

Registered Charity Number 1096958



THORNTON HOUGH PLAYGROUP
REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2025

THORNTON HOUGH PLAYGROUP
Report and accounts

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THORNTON HOUGH PLAYGROUP

The report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 August 2025

Introduction

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2025. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011, and the 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 2015).

The Thornton Hough Playgroup constitution was adopted on 26 June 2002 and amended on 4 November 2013. On the 10 April 2003, it became a registered Charity – (1096958).

Purpose and Activities of the Charity

Aims and Activities

To operate a setting following the Early Years Foundation Stage providing young children with a great start to their education.

Our objectives

To enhance the development and education of children primarily under statutory school age by encouraging parents to understand and provide for the needs of their children through community groups and by:

- A. Offering appropriate play facilities and training courses, together with the right of parents to take responsibility for and to become involved in the activities of such groups, ensuring that such groups offer opportunities for all children regardless of race, culture, religion, means or ability.
- B. Encouraging the study of the needs of such children and their families and promoting public interest in and recognition of such needs in the local areas.
- C. Instigating and adhering to and furthering the aim of the preschool learning alliance.

Achievements and performance

The playgroup has had another wonderful academic year. Welcoming new parents and saying farewell to those whose children have headed off to infant school. Key areas to note:

1. Fundraising:

The Committee has organised a number of successful fundraising events which inc. The Maize toddle, Christmas cards & raffles, to name a few. These much-needed funds went towards the purchase of new equipment, supplies to maintain the building & even a duckling educational experience for the children.

2. Staff:

The team continues to thrive under our playgroup Leaders expert management. Two valued members of staff left the playgroup this year, the team, committee and children were sad to see them go, however, they have been replaced by two equally valued and experienced staff members who have slotted into the team with ease.

3. Committee:

The Committee continues to see a high turnover of members, due the nature of how long committee members children are at the setting. However, this has stabilised this year and more applications are in the pipeline. It is worth noting the Chair's intention to resign, due to personal circumstances - this will be done with care and consciousness of a smooth transition, to ensure the committee stability remains.

4. Parents/Caregivers

As always, our parents and caregivers have given extraordinary support. Whether this be in supporting fundraising events, parent session support or through volunteering to help clear the garden and paint the outside areas which were growing a little tired.

5. Acknowledgements

A thank you to our Manager & Deputy Manager for ensuring that the playgroup continues to be run effectively & for putting those extra hours in that often go unnoticed.

A thank you to all the staff for your continued hard work and support.

A thank you to the Committee members (those currently in role and those due to join) who volunteer their free time to ensure that the doors, quite literally, stay open.

And a huge thank you to all our parent, caregivers and extended family members for your unwavering support over the past year.

THORNTON HOUGH PLAYGROUP

The report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

6. Focus for 2025-26

Building on from the fundraising events already established this year.

Growing our committee team to ensure stability remains.

Supporting our staff to ensure they continue to thrive & develop.

Ensuring we continue to support our community in and around Thornton Hough.

Financial Review

Policies on reserves

Adequate reserves are maintained to fund the charity's activities for at least six months forward.

Availability and adequacy of assets of the funds

The board of Trustee is satisfied that the charity assets in each fund were available and adequate to fulfil its obligations in respect of each fund – all obligations having been satisfied in full.

Transactions and Financial position

The charity's income in the year was £102,332 (2024: £83,808) after expenditure of £88,408 (2024: £79,802) a surplus of £13,924 (2024: £4,006) is reported.

General free liquid reserves carried forward amounted to £63,572 (2024: £49,648).

Reference and administrative details

Date of registration : 10 April 2003

The Principal Office : Thornton Hough Playgroup, Thornton Hough Village Hall, Manor Road, Thornton Hough, Wirral, CH63 1JB

Charity Registration Number : 1096958

Trustees

Julia Palin

Philippa Benjamin Resigned 16 July 2025

Elizabeth Williams Resigned 16 November 2025

Hannah Bland

Cassandra Mulholland Resigned 2 February 2026

Caroline Roper Resigned 4 December 2025

Jessica Farrell Appointed 4 December 2025

The Board of trustees held regular meetings across the year. Minutes from these meetings can be provided on application.

Structure, Governance and Management

Nature of the Governing Documents and Constitution of the Charity

The Thornton Hough Playgroup is a registered unincorporated charity governed by a constitution. Trustees are appointed by the existing trustee board through a vote which staff and members.

The day-to-day operations of the charity are governed by Trustees who are directly engaged in the activity of the charity. Operational and tactical decisions are made by this group.

Independent Examiner

Adding Value Consultancy Limited

Studio 21, Bluecoat Chambers

School Lane

Liverpool

L1 3BX

THORNTON HOUGH PLAYGROUP

The report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing the 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 UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and the group and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and 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 in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

This report was approved by the board of Trustees on 07 April 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Julia Palin', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Julia Palin

Chair

Report of the Independent Examiners to the Trustees on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 August 2025.

I report on the financial statements of the charity on pages 5 to 9 for the year ended 31 August 2025.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of opinion and scope of work undertaken

My examination was carried out in accordance to general directions given by the charity commission. An examination includes a review of accounting records, kept by the charity and a comparison of accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedure undertaken does not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit. Consequently, no opinion is given to whether the accounts present a true and fair view and report is limited to the matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with examination, no matters have come to my attention;

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements;
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Matthew Brown
Adding Value Consultancy Limited

The date upon which my opinion is expressed is: 07 April 2026

THORNTON HOUGH PLAYGROUP
Statement Of Financial Activities
For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

| | | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total funds | Total funds As restated |
|---|-------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| | Note | 2025 | 2025 | 2025 | 2024 |
| Income: | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Income from charitable activities | 2 | 101,568 | - | 101,568 | 83,002 |
| Investment Income | | 764 | - | 764 | 806 |
| Total Income | | 102,332 | - | 102,332 | 83,808 |
| Expenditure: | | | | | |
| Expenditure on charitable activities | 3 | 87,904 | - | 87,904 | 79,250 |
| Governance | 4 | 504 | - | 504 | 552 |
| Total Expenditure | | 88,408 | - | 88,408 | 79,802 |
| Net income/(expenditure) and net | | 13,924 | - | 13,924 | 4,006 |
| Reconciliation of funds | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | | 49,648 | - | 49,648 | 45,642 |
| Total funds carried forward | | 63,572 | - | 63,572 | 49,648 |

The net movement in funds to above in the net incoming resources as defined in the statement of Recommendation Practice for Accounting and reporting issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales and is reconciled to the total funds as shown in the Balance Sheet on page 8 as required by the said statement.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 7 - 9 form an integral part of these accounts

THORNTON HOUGH PLAYGROUP
Balance Sheet
As at 31 August 2025

| | | 2025 | | 2024 | |
|--|-------|---------------|--------|---------------|--------|
| | Notes | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Current assets | | | | | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 70,776 | | 59,560 | |
| | | <u>70,776</u> | | <u>59,560</u> | |
| Creditor: - | | | | | |
| Amount due within one year | 6 | 7,204 | | 9,912 | |
| | | <u></u> | | <u></u> | |
| Net current assets | | | 63,572 | | 49,648 |
| Total assets less current liabilities | | | 63,572 | | 49,648 |
| | | <u></u> | | <u></u> | |
| Net Assets | | | 63,572 | | 49,648 |
| | | <u></u> | | <u></u> | |
| Funds of the charity | | | | | |
| Unrestricted Funds | | | 63,572 | | 49,648 |
| | | <u></u> | | <u></u> | |
| Total charity funds | | | 63,572 | | 49,648 |
| | | <u></u> | | <u></u> | |



Julia Palin - Trustee

Approved by the board of Trustees on 07 April 2026

The notes on pages 7 - 9 form an integral part of these accounts

1 Accounting policies

1a Basis of preparation

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The functional currency used by Thornton Hough Playgroup is the £ Sterling.

1b Reconciliation with previous Generally Accepted Accounting Practice

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 the restatement of comparative items was required.

There were no items as at the transition date which required restatement under FRS 102.

1c Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern. The Charity is entirely dependent on continuing grant and donation support and as a consequence the going concern basis is also dependent on that continuing financial support.

1d Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other 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.

Income received in advance of the provision of specified services is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

1e Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

1f Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity.

1g Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

Costs of raising funds comprise the consists of commercial trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading.

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

1h Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back-office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charitable activities. These costs have been allocated between costs of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 4.

THORNTON HOUGH PLAYGROUP**Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)****1i Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1j Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

1k Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are recognised at transaction value.

2. Income from charitable activities

| | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|--------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Fees for charitable services | 7,077 | 22,043 |
| Grants for charitable services | 90,407 | 57,970 |
| Fundraising and shop income | 3,944 | 2,849 |
| Donations | 140 | 140 |
| | <u>101,568</u> | <u>83,002</u> |

3. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

| | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Rent, rates and insurance | 5,625 | 4,821 |
| Telephone, stationery, equipment expensed and general costs | 8,395 | 8,364 |
| Repairs | 3,306 | 2,541 |
| Salaries and pension costs | 69,560 | 63,524 |
| | <u>86,886</u> | <u>79,250</u> |

4. Analysis of governance and support costs

| | General Support | Governance Function | Total £ | Basis of apportionment |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------|---------------------------|
| Independent exam | - | 504 | 504 | Governance |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>504</u> | <u>504</u> | <u>-</u> |

THORNTON HOUGH PLAYGROUP**Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)****5. Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel.**

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Salaries and wages | 69,560 | 63,524 |
| | <u>69,560</u> | <u>63,524</u> |

There were no employees who had total remuneration benefits in excess of £60,000 per annum (2024: nil).

The trustees received no remuneration during the year (2024: £nil).

The trustees did not receive any expenses during the year (2024: £nil).

There were no transactions with connected parties in the year nor were any assets disposed of to employees, trustees or connected persons.

The key management personnel of the charity is the Head teacher whose remuneration was £19,088.

The average number of employees was 5 staff (2024: 5).

6. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Accrued expenses | 504 | 456 |
| Deferred income | 5,789 | 6,736 |
| Other creditors - PAYE | 911 | 2,720 |
| | <u>7,204</u> | <u>9,912</u> |

7. Analysis of charitable funds**Analysis of movements in unrestricted funds**

The movement in the fund of the charity, which consist of one unrestricted revenue fund, are shown in the statement of financial activities.

All the net assets of the charity as shown in the balance sheet relate to the one unrestricted revenue fund.