

SOUND SENSE - Financial Statements For the year ended 31 March 2025

Company registration number 3933421

Charity number 1080918

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Members of the board and professional advisers

The board of trustees

Carol Bowden
Dave Camlin
Emily Crossland
Rebecca Denniff
Bela Emerson
Kimberley Harper
Lee Holder
Eleanor Knott
Gica Loening
Tenley Martin
Holly Radford-James
Ceri Tippetts
Rory Wells

Company secretary

Clare Adams

Registered office

Sound Sense
LCB Depot
31 Rutland Street
Leicester LE1 1RE

Correspondence address

Sound Sense
LCB Depot
31 Rutland Street
Leicester LE1 1RE

Independent examiner

Ed Day
Accountant
Pipistrelles' Barn
Pond Hall Road
Hadleigh
IP7 5PQ

Trustees' annual report

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of the Companies Act, have the pleasure of presenting their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The full name of the company is Sound Sense, registered company number 3933421. The company is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. Details of the company's registered office and other company information are set out on page 2.

The trustees who are also company directors, who served the charity during the year and/or during the preparation of this report were:

Rebecca Denniff	Chair
Carol Bowden	
Dave Camlin	<i>Elected 23 October 2024</i>
Emily Crossland	<i>Elected 23 October 2025</i>
Bela Emerson	<i>Elected 23 October 2025</i>
Sarah Fisher	<i>Resigned 23 October 2024</i>
Kimberley Harper	
Lee Holder	
Xenia Horne	<i>Resigned 23 October 2025</i>
Eleanor Knott	
Gica Loening	<i>Elected 23 October 2024</i>
Tenley Martin	
Jessica Pitt	<i>Resigned 23 October 2025</i>
Holly Radford-James	
Georgia Reitano	<i>Resigned 8 April 2024</i>
Ceri Tippetts	
Rory Wells	<i>Elected 23 October 2024</i>

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The company is constituted as a private charitable company limited by guarantee. The company's objectives and powers and other constitutional matters are set out in its governing document and its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Appointment of trustees to serve on the board of directors requires election by the members. All members are informed in advance of their right to stand for election and are encouraged to do so. Trustees also take steps to encourage nominations from member groups under-represented on the board. The Articles of Association provide that one-third of the board retire at each annual general meeting. The Articles allow any member who has served for not more than two consecutive terms of three years and any former member who has not served during the previous twelve months to offer themselves for election to the board. The board is entitled to appoint further trustees to fill casual vacancies or to increase their number until the next

annual general meeting. Any person so appointed to the board must be a member of the company. The board may also appoint non-members with specialist skills or knowledge on a yearly basis for up to six consecutive years. New board members benefit from an induction process, plus contact with and support from the chair thereafter.

A chair is selected by the trustees to serve for three years, after which they must resign from the board. Rebecca Denniff became chair on 26 October 2023 and will serve until October 2026.

The trustees in the form of the Board of Management are responsible for the overall strategic development and control of the charity's activities. Sub-committees may also exist to deal with various issues. Day to day operational management of the charity is delegated by the trustees to Sound Sense staff.

Throughout 2024/25, Clare Adams continued to serve as part-time General Manager, our sole permanent employee. The General Manager was supported by two part-time freelancers on fixed-term contracts: Communications Manager (Claire Francis) and Membership Coordinator (Basma Sbihi).

The trustees have conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and systems have been established to minimise those risks. Significant external risks to funding are minimised by carrying a reasonable level of unrestricted reserves. Internal risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of transactions. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still meet the needs of the charity.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives

Sound Sense is established to promote, maintain, improve, and advance education particularly by the improvement and development of public taste, appreciation and understanding of music. Our particular contribution to that aim is to support the activity of community music. This is music-making which:

- involves musicians from any musical discipline working with people to enable them to develop active and creative participation in music
- is concerned with putting equal opportunities into practice
- happens in all types of community, however defined, where it reflects the context in which it takes place

In other words, community musicians work primarily to improve the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable people through music-making; and (as a second-tier or infrastructure organisation) we support their work in two specific ways:

- by promoting the significance and value of community music
- by assisting in the professional development of community musicians

Activities

We have continued working to our corporate plan *Community Music Everywhere*, extending its period of use to the end of 2025. This includes a range of activities grouped under four headings, summarised as follows:

Growing Sound Sense

- Review and further develop our membership offer, working in partnership where appropriate
- Develop and deliver regular, member-led networking opportunities

- Develop and deliver a strong strand of CPD, including online training, for music practitioners
- Maintain a strategic overview of community music nationally and internationally, taking an active role in discussions around the development of policy and best practice

Strategic partnerships

- Build and maintain partnerships with training providers to improve community music CPD offers
- Build and maintain partnerships with HE/Universities for research purposes, to inform best practice guidance and documentation
- Develop a mentoring scheme where community musicians share skills and develop learning "on the job" to gain experience in a high-quality, practice-based environment
- Fundraise for and/or deliver projects for and with community music practitioners and organisations

Building a programme of networking opportunities

- Develop and deliver a series of networking opportunities, delivered in small group sessions, regionally, by members, for members
- Set up an online forum where the discussion points can be shared nationally among members
- Further develop our "Find a Musician" member directory as a networking resource

Building a resource bank

Create a one stop-shop for resources to support community music practice including:

- Templates for small businesses, including project planning and budgeting
- Tools for workshop best practice documentation, evidencing impact and other practical resources

We continue to use our outcomes-focused method of assessing how well we are doing against our workplan. As in previous years, the board will be able to scrutinise the work done and challenge assessments of progress.

Users and beneficiaries

Our users and beneficiaries consist of professional community music practitioners and community music organisations, including those with an interest in community music, such as musicians, teachers, music therapists, researchers, administrators and others. Through the work of practitioners, our beneficiaries also include participants.

Our advocacy work benefits all our users without charge. We offer advice, information and contacts for free to all on our website and through our social media. However, we are a membership organisation, and upon joining, members receive additional benefits including monthly newsletters, a quarterly journal, access to DBS checks and professional insurances (for individual members).

Public benefit

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit; and are confident that our work results in more capable community musicians, who then can provide better services to the ultimate beneficiaries of our work as described above. Trustees have also considered the guidance on public benefit and fee charging. The organisation relies on grants and the income from fees and charges to cover its operating costs. In setting the level of fees, charges and concessions, the trustees carefully consider the accessibility of our activities for those on low incomes.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Our programme of activities was focused in two key areas:

- Continuing to develop and deliver our core services for Sound Sense members
- Growing and working in partnerships to promote high quality networking, training and professional development for community music practitioners

***Sounding Board* journal: inspiring themes, diverse contributions**

We have continued to publish four issues of *Sounding Board* each calendar year as an online journal. Communications Manager Claire Francis has encouraged and worked with people to help them contribute their experiences, stories and knowledge via a range of media and article types. During 2024/25, we produced themed editions as follows: *Community Music Toolbox* (July 2024), *Electronic Music* (October 2024), *Music Against Racism* (December 2024) and *Not Just Music* (April 2025). We used board discussions and monthly Gatherings to develop these themes, ensuring that the voice of our members ran through and informed our publications, and that they responded to the needs and interests of the membership.

Monthly online gatherings

We have continued to hold online Gatherings each month for community music practitioners. These events have been open to all (not just Sound Sense members) and have provided a safe and supportive space for practitioners to share experiences and practice, ask questions, and discuss successes and challenges. Sound Sense board members have facilitated Gatherings on a voluntary basis, hosting a diverse range of participants from students to seasoned practitioners working in a range of settings across the UK and beyond. Themes for Gatherings in 2024/25 included arts and health, music technology, social media and building community.

Member services

We have provided our nearly 900 members with our usual range of support and services throughout the year, and developed these further to help community music practitioners and organisations deliver high quality experiences for their participants:

- We continued to offer DBS checks online to our members in partnership with People Dancing, with a Digital ID checking option available to people with UK passports, and alternative arrangements using paper documents and a Zoom meeting for those without
- We continued to publish our monthly members newsletter *Bulletin Board*, with links to job, training and funding opportunities, and news updates relevant to the field of community music
- As described above, *Sounding Board* brought new voices to the fore and covered a huge variety of work throughout the UK. The journal continued to cover a range of thematic articles and reports around the community music practice, to provide inspiration and examples of new ways of working
- We have seen steady engagement across our social media channels and regular member-to-member sharing in our private Facebook members forum

Working in partnerships

Partnerships enable us to work better, more efficiently, and/or deliver a wider range of benefits to the community music sector. During 2024/25, we established a key strategic partnership with AMP (a Sound Sense organisation member) and Leeds Beckett University (via Sound Sense board member, Dr Tenley Martin) to deliver a two-day event in March 2025, *Community Music Now*. Hosted by LBU at the Leeds School of Arts, this event was designed as an interactive and enriching professional development experience for community musicians at all career stages. Some 80 practitioners attended – many based in Leeds and the surrounding area, while others travelled from much further afield, including Devon, Edinburgh and Barcelona.

Sound Sense remained an active member of the **Music Education Council (MEC)**, the **APPG for Music Education** and (via the individual membership of board members) the **International Society for Music Education (ISME)**. Within these forums, we continue to seek to raise the status of community music within the wider music education sector and increase Sound Sense' reach and connections in the UK and internationally. We have also continued to collaborate with **International Centre for Community Music, York St John University** to support research in the field of community music, participating in their student research symposium in November 2024.

In February 2024, Sound Sense was invited to contribute nominations for the guest list for His Majesty The King's Community Music Makers Reception and Concert at Windsor Castle in April 2025. We were delighted for community music and musicians to receive this recognition, and arranged for a number of our board members and their colleagues to attend, including Rebecca Denniff, Lee Holder, Xenia Horne, Dr Tenley Martin, Jessica Pitt and Holly Radford-James; between them representing a range of practices, genres and locations within our sector.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

As has been the case for many years, our principal source of income continues to be Sound Sense membership subscriptions. During 2024/25, member numbers remained stable and there was a small increase in member income: £54,641 in 2024/25, up from £53,554 in 2023/24. We received no grant income during 2024/25.

The net incoming resources for the year amounted to a surplus of £379. Based on known funding and a prudent estimate of member income, together with reserves of £24,031 (which includes £5,370 held in a designated fund for redundancies), the company is fully able to continue to operate in its core model staffed by one part-time employee supported by part-time freelance roles for the foreseeable future.

Reserves policy

Since 2018, Sound Sense reserves policy has been:

"The trustee's policy is for the organisation to operate on known income alone. The organisation's basic level sustainable business model, operating on membership income alone, allows Sound Sense to maintain a skeleton staff of two part-time staff, with delivery of membership services at its core.

Project funding is continually being sought. When such income is secured, the organisation will operate flexibly, increasing and decreasing its staffing levels in line with known income stream, enabling Sound Sense to undertake and deliver additional project work in line with its charitable memorandums & articles.

Investment powers and policies are to retain surplus funds of not less than three months operating costs, not immediately required in such investments, securities or property as thought fit, subject to any legal restrictions. Currently the organisation splits its reserves between various charity deposit accounts, balancing a desire to operate ethically with a need to maximise interest rates and ensure funds are not placed at undue risk"

The board of trustees reviewed and approved this reserves policy as fit for continuing use, subject to annual review, at their meeting on 23 October 2025.

FUTURE PLANS

We continue to work within our corporate plan, *Community Music Everywhere*, supported by our established core operations model, and seeking to develop and improve where possible.

In 2025/26 our plans include:

- Core member benefits continue as for 2024/25, including professional insurances, access to DBS checks, a digital member badge and online member directory, monthly *Bulletin Board* newsletters, quarterly online *Sounding Board* journal, discounted safeguarding training, and additional online information and resources
- Continue with our monthly online 'Gatherings', selecting a range of days/times/themes to engage with a greater number and diversity of music practitioners
- Deliver regional in-person CPD and networking events in partnership with Sound Sense members
- Continue to seek partnership opportunities and funding to help us design and deliver an expanded offering to support community musicians in delivering quality work, including online and in-person CPD and networking opportunities supported by a suite of online resources
- Continue to raise the profile of Sound Sense, its members and the community music sector as a whole; on our social media platforms and as an active member of UK and international forums and programmes
- Work to promote continuing growth in Sound Sense member numbers across all four UK nations
- Launch a new corporate strategic plan, *Community Music Now*, to run for five years from 2025 to 2030.

By order of the Board



Rebecca Denniff
Chair/Trustee
1 December 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS ON THE UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS OF SOUND SENSE LIMITED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

I report to the members on my examination of the accounts of Sound Sense Limited for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As members of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

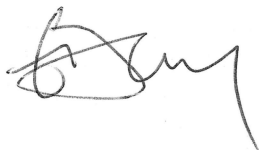
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts (set out on pages 8 to 19) carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- i. the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- ii. the accounts did not accord with those accounting records; or
- iii. the accounts did not comply with the applicable accounting requirements concerning the form and contents of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Ed Day
Pipistrelles Barn
Pond Hall Road
Hadleigh
IP7 5PQ

SOUND SENSE

Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 March 2025

		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
Note 2						
Income						
Donations and legacies		-	-	-	-	-
From charitable activities						
- <i>developing community music</i>		54,641	-	-	54,641	53,554
Investments	3	325	-	-	325	84
Total income		54,966	-	-	54,966	53,638
Expenditure						
Raising funds			-	-	-	-
On charitable activities		54,587	-	-	54,587	53,227
Total expenditure	4	54,587	-	-	54,587	53,227
Movement in funds						
Net income (expenditure)	6	379	-	-	379	411
Funds brought forward		16,557	7,095	-	23,652	23,241
Transfers between funds		1,725	(1,725)	-	-	-
Funds carried forward		18,661	5,370	-	24,031	23,652

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

All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 13 to 18 form part of these financial statements

SOUND SENSE
Balance sheet
31 March 2025

	Note	2025	2024
		£	£
Current assets			
Debtors	7	235	-
Cash at bank		<u>39,645</u>	<u>39,457</u>
		39,880	39,457
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>(15,849)</u>	<u>(15,805)</u>
Net current assets		24,031	23,652
Net assets	10	<u>24,031</u>	<u>23,652</u>
Funds			
Designated	9	5,370	7,095
Unrestricted		<u>18,661</u>	<u>16,557</u>
Total funds		<u>24,031</u>	<u>23,652</u>

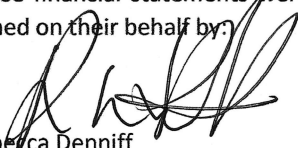
For the year ended 31 March 2025 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

These financial statements were approved by the members of the board on 1 December 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:


Rebecca Denniff
Chair/Director

The notes on pages 13 to 18 form part of these financial statements

SOUND SENSE**Cash Flow Statement****For the year ended 31 March 2025**

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash generated by operating activities (see below)		188	1,655
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year			
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2024		39,457	37,803
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2025	11	<u>39,645</u>	<u>39,458</u>
Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities			
Net income for the year (see statement of financial activities)		379	411
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		(235)	967
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		44	277
Net cash generated by operating activities (see above)		<u>188</u>	<u>1,655</u>

SOUND SENSE

Notes to the financial statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, effective 1 January 2015, in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102, applicable UK Accounting Standards and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis. The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below.

Key judgements and assumptions

The nature of the company's affairs is such that the directors believe that there are no areas of significant judgement and no significant assumptions that are required in the preparation of the financial statements other than those relating to going concern. Going concern rests on the availability of future funding and whilst the company continues to run at a deficit future levels of expenditure are closely monitored by the trustees to ensure that sufficient funds are available to enable them to be met.

Income

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Grants from government and other agencies have been included as income from activities in furtherance of the charity's objects where these relate to a contract for services, but as donations where the money is given in response to an appeal or with freedom of use within the charity's objects, for example, block grants.

Expenditure

Expenditure includes attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.

Debtors

Trade debtors relate to services provided and invoiced prior to the balance sheet date which remain outstanding at that date. Prepayments, relating to expenditure incurred which has economic benefit in future accounting periods.

SOUND SENSE

Notes to the financial statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

Trade creditors relate to amounts invoiced for services received before the balance sheet date which remain outstanding at that date. PAYE and social security relate to payroll taxes deducted and incurred before the balance sheet date which remain outstanding at that date. Accruals, relating to expenditure not paid until after the balance sheet date which confers economic benefit on the current accounting period, is recognised at the amount of that economic benefit. Deferred income, relating to income received in the current accounting period but which relates to future periods, is recognised as the whole of the income in question.

Funds

Funds fall into two categories, restricted, where their use is governed by the wishes of the entity providing the funds or the contractual terms under which the funds are earned and, unrestricted, where there are no pre-conditions to the use of the funds other than the charitable objectives of the organisation.

Within unrestricted funds designated funds are maintained to meet identified planned future costs which are not capable of being met out annual budgets.

The trustees aim to ensure that unrestricted reserves are at such a level as to ensure that the planned future net expenditure for the forthcoming year can be met.

SOUND SENSE**Notes to the financial statements****Year ended 31 March 2025****2 Comparative Statement of Financial Affairs**

The detailed Statement of Financial Affairs for the year ended 31 March 2024 is set out below

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Income				
Donations and legacies	-	-	-	-
From charitable activities				
- <i>developing community music</i>	53,554	-	-	53,554
Investments	84	-	-	84
Total income	53,638	-	-	53,638
Expenditure				
Raising funds		-	-	-
On charitable activities	53,227	-	-	53,227
Total expenditure	53,227	-	-	53,227
Movement in funds				
Net income (expenditure)	411	-	-	411
Funds brought forward	17,341	5,900	-	23,241
Transfer between funds	(1,195)	1,195	-	-
Funds carried forward	16,557	7,095	-	23,652

3. Investment income

	2025 £	2024 £
Bank interest receivable	325	84

SOUND SENSE

Notes to the financial statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

4. Total resources expended

	On-going activities	Contract services and projects	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Salaries	14,886	-	14,886	19,114
Development and project management	-	-	-	750
Project running costs	-	-	-	481
Event costs	2,276	-	2,276	-
Running costs, member services	30,658	-	30,658	28,495
Information and advocacy	150	-	150	-
Premises and office costs	5,131	-	5,131	3,935
Depreciation	-	-	-	-
Examination fees	400	-	400	400
Board costs	1,088	-	1,088	52
Other	-	-	-	-
	<u>54,589</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>54,589</u>	<u>53,227</u>

5. Staff and trustees

The aggregate payroll costs were:	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries	14,634	18,739
Pension costs	252	375
Social security costs	-	-
	<u>14,886</u>	<u>19,114</u>

Particulars of employees:

	2025	2024
The average number of staff was	No.	No.
Full-time equivalents	0.4	0.6
Numbers of individuals	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

No employee's emoluments exceeded £60,000

Six members of the board received reimbursed expenses totalling £1,033 (2024 none).

No trustee received remuneration during the period

SOUND SENSE**Notes to the financial statements****Year ended 31 March 2025****6. Net outgoing resources**

Net outgoing resources are stated after charging:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Depreciation	-	-
Examiner's fees	400	400
	<u>400</u>	<u>400</u>

7. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	235	-
Prepayments	-	-
	<u>235</u>	<u>-</u>

8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	9,225	8,498
PAYE and social security	12	(54)
Deferred income	5,712	6,461
Accruals	900	900
	<u>15,849</u>	<u>15,805</u>

9. Designated funds

	Movement in resources:			
	Balance at 1 April 23	Incoming	Outgoing	Balance at 31 March 24
	£	£	£	£
Redundancy	5,900	-	-	7,095
	<u>5,900</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,095</u>
	Balance at 1 April 24	Incoming	Outgoing	Balance at 31 March 25
	£	£	£	£
Redundancy	7,095	-	-	5,370
	<u>7,095</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,370</u>

Description of funds and transfers

Redundancy - A designated fund to cover redundancy costs in the event of the company having to cease business.

SOUND SENSE
Notes to the financial statements
Year ended 31 March 2025

10. Analysis of net assets (between restricted and unrestricted funds)

	Tangible fixed assets	Other net assets	Total
	£	£	£
Restricted funds:	-	-	-
Unrestricted funds	-	18,661	18,661
Designated funds	-	5,370	5,370
	<u>-</u>	<u>24,031</u>	<u>24,031</u>

11. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2025	2024
Short term deposit accounts	24,333	24,008
Current accounts and petty cash	15,312	15,450
	<u>39,645</u>	<u>39,457</u>

12. Regulatory and other information

The company is a registered charity, number 1080918, limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales.

The registered office is:-

LCB Depot
31 Rutland Street
Leicester
LE1 1RE

The charity is a Public Benefit Entity.