see note 7)	120,970	120,970	120,969	362,909	509,221
Share of governance costs (see note 7)	4,800	4,800	4,800	14,400	9,998
	148,584	180,627	187,115	516,326	781,019
Analysis by fund					
Unrestricted funds	148,584	180,627	180,533	509,744	744,258
Restricted funds	-	-	6,582	6,582	36,761
	148,584	180,627	187,115	516,326	781,019

PLAY WALES / CHWARAE CYMRU

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

7 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2024	Support costs	Governance costs	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	335,358	-	335,358	374,679	-	374,679
Staff training	7,814	-	7,814	10,879	-	10,879
Premises	37,020	-	37,020	38,675	-	38,675
Property running costs	711	-	711	4,065	-	4,065
Administration and meeting costs	4,012	-	4,012	26,582	-	26,582
Communications, computer and website	14,436	-	14,436	51,079	-	51,079
Legal, professional and subscriptions	3,558	-	3,558	3,262	-	3,262
Net pension finance cost	(40,000)	-	(40,000)	-	-	-
Audit, accountancy and other fees	-	14,400	14,400	-	9,998	9,998
	<u>362,909</u>	<u>14,400</u>	<u>377,309</u>	<u>509,221</u>	<u>9,998</u>	<u>519,219</u>
Analysed between Charitable activities	<u>362,909</u>	<u>14,400</u>	<u>377,309</u>	<u>509,221</u>	<u>9,998</u>	<u>519,219</u>

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £13,400 (2023: £8,600) for audit fees and £1,000 (2023: £1,000) for accountancy fees. In the prior year, the remaining fees related to amounts payable to other parties in relation to the defined benefit pension scheme reports.

8 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year or prior year.

3 trustees were reimbursed for travel expenses in the year totalling £343 (2023: £382).

PLAY WALES / CHWARAE CYMRU

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

9 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Direct charitable expenditure	4	6
Other expenses	2	2
Total	6	8

Employment costs	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	275,478	295,746
Social security costs	23,735	27,842
Other pension costs	59,019	104,780
	358,232	428,368

Other pension costs

Other pension costs include the FRS 102 defined benefit pension charges consisting of:

Current service costs: £60,000 (2023: £110,000)

Net interest charge: £nil (2023: net interest income £10,000)

Total charge: £60,000 (2023: £100,000)

Actual employer contributions made to the scheme during the year totalled: £90,000 (2023: £90,000).

See Retirement benefit schemes note for further details.

Full time equivalents

The average monthly number of full time equivalents during the year was 5.54 (2023: 6.74).

Key management personnel

Key management personnel oversee the directing, controlling and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. The pay of senior staff is reviewed annually and increased in line with the pay scales for education professionals employed under Soulbury pay and conditions. The Soulbury committee has issued advice and guidance on where different levels of posts should be placed on the pay scale that the charity has followed. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £174,647 (2023: £164,346).

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more were:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
£60,000 - £69,999	1	1

PLAY WALES / CHWARAE CYMRU

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

10 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £
Cost	
At 1 April 2023	18,076
At 31 March 2024	18,076
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 April 2023	18,076
At 31 March 2024	18,076
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2024	-
At 31 March 2023	-

12 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	25,962	4,300
Prepayments and accrued income	9,400	314,126
	35,362	318,426

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
	Notes	
Other taxation and social security	5,913	7,030
Deferred income	14	47,486
Trade creditors	61,646	219,704
Other creditors	14,983	4,897
Accruals	23,021	31,256
	157,269	310,373

PLAY WALES / CHWARAE CYMRU

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

14 Deferred income

	2024 £	2023 £
Arising from grants, memberships, events and training	51,706	47,486

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Current liabilities	51,706	47,486
Movements in the year:		
Brought forward	47,486	34,999
Released from previous periods	(47,486)	(22,813)
Resources deferred in the year	51,706	35,300
Deferred income at 31 March 2024	51,706	47,486

15 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined benefit schemes

The company participates in the Cardiff and Vale Local Government Pension Scheme which is a defined benefit scheme based on final pensionable salary. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity.

The scheme actuary carries out a triennial valuation of the scheme in order to assess funding requirements. The most recent valuation was carried out by Aon as at 31 March 2022 which has been updated to reflect conditions at the balance sheet date. The assumptions that have the most significant effect on the results of the valuation are those relating to the rate of return on investments and the rate of increase in salaries and pensions.

The triennial valuation carried out to assess funding requirements is different to the valuation carried out for the inclusion in these financial statements. The actuary, Aon, has undertaken a valuation to take into account the requirements of FRS 102 in order to assess the liabilities of the fund as at 31 March 2024. Liabilities are valued on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method, which assesses the future liabilities discounted to their present value.

Key assumptions	2024 %	2023 %
Discount rate	4.8	4.7
Expected rate of increase of pensions in payment	2.6	2.7
Expected rate of salary increases	3.6	3.7
CPI inflation	2.6	2.7
Pension accounts revaluation rate	2.6	2.7

PLAY WALES / CHWARAE CYMRU

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

15 Retirement benefit schemes

(Continued)

Mortality assumptions

The assumed life expectations on retirement at age 65 are:

	2024 Years	2023 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	22.1	22.6
- Females	24.3	24.7
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	22.7	23.2
- Females	25.3	25.8

Amounts recognised in the profit and loss account:

	2024 £	2023 £
Current service cost	60,000	110,000
Net interest on defined benefit liability/(asset)	(40,000)	(10,000)
Total costs	20,000	100,000

Amounts taken to other comprehensive income:

	2024 £	2023 £
Actual return on scheme assets	(370,000)	60,000
Less: calculated interest element	150,000	90,000
Return on scheme assets excluding interest income	(220,000)	150,000
Actuarial changes related to obligations	(90,000)	(940,000)
Effects of changes in the amount of surplus that is not recoverable	380,000	940,000
Total costs	70,000	150,000

PLAY WALES / CHWARAE CYMRU

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

15 Retirement benefit schemes

(Continued)

The amounts included in the balance sheet arising from the charity's obligations in respect of defined benefit plans are as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Present value of defined benefit obligations	2,320,000	2,280,000
Fair value of plan assets	(3,640,000)	(3,220,000)
Surplus in scheme	(1,320,000)	(940,000)
Restriction on scheme assets	1,320,000	940,000
Total liability recognised	-	-

Movements in the present value of defined benefit obligations:

	2024 £
Liabilities at 1 April 2023	2,280,000
Current service cost	60,000
Benefits paid	(60,000)
Contributions from scheme members	20,000
Actuarial gains and losses	(90,000)
Interest cost	110,000
At 31 March 2024	2,320,000

The defined benefit obligations arise from plans which are wholly unfunded.

Movements in the fair value of plan assets:

	2024 £
Fair value of assets at 1 April 2023	3,220,000
Interest income	150,000
Return on plan assets (excluding amounts included in net interest)	220,000
Benefits paid	(60,000)
Contributions by the employer	90,000
Contributions by scheme members	20,000
At 31 March 2024	3,640,000

PLAY WALES / CHWARAE CYMRU

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

15 Retirement benefit schemes

(Continued)

The fair value of plan assets at the reporting period end was as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Equity instruments	2,530,000	2,190,000
Property	230,000	230,000
Government Bonds	310,000	280,000
Corporate Bonds	270,000	250,000
Multi Asset Credit	200,000	170,000
Cash	80,000	100,000
Other	20,000	-
	<u>3,640,000</u>	<u>3,220,000</u>

PLAY WALES / CHWARAE CYMRU

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

16 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds			Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Sport Wales - Healthy and Active Fund	-	36,761	(36,761)	-	-	-	-
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	-	8,150	-	8,150	-	(4,150)	4,000
The Parent Network CCB	-	1,332	-	1,332	-	(1,332)	-
Save the Children	-	1,100	-	1,100	-	(1,100)	-
Moondance	-	-	-	-	12,000	-	12,000
	-	47,343	(36,761)	10,582	12,000	(6,582)	16,000

Sport Wales - Healthy and Active Fund - fund to support, actively promote and enable healthy activity among children and young people.

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council - Funding to purchase equipment, play kits and assist with play conferences.

The Parent Network CCB - Funding to provide street play resources in Merthyr Tydfil.

Save the Children - Funding for Stay and Play project at Monnow.

Moondance - Funding to scope the play needs for children in temporary accommodation by understanding the limitations and opportunities faced by their families.

PLAY WALES / CHWARAE CYMRU

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

17 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Transfers £	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Movement in funds			Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
				Incoming resources £	Resources expended £			
Potential redundancy costs	95,000	21,000	116,000	-	-		18,000	134,000
Future book production costs	28,000	-	28,000	-	-		-	28,000
Future revising qualification, training materials and resources	14,300	-	14,300	-	-		-	14,300
Training and workforce development	180,000	39,174	219,174	-	(76,470)		-	142,704
Play Ambassadors project	6,400	(6,400)	-	-	-		-	-
St Donats Nursery Donation	-	-	-	10,000	-		-	10,000
	323,700	53,774	377,474	10,000	(76,470)		18,000	329,004

Designated funds comprise of funds that are set aside for specific purposes which would otherwise form part of the general reserves of the organisation.

The trustees consider it prudent to set aside an amount equivalent to the potential redundancy costs for the organisation's staff.

They have also set aside the surplus on book sales to underwrite future production costs that are expected to be used during the financial year 2025/26. The revising of the P³ qualification training materials and resources are likely to be completed and expended in 2025/26.

Training & workforce development is the development of training, events, toolkits and training materials aimed at the play workforce, including a particular focus on schools and school staff and the importance of play to support Covid recovery in the coming years.

The contingency for the Play Ambassadors project has been made to assist in the completion of the project.

St Donats Nursery School donated winding up funds and they are designated to be used for pre-school objectives as per their wishes.

PLAY WALES / CHWARAE CYMRU

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

18	Analysis of net assets between funds	Unrestricted		Designated		Restricted		Total		Unrestricted		Designated		Restricted		Total	
		2024	£	2024	£	2024	£	2024	£	2023	£	2023	£	2023	£	2023	£
	Fund balances at 31 March 2024 are represented by:																
	Current assets/(liabilities)	254,173		329,004		16,000		599,177		295,164		377,474		10,582		683,220	
		254,173		329,004		16,000		599,177		295,164		377,474		10,582		683,220	

PLAY WALES / CHWARAE CYMRU

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

19 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Within one year	14,401	25,763
Between two and five years	-	14,471
	<u>14,401</u>	<u>40,234</u>

20 Related party transactions

During the year Play Wales made payments of £nil (2023: £60,117) on behalf of another not for profit organisation, the International Play Association (IPA World). In the prior year Play Wales was subsequently reimbursed for the payments made.

The CEO is a trustee of the not for profit organisation noted above.

21 Cash generated from operations

	2024 £	2023 £
Deficit for the year	(14,043)	69,184
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(11,852)	(2,449)
Difference between pension charge and cash contributions	(70,000)	10,000
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	283,064	(276,407)
(Decrease) in creditors	(157,324)	(14,425)
Increase in deferred income	4,220	12,487
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	<u>34,065</u>	<u>(201,610)</u>

22 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no debt during the year.

23 Custodian funds

Play Wales holds funds on behalf of IPA Wales, a member organisation of the International Play Association (IPA World). During the year Play Wales made payments of £183 (2023: £nil) on behalf of IPA Wales. The Charity received income totalling £302 (2023: £Nil) on behalf of IPA Wales during the year. The Charity donated £Nil to the organisation (2023: £5,000). Funds totalling £5,017 (2023: £4,898) were held on behalf of IPA Wales at the balance sheet date.