

# SWINGS & SMILES

England & Wales · Charity number 1120598

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Charitable company

**Company number** [06182577](#)

**Registered** 2007-08-17

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** A Place to Play  
Lower Way  
Thatcham  
RG19 3RR

**Phone** 01635 285170

**Email** [office@swingsandsmiles.co.uk](mailto:office@swingsandsmiles.co.uk)

**Website** [www.swingsandsmiles.co.uk](http://www.swingsandsmiles.co.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** 3) THE CHARITY IS ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE AND/OR ASSIST IN THE PROVISION OF:3.1) CHILDCARE AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY, IN PARTICULAR (WITHOUT LIMITATION) CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS; AND3.2) FACILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION OF INDIVIDUALS, IN PARTICULAR (WITHOUT LIMITATION) CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE.

**Activities:** Most families take recreational play for granted. For families of children with special needs, this is impossible for some and extremely difficult for most. Swings & Smiles provides a fun and safe facility where children (SEND and their siblings) can enjoy play in a family setting appropriate to their needs and abilities. Outreach, online and sibling support services are also provided.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Disability, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NOT DEFINED IN PRACTICE NATIONAL
- Hampshire
- Oxfordshire
- Reading
- West Berkshire
- Wiltshire

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£555,729	£607,068	£627,729	25
2024-03-31	£482,732	£531,453	-	-
2023-03-31	£437,385	£456,326	-	-
2022-03-31	£379,599	£375,238	-	-
2021-03-31	£381,216	£321,538	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Jeffrey Kenneth Ives</b>	Chair	2025-11-17
Alan Michael Oliver		2025-02-19
Derek John Hardman		2022-09-14
Lisa Joanne Danskin		2025-09-15
Michael Megan		2021-06-07
Pamela Cottrell		2025-09-15
Suzanne Adamantos		2025-09-10
Victor Hormuz Mistry		2023-02-16
Victoria Sandars		2023-09-27

**SWINGS & SMILES**

England & Wales - Charity number 1120598

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# Accounts

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SWINGS  
& SMILES

# Swings & Smiles Annual Report

Year ended 31 March 2025

Company Registration Number 06182577

Charity Registration Number 1120598

# Swings & Smiles – Annual Impact Report 2024/25

Support, friendship and play  
for children with special needs  
and their families.





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Founded in 2007 by Sian Cook, Swings & Smiles was born from a personal journey — after travelling 40 miles to access a specialist play centre for her daughter, Sian recognised the urgent need for similar services in West Berkshire. Following years of successful fundraising, the charity began offering services in 2014 at the Phoenix Resource Centre in Newbury. Renting rooms from West Berkshire Council within a day centre for adults with disabilities provided an ideal starting point to understand and respond to families’ needs.

In March 2017, Swings & Smiles moved into A Place to Play in Thatcham — a dedicated centre leased from West Berkshire Council. This purpose-developed facility features an outdoor playground and a specialist sensory area, designed to foster inclusive play and support for children with special needs and their families.

Swings & Smiles welcomes children and young people aged 0 to 19, with no requirement for formal diagnosis or referral. Families are invited from all areas, not just the local community. We believe play is fundamental to every child’s development, and our centre is fully equipped to provide a safe, stimulating environment. Facilities include a sensory room, spacious activity areas, an accessible playground, and a personal care room with hoist equipment.

Our services run throughout the week — including evenings, weekends, and school holidays — offering family play sessions, respite care, and outreach support. At Swings & Smiles, we’re committed to creating joyful, inclusive experiences that support the whole family.



## Our Mission

Swings & Smiles is committed to improving the quality of life for disabled children and their families.

## Our Vision

A world where everyone has the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential.

## Aims and Objectives

Swings & Smiles exists to support children and young people with special needs, their families, and carers by:

1. Providing fun and freedom in a safe, stimulating environment to develop confidence, independence, and sensory/motor skills.
2. Offering guidance, support, and information to parents, carers, and siblings.
3. Promoting the importance and benefits of play for all children, regardless of their disabilities.



## At the Centre

We have seen unprecedented demand for our services and have supported over 1,500 registered families and are actively supporting around 1,000 families throughout the year. Our after-school clubs and respite sessions remain oversubscribed, especially for children with complex needs, making Swings & Smiles the service of choice for many families and professionals.

Some of the feedback from parents & children across 2024 - 2025 included:



## Key Programme Areas Children Aged 0–5

Our Minis Family Sessions run weekly across the whole year. We work closely with Dingley's Promise and deliver outreach sessions in local family hubs.

We also support Ollie's Therapeutic Nursery, an independent OFSTED-registered setting for children aged 3–5 with speech, language, and communication needs. The nursery benefits from full use of our facilities and provides an alternative SEND early years provision.

As a family Jenni & Dan, Orlando & Aubree attend both our Minis and our Family Play sessions. As well as free play, at these sessions they come together to take part in planned activities aimed at helping a child's development, whilst having fun.

Our Family Play sessions support parents and carers to play with their children, socialise with others and take part in group activities. The interactions that Aubree and Orlando experience at Swings & Smiles make a huge difference to their social development, exposing them to new and different situations in a friendly environment, encouraging growth and learning.

*It is so heart-warming to be surrounded by people who truly understand how hard life can be raising SEND children.*

**Jenni, Mum.**

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## Family Play

Family play remains the heart of what we do, supporting the whole family – including grandparents – in a safe, welcoming, and non-judgemental environment. These sessions enable peer connections and create informal support networks that extend far beyond the centre. Our weekend sessions are particularly popular, and are normally full, with a waiting list some weekends.

*Swings & Smiles is an amazing place. It gives families a sense of belonging. We feel understood and know we are not judged by the staff or other families here. Our kids have somewhere to go together where they can still have their own space and do their own thing, but they are safe and we can spend time together, having fun and trying new activities.*

**Luke, Dad.**



## Respite Services

Our **after-school, weekend, and holiday respite** sessions support children with the most complex physical, educational, and behavioural needs. Spaces are highly sought after, relied on by families and recommended by social workers from the Children with Disabilities Teams. The Play Leader team are highly skilled with specialist training to meet the medical and behavioural needs of the children.

Swings & Smiles respite sessions are thoughtfully designed to give children with special educational needs and disabilities the chance to have fun, make independent choices, build friendships, connect with others, and develop essential life skills — all in a safe and supportive environment. We hold individual parent meetings three times a year to develop shared targets and review progress in a collaborative way.

*Sonny attends our After School Club at Swings & Smiles. At this club parents drop off their children and have some much-needed respite to do errands, spend quality time with one another or simply have time to self-care. It also gives Sonny a chance to grow his independence and socialise with the other children who attend.*

*The staff excel at balancing a child's differing complex needs with keeping the environment relaxed, homely and flexible and having a genuine interest in the child's interests. I think the biggest testament is how the children react to the staff at the centre and when we walk in the door. It's so comfortable for them and they are very happy; I think that says it all!*

**Carly, Mum.**



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## Youth Clubs

Youth Club offers an exciting evening program designed for children and young people from Year 3 to Year 9+, across both mainstream and SEND settings. Through the power of play, young people develop essential life skills such as building confidence, communication, creativity, and emotional resilience in a fun and natural way.

Each session is packed with exciting games, adapted technology, and a wide variety of inclusive activities that encourage friendship, socialisation, and a sense of belonging. Our dedicated team ensures the Youth Club is a safe, welcoming space where every young person can explore new interests, express themselves freely, and be their authentic self.

At Youth Club, play is both fun and a space in which young people learn, grow, and connect.



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## West Berkshire Council Building Resilience Contract

The Building Resilience Project - which is part of West Berkshire's early help initiative - supports families who are caring for a child with additional needs, pre or post diagnosis. It can be emotionally and physically challenging for parent carers, often leading to stress, isolation, guilt, and grief.

These challenges can make it harder for families to access support and increase risk of reaching crisis point. This project aims to provide a bespoke outreach service for families of children aged 3-11 with additional needs, offering early support to reduce the need for further statutory intervention.

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## Outreach Services

Not all families can access our Thatcham centre. Thanks to our Outreach Van, we take **specialist sensory equipment and sessions to schools, Reading Football Club home games, sports facilities, and community venues.**



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## Supporting Education and School Transitions

We support more families struggling with mainstream school environments. Our **Home Ed sessions**, led by a qualified teacher, include STEM, problem solving, cooking, and social skills. English and maths tuition has been added to the program this year as the need was identified.

*Feeling comfortable in the home ed sessions Grace was then able to start attending other sessions at the Centre, including the Spectrum Youth Club. Spectrum has been great for Grace; it has further grown their confidence and has now made a friend in the club. Grace is now always excited to attend the group and is no longer scared. Grace explained that they liked coming to home ed, and they look forward to it on a weekly basis. Grace would recommend it to anyone who is thinking about the group, and there is nothing that they would change about it.*

**Carole, Mum.**

The **Engage program** provides a safe space for children on reduced timetables, accompanied by parents or schools, to regulate and learn in a low-pressure setting.

## SIBSupport – Supporting Siblings

Our **SIBSupport** programme remains a vital part of our work:

- **SPARK Online** – Monthly sibling sessions based on the 10 Keys to Happier Living
- **In-person activities** – Art, cooking, Lego Masters, mystery food challenges, and more!
- **School workshops** – Expanded to include more conversation and peer support
- We supported **30 siblings** across various programmes in the last year.

*Swings & Smiles gives my son a chance to relax, have fun and to be seen for the amazing boy that he is, separate to his sister.*

**Helen.**

## Collaboration and Partnerships

We continue to expand collaborative work, including:

- Regular referrals from **West Berkshire Council**
- Hosting sessions with **speech and occupational therapists**
- Hosting the **Berkshire Sensory Consortium, Chatty Monkeys Hearing Impairment group**
- Close working relationships with **Dingley's Promise, Berkshire Youth, PALS, and Mencap**
- Sensory support at **Sebastian's Action Trust events**
- Weekly music therapy provided by **Berkshire Maestros**
- Hosting low-cost sessions for **local specialist schools**
- Host of the **West Berkshire Parent Carer Forum**, supporting parents to have their voice heard locally
- Founder member and Chair **Berkshire Fundraisers Network**
- Chair the **West Berkshire SEND Providers Forum**

We are members of the **Disabled Children's Partnership** and **Council for Disabled Children**, contributing to national dialogue on SEND support.



## Our People

We continue to support families that are experiencing the long-term impact that the pandemic has had on children and families alongside the cost-of-living crisis, and increasing school exclusions. At Swings & Smiles, we acknowledge the experiences of families helping them to be seen, heard, and supported.

Welcoming families with a warm drink at Family Play to 1:1 advice, we support families through emotional and practical difficulties — and celebrate successes with them too.

## Our Volunteers

Volunteers are integral to everything we do, extending the service that we offer to our families and enriching the community:

We have 55 **regular volunteers**

With a total of 1,368 hours

With an equivalent value of £16,703.28

We have been supported by 110 **Corporate Volunteers**

From 10 different local businesses.

With a total of 535 hours

With an equivalent value of £6,532.35

4 **Schools** have brought pupils to provide voluntary service

There were 7 **trustees** with a commitment of 10 hours a month = 840 hours

With an equivalent value of £10,256.40

**Totalling 2,743 volunteering hours with an equivalent value of £33,492.00**

Volunteers receive training in safeguarding, medical awareness, and communication. We ensure they feel appreciated, included, and valued.

### Ros's Story

*Ros will always say that she gets so much more from supporting families than she gives. Ros is a fantastic role model, befriending children and getting to know each child's needs. She builds trust with families and is respected by the team.*

## Staff Team



**CEO:**  
**Rhonda Nicklin**

### Senior Leadership:

- **Ellora** – Operations Lead
- **Becky** – 0 - 13 years' service lead
- **Julie** – Facilities & Impact Coordinator
- **Nicola** – Fundraising Lead

Across the charity we have a diverse team, both paid and voluntary, who are experienced and qualified in their area of work. We have set a high standard to ensure that we are skilled in areas of specialist childcare for SEN & disabled children, strategy, financial management, fundraising, marketing, cyber security, and health & safety. We are supportive of staff development, and across this year have supported the completion of a BSc in Child Development and have staff working towards a level 5 in Leadership & Management, Level 4 in Child Development, and Level 3 in Child Development. We have worked to pay staff a real living wage and are competitive in the local employment market to ensure that we attract and retain good people, treating all elements of the Swings & Smiles community fairly.

## Future Plans

As our registered families have surpassed 1500, our focus is on sustaining high-quality services while managing increasing demand. Key goals:

- **Expand capacity** through creative scheduling and collaboration
- **Supporting young adults of 18 – 25 years**
- **Strengthen support for 0 – 2 years babies with complex needs at birth and early years**
- **Strengthen Outreach** and develop consistent venues for delivery
- **Continue partnership with Reading Football Club** for inclusive matchday experiences
- **Increase collaboration** to maximise resources and impact



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## Funding and Support

### Commitment to Impact Amid Financial Challenges

In a climate of increasing financial pressure, the charity remains steadfast in its mission to support as many children and families as possible. Recognising the critical importance of its services, the Trustee board and leadership team have made a deliberate decision to draw on the charity's reserves rather than reduce or withdraw support. This proactive approach reflects a deep commitment to protecting vulnerable communities and ensuring continuity of care, even in uncertain times.

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## Structure, Governance and Management

The Trustees of Swings & Smiles assume the responsibilities that the charitable status demands. Swings & Smiles is a Company Limited by Guarantee (No 06182577), whose governing document is the Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated on 5th July 2007.

Trustees meet six times a year with regular committee meetings happening in between these times. Committees cover finance, strategy, people, property, marketing, events and fundraising.

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## Public benefit statement

Trustees have reviewed and considered the Charity Commissions' guidance on public benefit. The issues affecting children with special needs and their families are found throughout the general population. Access to the services provided by Swings & Smiles are available to anyone who requires them. Swings & Smiles also dedicates time and resources to raising awareness of issues surrounding disability amongst the general public.

## Responsibilities of the Trustees

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations. Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year.

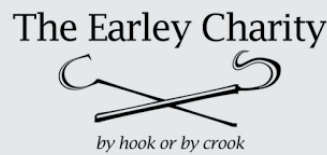
Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and 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; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business

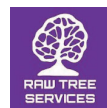
The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.



# Funders



# Corporate and Community Partnerships



# Trustees Annual Report

## Year Ended 31 March 2025

The Trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, have pleasure in presenting their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

### Reference And Administrative Details

Registered Charity Name	Swings & Smiles
Charity Registration Number	1120598
Company Registration Number	06182577
Registered Office	A Place to Play Lower Way Thatcham RG19 3RR

### The Trustees

The trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Derek Hardman	Chair
Tor Sandars	
Mike Megan	Treasurer
Vic Mistry	
Luisa Godfrey	Resigned 11/10/2024
Jeff Ives	
Quona Constable	
Alan Oliver	Appointed 19/02/2024
Company Secretary	Jacqui Ives (appointed 13/05/2024) Sandra Ferguson (resigned 01/06/2024)
Accountants	E J Business Consultants Limited Chartered Accountants 2 Toomers Wharf Newbury Berkshire RG14 1DY

## Structure, Governance and Management

Swings & Smiles is a registered charity (No 1120598) and Company Limited by Guarantee (No 06182577), whose governing document is the Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated 26 March 2007 as amended by special resolution dated 5 July 2007.

The Objects of the Charity are to support the needs of children and young people with special needs, their families and carers, by the provision of specialist facilities for play where the facilities and staffing meet the needs of a wide range of disabilities. In particular, the Charity aims to: -

1. Provide fun and freedom in a stimulating, challenging and safe environment, to develop self-confidence, independence and sensory and motor skills.
2. Provide parents, carers and siblings with support, guidance and information.
3. Promote the many benefits of developing and learning through play and the need for its availability to all regardless of their disabilities.

This Annual Report details our 18th year of operation which has seen our facility, “A Place 2 Play” continue to expand its range of services and attract more families from its base at Thatcham, Berkshire.

All Trustees are encouraged to read Charity Commission guidance on their role and responsibilities and receive regular updates from the Commission. Two Trustees each year are invited, by Rota, to confirm that they wish to continue to serve as Trustees, and these are confirmed by a Trustees vote at the AGM. Trustees continue to seek new Trustees to strengthen the Board’s experience and diversity.

All significant expenditure decisions continue to be authorised by the Board of Trustees, whilst income and outgoings are overseen by the Treasurer, who provides regular financial reports to the Trustees.

Our Patrons continue to provide active support and encouragement to the Charity.

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## Financial Review

During 2024/25 the Trustees and CEO continued their policy of focusing our management team upon fund raising activities whilst investing significantly in the wider team to support our expanding services. This increased investment led to a deficit of £51,339 in the year, leading to a reduction in Unrestricted Funds to £152,729.

The Trustees have been able to maintain the Restricted Funds at £475,000 within the main charity to finance future buildings development and/or purchase (see future plans below) in addition to ongoing investment in services.

All cash assets are held in a diverse range of FSCS indemnified accounts.

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## Plans For Future Periods

Trustees continue to re-evaluate expansion, and the Charity's longer term business plan, through to 2026 in the light of the experience gained from "A Place to Play" this year.

Although all options continue to be explored, the Board are in continuous discussions with West Berkshire Council to purchase the freehold site of "A Place to Play" and have prudently maintained the "restricted funds" to fully reflect this possibility.

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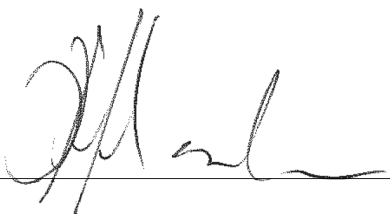
## Accountants

A resolution to re-appoint E J Business Consultants Limited as accountants for the ensuing year was proposed and accepted at the Annual General Meeting on 12th November 2025.

Registered office:

2 Toomers Wharf  
Canal Walk  
Newbury  
Berkshire  
RG14 1DY

Signed on behalf of the Trustees on 12th November 2025, by:



**Mr Derek Hardman**  
Chair of Trustees  
Swings & Smiles



**Mr Mike Megan**  
Treasurer Trustee  
Swings & Smiles

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# Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees Of Swings & Smiles

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2025, which are set out on pages 23 to 28.

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## Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- Follow the procedures laid down under the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention

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## Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present 'a true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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## Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has 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 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the

methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

- 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.



**E J Business Consultants Limited**

**Date**

2 Toomers Wharf

Canal Walk

Newbury

RG14 1DY

# Statement Of Financial Activities (Incorporating The Income and Expenditure Account)

Year Ended 31 March 2025

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>					
Income from generating funds:					
Investment income	2	11,811	-	11,811	9,107
Income from charitable activities	3	543,918	-	543,918	473,625
					-
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>555,729</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>555,729</b>	482,732
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Generating voluntary income	4	(44,908)	-	(44,908)	(30,077)
Governance costs	5	(18,879)	-	(18,879)	(10,328)
Charity running costs	6	(517,940)	-	(517,940)	(466,810)
Depreciation	7	(25,341)	-	(25,341)	(24,238)
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>(607,068)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(607,068)</b>	(456,326)
<b>NET INCOME/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>(51,339)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(51,339)</b>	(48,721)
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		204,068	475,000	679,068	727,789
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>152,729</b>	<b>475,000</b>	<b>627,729</b>	679,068

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared. All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

# Balance Sheet

## 31 March 2025

			2025		2024
	Note	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>99,538</b>		120,327
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	<b>8</b>	<b>16,667</b>		<b>31,272</b>	
Cash at bank		<b>584,577</b>		<b>535,890</b>	
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>601,244</b>		<b>567,162</b>	
<b>CREDITORS:</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>(73,053)</b>		<b>(8,421)</b>	
Amounts falling due within one year					
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			<b>528,191</b>		558,741
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			<b>627,729</b>		679,068
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Restricted income funds	<b>10</b>		<b>475,000</b>		475,000
Unrestricted income funds	<b>11</b>		<b>152,729</b>		204,068
			<b>627,729</b>		679,068

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

The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

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

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

These financial statements were approved and signed by the members of the committee on 12th November, 2025.



**Mr Mike Megan**  
Treasurer

# Notes to the financial statements

Year Ended 31 March 2025

## 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### **Basis of accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and 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 the Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

### **Fund accounting policy**

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are those donated for the use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

### **Income**

Donations are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Income from charitable activities includes income recognised as earned (as the related goods or services are provided) under contract.

### **Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be directly allocated to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

### **Governance costs**

Governance costs include costs of the preparation and examination of the statutory accounts, the costs of trustee meetings and the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

### **Fixed assets**

All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost.

## Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Property improvements	10% straight line
Play Centre equipment	20% reducing balance
Outreach equipment	20% reducing balance
Office equipment	straight line over 3 years
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance

## 2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	£	£
Building society interest receivable	11,811	9,107
	11,811	9,107

## 3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£
Centre Income	141,367	141,367	114,406
Donations	12,301	12,301	17,989
Grants Note 13	263,323	263,323	263,950
Legacy	1,875	1,875	241
Fundraising, see below:	125,052	125,052	77,039
	543,918	543,918	473,625

### Fundraising is broken down as below:

	2025 £	2024 £
Fundraising – Events	59,972	43,013
Fundraising – Community	30,383	13,961
Fundraising – Regular Giving	7,645	7,324
Fundraising – Other	-	6,514
Fundraising – Challenge Events	22,343	3,478
Fundraising – Digital	4,387	2,580
Fundraising – Facebook Online	322	169
<b>Total Fundraising</b>	125,052	77,039

## 4. COSTS OF GENERATING VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 2025	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£
Fundraising Costs	44,908	44,908	30,077

## 5. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£
Legal & Admin	9,254	-	9,254	7,564
Marketing	9,625	-	9,625	2,764
	18,879	-	18,879	10,328

## 6. CHARITY RUNNING COSTS

No salaries have been paid to employees over £60,000. No salaries have been paid to Trustees during the year. An analysis of the staff costs are:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Staff Costs: Salaries	375,303	322,606
NI	19,685	13,169
Pension	7,576	6,829
Total Staff Costs	402,564	342,604
Premises Costs	86,205	101,909
Miscellaneous Costs	29,171	22,297
Charity Running Costs	517,940	466,810

## 7. FIXED ASSETS

	Property Improvements	Play Centre Equipment	Outreach equipment	Office equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>COST OR VALUATION</b>						
At 1 April 2024	78,507	160,644	5,422	11,998	24,115	280,686
Additions	-	-	2,500	2,052	-	4,552
At 31 March 2025	78,507	160,644	7,922	14,050	24,115	285,238
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>						
At 1 April 2024	(19,551)	(115,418)	(4,292)	(9,139)	(11,959)	(160,359)
Charge for the year	(7,849)	(9,045)	(726)	(4,682)	(3,039)	(25,341)
At 31 March 2025	(27,400)	(124,463)	(5,018)	(13,821)	(14,998)	(185,700)
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>						
At 31 March 2025	51,107	36,181	2,904	229	9,117	99,538
At 31 March 2024	58,956	45,226	1,130	2,859	12,156	120,327

## 8. DEBTORS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Debtors	16,667	31,272

## 9. CREDITORS

Amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	10,283	2,480
Short term restricted funds	54,293	-
Other taxes and social security	8,477	5,941
	73,053	8,421

## 10. RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

	Balance at 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
Building Fund	475,000	-	-	475,000

## 11. UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

	Balance at 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
General Fund	204,068	555,729	(607,068)	152,729

## 12. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

The total reserves as at 31st March 2025 are £627,729.

## 13. ANALYSIS OF GRANT INCOME

	2025	2024
	£	£
National Lottery - Community Fund	97,500	86,250
Raised on The Good Exchange 24/25 from trusts including:	29,550	23,195
- Greenham Trust		
- Peter Baker Trusts		
- Miss W E Lawrence		
- Englefield Charitable Trust		
- Newbury Town Council		
- Hungerford Town Council		
- Thatcham Town Council		
Reading Ex Footballers		
Garfield Weston Foundation	25,000	-
PADWA Charitable Foundation	15,000	10,000
Thomas Curtis Charitable Trust	11,645	-
Barbara Ward Foundation – 3 year respite	6,000	6,000
The Kristina Martin Grant	5,000	10,000
PF Charitable Trust	5,000	5,000
Masonic Charitable Foundation	5,000	5,000
Other Grants	5,000	5,000
The Gerald Palmer Eling Trust	5,000	22,000
Bernard Sunley Foundation	5,000	2,000
The Sobell Foundation	5,000	-
Berkshire Community Foundation	5,000	15,000
Shanly Foundation	4,000	4,000
CoOp	3,723	-
Peter Harrison Foundation	3,500	-
Skipton Building Society	3,080	-
Persimmon Homes	3,000	-
The Neighbourly Foundation	2,500	700
The Payne Gallwey Charitable Trust	2,500	-
Groundwork UK	2,125	375
Charities Trust	2,000	-
Colefax Charitable Trust	2,000	-
Bruce Wake Charitable Trust	1,500	-
Cameron McKenna Foundation	1,250	-
Parry Family Charitable Trust	1,000	1,130
Illiffe Family Trust	1,000	1,000
The AMMCO Charitable Trust	1,000	1,000
Stevenson Family Charitable Trust	1,000	-
Chris Laing Foundation	1,000	-
The Earley Charity	750	-
Bauer Radio – Cash for Kids	600	-
Thomas Curtis Foundation	500	-
Douglas Arter Foundation	500	-
Michael and Anna Wix Charitable Trust	100	-
Baily Thomas Charitable Trust	-	20,000
The Childwick Trust	-	10,000

### 13. ANALYSIS OF GRANT INCOME (continued)

St James Place Foundation	-	10,000
The Clothworkers Foundation	-	5,600
Anton Jurgens Charitable Trust	-	5,000
Jules Thorn Foundation	-	3,000
The Hedley Foundation	-	2,200
The Syder Foundation	-	2,000
Boshier Hinton Foundation	-	2,000
Woodroffe Benton Foundation	-	1,750
Cobrizo Lounges UK Ltd	-	1,000
The David Shepherd Cricket Trust	-	1,000
Walter Guinness Charitable Trust	-	1,000
Percy Bilton Charity	-	750
Marsh Christian Trust	-	500
Wates Family Enterprise Trust	-	500
<b>Total</b>	<b>263,323</b>	263,950





**SWINGS & SMILES**

England & Wales - Charity number 1120598

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# Accounts

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**Company Registration Number 06182577**

**Charity Registration Number 1120598**

**Swings & Smiles**  
**Annual Report**  
**Year ended 31 March 2024**

# SWINGS & SMILES

## ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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## Swings & Smiles – Annual Impact Report 2023/24

**Support, friendship and play for children with special needs and their families**

### **What We Do**

Swings & Smiles was set up in 2007 by Sian Cook, who after visiting a specialist play centre 40 miles away with her daughter, identified that a similar provision was required in West Berkshire. Swings & Smiles successfully fundraised until 2014 when we started to deliver services at The Phoenix Resource Centre, Newbury. Renting rooms from West Berkshire Council in a day centre for adults with disabilities was the perfect way to establish the needs of the children and families and finally in March 2017 we were able to move to A Place to Play in Thatcham. Swings & Smiles now has a centre that offers a variety of accessible play opportunities, including a purpose built outdoor playground and specialist sensory area, with a ceiling tracked hoist, this building is currently leased from West Berkshire Council.

Swings & Smiles offers a place to play and support for children with special needs and their whole family. No formal diagnosis or professional referral is necessary to access Swings & Smiles, and neither do you need to live in the local area. Services are available to any children and young people with special needs aged 0 to 19 and their families.

Play is critical to a child's development and at Swings & Smiles we believe that all children, regardless of disability, have a right to access play in an environment that is suitable for their needs. Our centre in Thatcham, West Berkshire has a range of resources which include a sensory room, large activity room and a brilliant garden with accessible play equipment. We have a personal care room with a hoist to support any needs and plenty of parking to make life easier for families. From our centre we offer a timetable of **family play sessions, respite sessions, and a range of family support**. We are open on weekdays, evenings, weekends and during school holidays.

**Our Mission** – Swings & Smiles is committed to improving the quality of life for disabled children and their families

**Our Vision** - We want a world where everybody has the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential.

## **Aims and Objectives**

The objects of the charity are to support the needs of children and young people with special needs, their families and carers, specifically in the interests of recreational activity and to provide opportunities for increased quality family time. In particular, Swings & Smiles aims to:

1. Provide fun and freedom in a stimulating, challenging and safe environment to develop self-confidence, independence and sensory and motor skills;
2. Provide parents, carers and siblings with support, guidance and information;
3. Promote the many benefits of developing and learning through play and the need for its availability to all regardless of their disabilities.



## **At the Centre**

Our services have continued to go from strength to strength and demand for our services are at an all-time high. We have helped 1,310 families registered to use our service with this number growing weekly and we actively work with around 1,000 families. We have continued to offer a higher number of respite and after school clubs. The numbers of children with complex needs remains high as parents know that we can meet the needs of the children and we have become their support of choice for their children.

Having a positive, 'can-do' attitude has meant we have met new families and been able to deliver new groups and sessions to a wider cohort of children than we have ever done before.

Following our annual February feedback survey, last completed in February 2024, we received the following feedback:

- 94% of families said that they had increased opportunities for social interaction as a result of accessing Swings & Smiles
- 86% felt their child had the opportunity to take part in something they wouldn't have been able to without our service
- 91% of families reported that they felt less isolated as a result of accessing the support Swings & Smiles provides

## **0 – 5 years**

We run Minis family sessions which are well attended on a Wednesday morning and we work collaboratively with Dingley's Promise Charity to offer greater support for families. We provide Minis Outreach sessions in family hubs around the area.

Ollie's therapeutic nursery works with 3 – 5 year olds with Speech, Language, and Communication Needs. This OFSTED registered therapeutic nursery, is unique in the provision that it offers. The nursery is independently managed and owned but supported by Swings & Smiles through the full use of our facilities to offer a real alternative SEND provision to families at this formative age.

## **Family Play**

Family Play remains at the core of the work that we offer, as we know that we are able to reach the whole family, including grandparents. Families enjoy the choice of activities and the large garden to enjoy a sense of freedom away from judgement and scrutiny which many can feel. These are the sessions where families make connections and the community is formed, Parents report that the support and empathy that grows from being together goes beyond the centre, with many meeting for coffee or even taking part in joint family activities and creating informal support networks, and friends for life.

“Swings & Smiles family play is an important part of family life for us. Volunteers Max and Emily are a great support when we visit. Each week our daughter will ask ‘will Emily be there?’ She has formed a great relationship with Emily and her being there makes her time at Swings & Smiles even more enjoyable.”

## **Respite**

The respite programme, which includes after school club and weekend and holiday sessions, is a respected service with social workers using it as the provision of choice for many families. It is oversubscribed and the challenge across this next year will be to continue to meet the needs of our growing community. Through respite we meet the needs of the most complex medical and intellectual disabilities, including challenging behaviours. We support 38 children with very complex needs.

*“When James is with Swings & Smiles, we are able to focus on quality time with his sister. We can relax knowing he is able to play safely in an environment designed to stimulate his play needs and with people we can trust to help him and support his development. It gives us some respite. It allows our daughter to have rare quality time with us.”*

## **Youth Clubs**

We offer a strong programme across the evenings to support children from year 3 to year 13 in both mainstream and specialist SEND settings. There is a strong focus on socialisation and supporting friendships through fun and engaging activities. We have a well lit garden that enables play throughout the year.

## **Everyone matters to us (E.M.U.) – Building Resilience**

We were awarded the contract by West Berkshire to support families of children aged 3 – 11 years, with additional needs at the early stages of pre or post diagnosis. The feelings of fear, worry, guilt, grief and isolation that accompany many parents and carers of children with disabilities can become overwhelming and on occasion lead to a crisis. The Building Resilience project is about supporting these families at the earliest opportunity, providing them with the skills and resources to help manage those challenges they face, which helps prevent them from reaching crisis point and needing further intervention from Children and Family services.

Swings & Smiles were awarded the contract due to their strong reputation of supporting the whole family through the strength of the programme that they offer, and the quality of the training that the staff receive. West Berkshire Council believe that contact with Swings & Smiles would provide an extended benefit beyond the programme delivered through EMU to families. The Building Resilience Project started on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 and we are ahead of target in the numbers of families that we are seeing.

## **Outreach**

Not everyone can get to our centre in Thatcham and so being able to take sessions into the community is an excellent way to fill this gap. Our van allows us to take the joy of Swings & Smiles out and about to schools, groups and individuals by bringing specialist sensory equipment and engaging sessions to them.

Outreach was also able to move forward again this year. Between April 2023 and March 2024 we visited 40 Outreach venues, 33 in Berkshire, 6 in Oxfordshire and 1 in Hampshire.



***'We have attended several of Swings & Smiles' Outreach sessions with our 13-year-old daughter Lexie, both with and without her three brothers. One of these sessions was at Reading Football Club. Having three football crazy brothers, Lexie watches a lot of football at home and really seems to enjoy it. She will focus on it for an extended period of time. She doesn't really have an interest in television generally. We all very much enjoyed our day out at Reading Football Club. It is rare that we can find an activity that is suitable for all of our children and that is also inclusive to Lexie's needs. The boys were all very excited to be taking Lexie to her first ever football game. We enjoyed the sensory room as a family before the game started and Lexie used it during the game also. It's a very welcome addition and certainly makes days out accessible for Lexie.'***

### **Supporting families struggling with mainstream school.**

We are supporting more families where children are struggling to adapt to mainstream school provision. We run sessions that include STEM activities alongside cooking and socialising as part of our Home Ed programme which is led by a qualified maths teacher. Alongside this we provide sessions for families and schools to attend supporting young people for whom full-time school is too challenging. The Engage session provides a place for children accompanied by parents, carers or school staff to explore activities in a calm and supportive environment with our skilled and knowledgeable staff.



### **Nathaniel Case Study**

Nathaniel started coming to Swings & Smiles in early 2024. He is 11 years old with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder. His mum Macala started bringing him to our Engage sessions after he was having difficulty in school, finding it hard to fit in and self-regulate his emotions whilst he was there. Our Engage sessions specialise in supporting children who are unable to attend school or are on a reduced timetable. It was when Nathaniel started attending Swings & Smiles that Micala noticed an immediate change in him as the environment brought him a sense of calm.

*‘Swings & Smiles allows Nathaniel to self-regulate, a place where he can be himself, somewhere where all the children are just like him.’ – Micala*

Nathaniel loves the sensory room at our play centre. It is a safe and calm environment for him to play with his mum, with staff present who understand his needs. He also loves the garden and enjoys getting involved with nurturing the plants here. One of his favourite activities is our sensory stories, as they give him a chance to get involved, interact and bond with others.

*‘As a family not being able to attend Swings & Smiles would have a huge negative impact on our lives.’ – Micala*

Micala couldn't believe the difference Swings & Smiles made in Nathaniel's life. It has enabled him to be calm not only during his time at our centre, but also at home and at school too. Micala had previously felt isolated and didn't feel she had anywhere to take Nathaniel. Now she has found Swings & Smiles, she knows she has a supportive community where Nathaniel can be the best version of himself and reach his potential.

*‘The work they do for each and every child is beyond words.’ - Micala*

## **SIBSupport**

The SibSupport programme continues to provide the adventure and fun that siblings need. We have continued to deliver our SPARK Online programme, a yearly online programme designed for siblings to interact with other siblings. Each monthly session aims to guide, inspire and encourage siblings with a healthy balance of fun (through games) and intentional life-related content. Each of the 10 modules throughout the year has been based on the '10 Keys to Happier Living' ([www.actionforhappiness.org](http://www.actionforhappiness.org)), and each session includes an optional take-away challenge! We have had up to 10 siblings at each session, and these have prompted a lot of useful discussion. The last of these sessions was in August and then we will repeat the cycle from October 2024.

SIBSupport sessions for all our different age groups have continued to be full of fun, laughter and friendship. We have put on mystery food challenges, explored new and creative art forms, held Christmas jumper parties during the festive season, held our own version of Lego Masters and indulged in many seasonal sweet treats. These have always been well attended and over the past year we have supported 33 siblings (across the age groups) at these sessions. We have taken the siblings on trips and organised special events, which we know can be difficult for families to do alongside their disabled child. We run SIBSupport workshops in a wide range of local schools, and we have updated the programme this year to ensure that we increase the opportunity for conversation and peer to peer support. As well as in-person workshops, we started online SIBSupport workshops for those who live further afield, which have been well attended. We were approached to deliver an online programme to the national charity MACS (Microphthalmia, Anophthalmia and Coloboma Society) to support their siblings, which was well attended.

***“Swings & Smiles gives both my boys a place to be themselves without any judgement”***

## **Collaborative Working**

Our work with other professionals and organisations continues to expand. We have strong working relationships with the Local Authority, receiving regular referrals from various teams to work with families who may not otherwise receive support from statutory services. We hold the Everyone Matters to Us contract through the Early Response Hub, with West Berkshire Council (WBC). We comment and contribute towards the WBC SEND strategy and chair the area SEND providers forum. We have a number of groups that now deliver regular sessions from the centre including speech therapy and occupational therapy, this service has extended into Ollie's therapeutic nursery which is a unique Ofsted registered therapy based nursery. Our outreach and sibling work is recognised and referred into by other organisations. We have shared programmes for our families with Berkshire Youth and PALS. We continue to work closely with Dingley's Promise for the under 5s. We provide a sensory space at Sebastian's Action Trust's bigger events. Berkshire Maestros provide music at our Wednesday respite sessions. We support the same families as Mencap so are looking at sharing resources. We work closely with the Volunteer Centre West Berkshire to promote the charity sector more widely. In a wider context Swings & Smiles are also members of the Disabled Children's Partnership and the

Council for Disabled Children to help raise awareness and input into wider issues that affect families that use our services. We hire our space at very low cost to local specialist schools during daytime sessions to encourage a richness to the young people's school experience.

## **Our People**

We continue to see the impact that the pandemic had on the SEND community alongside the challenges that the Cost-of-Living crisis have added. We have seen an increase in children that are home schooled or struggling to thrive in schools. Families of children with special needs experience many challenges, and at Swings & Smiles we're there to help families navigate these.

Looking out for parents at Family Play is an important part of our strategy and this starts with the humble cup of tea that all parents are offered and the opportunity to talk. At our coffee mornings when children are not present, we lend a listening ear and encourage peer to peer support, other times we may offer longer term or more involved support. Whatever it is, we're there to help families through the difficult times and make sure they're thriving.

***'When we get to the end of this journey for J-P and his family, I hope you and your team are able to recognise how significant you have all been to help support and hold the family together. Unmeasurable. We are not there yet but I still want to say thank you so much for everything you continue to do'***

*Andrew – Senior Behavioural Specialist – Learning Disability CAMHS Oxfordshire*

## **Volunteers**

Volunteers are hugely valued at Swings & Smiles, a mixture of corporate groups, young people and individuals. We have 54 regular volunteers who primarily support children and young people in sessions. Volunteer hours between April 2023 and the end of March 2024 amounted to 2126.35 hours excluding the time our board of Trustees dedicate to the charity. 93 corporate volunteers across different companies supported us and two schools brought students in for a day of volunteering. Our volunteers play an integral part to the Swings & Smiles team and in 2023/24 we had 54 regular volunteers and seven trustees on our board.

In 2023/24 we were supported by 25 businesses and three schools in this time totalling 713.75 hours. We ensure all regular volunteers go through an induction and training programme which includes safeguarding, knowledge of some of the medical conditions that they may witness when caring for children, and specialist communication training prior to starting to work with the charity. They are made to feel welcome, and part of the team and we ensure all our volunteers feel appreciated

through both informal and formal reward and recognition. We celebrate our volunteers as part of Volunteer Week as well as being included in our events.



***Mary is a fantastic volunteer and role model to our younger volunteers and staff. Mary has a unique way with the children we support. Whether it's engaging them with an activity, teaching them a new life skill or calming them down in their time of need, Mary takes a calm approach and always gives the children the best support possible. She also cares deeply about the children and gets to know them all as individuals, finding out what they enjoy, what their triggers may be and how she can help them develop their independence. She goes out of her way to build relationships with the whole family and will always talk to parents before and after sessions.***

## **The Staff**

Swings & Smiles has a dedicated and motivated team who place the needs of the children and families at the front of all that they do. Rhonda Nicklin has been CEO since December 2022 and is responsible for the centre budget and reports to the Chair of Trustees, Derek Hardman. It is the job of the CEO to ensure that appropriate training, policies and risk assessments are in place for all activities, including GDPR compliance and reports to each regular meeting of the Swings & Smiles Trustees.

Swings & Smiles has a senior leadership team supporting the strategic growth of the charity. Ellora Shippen is the Operations Lead, Becky Smith is Service Development Lead, and Katie Richman is Senior Play Leader. We have recruited Jacqui Ives to develop all human resource policies and procedures, to take the charity forward in

this area. The play team is made up of experienced and qualified staff working a mixed shift pattern to accommodate the growing needs of the charity and an increasing number of trained sessional staff and volunteers. SIBSupport and Outreach are led by dedicated staff.

## **Future Plans**

This coming year we will be working on ensuring that we can still offer services to everyone that needs us. As we now have more than 1,310 families registered with us it will be essential that we can still offer the high-quality experience that they expect from Swings & Smiles. We are already putting in place ways to manage demand on family play sessions and some of our respite groups and will continue to work with families and other professionals on this. Continuing to increase capacity to families, with the funding challenges that face the charity sector is a problem across the sector. We know that collaboration with other organisations to share facilities and work creatively together will give families greater choice both working with Swings & Smiles and by accessing other services and we are keen to ensure that our children get the best opportunities possible.

The need for increased support for siblings continues and this service continues to grow. Collaborative working with a national organisation has also seen the information and support we can provide siblings and parents increase hugely this year.

Our Outreach service continues to gain momentum. Demand across West Berkshire and surrounding counties is growing and we are mindful of creating longer term venue opportunities from which to run our Outreach sessions.

We continue to work closely with Reading Football Club allowing us to invite families to attend Reading Football Club home matches but with a break out space and sensory area for families, this provision has improved overtime and we are now able to access space that gives the families a fantastic view of the game while still accessing the sensory area.

## **Funding and Support**

The Big Lottery Fund continues to provide a large proportion of funding to cover revenue costs. Other foundations and trusts who have supported Swings & Smiles include: Greenham Trust, Gerald Palmer Eling Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation, Berkshire Community Foundation, Englefield Charitable Trust, Illffe Family Trust, Stevenson Family Trust, The Childwick Trust, Kristina Martin Trust, Padwa Foundation, Miss W.E. Lawrence, Parry Family Trust, St James Place, Wates Foundation Barbara Ward Foundation and P F Charitable Trust.

Corporate and community support was secured from Village Financial Services, Coop, MKM Building Services, Kosnic Lighting, AP&C, Newbury Building Society, Smile & Shine Dental Practice, Logicalis, and Donnington New Homes as well as token schemes in Tesco and Waitrose. Services in kind from local companies, including Scofell also provide much benefit to the charity.

We are actively involved in the local community, taking part in fetes and events where we can, to not only help raise funds but also awareness of our charity.

School support is always very welcome and this year we were lucky to be chosen as the beneficiary of activities being run by Cheam Pre-Prep School, St Bartholomew's School and The Downs School. This support provides funds, awareness raising opportunities and young volunteers.

We have been able to run some highly successful fundraising events including a Charity Ball at Newbury Racecourse, our annual golf day this year was held at Newbury and Crookham Golf Club and our annual Carol Concert at St Mary's Church, Thatcham.

Swings & Smiles is signed up to the Fundraising Regulator and has made the commitment to adhere to the high standards set out in the fundraising promise.



## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES**

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations. Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year.

Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and 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; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

The Trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, have pleasure in presenting their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

<b>Registered Charity Name</b>	Swings & Smiles
<b>Charity Registration Number</b>	1120598
<b>Company Registration Number</b>	06182577
<b>Registered Office</b>	A Place 2 Play Lower Way Thatcham RG19 3RR

**THE TRUSTEES**

The trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Derek Hardman	Chair
Tor Sanders	
Mike Megan	Treasurer
Vic Mistry	
Luisa Godfrey	Resigned 11/10/2024
Jeff Ives	
Quona Constable	
Amanda Walburn-Green	Resigned 18/04/2024
<b>Company Secretary</b>	Jacqui Ives (appointed 13/05/2024) Sandra Ferguson (resigned 01/06/2024)
<b>Accountants</b>	E J Business Consultants Limited Chartered Accountants 2 Toomers Wharf Newbury Berkshire RG14 1DY

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT** *(continued)*  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

Swings & Smiles is a registered charity (N<sup>o</sup> 1120598) and Company Limited by Guarantee (N<sup>o</sup> 06182577), whose governing document is the Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated 26 March 2007 as amended by special resolution dated 5 July 2007.

The objects of the Charity are to support the needs of children and young people with special needs, their families and carers, by the provision of specialist facilities for play where the facilities and staffing meet the needs of a wide range of disabilities. In particular, the Charity aims to: -

1. Provide fun and freedom in a stimulating, challenging and safe environment, to develop self-confidence, independence and sensory and motor skills;
2. Provide parents, carers and siblings with support, guidance and information;
3. Promote the many benefits of developing and learning through play and the need for its availability to all regardless of their disabilities.

This Annual Report details our 17th year of operation which has seen our facility, "A Place 2 Play" continue to expand its range of services and attract more families from its base at Thatcham, Berkshire.

All Trustees are encouraged to read Charity Commission guidance on their role and responsibilities and receive regular updates from the Commission. Two Trustees each year are invited, by rota, to confirm that they wish to continue to serve as Trustees, and these are confirmed by a Trustees vote at the AGM. Trustees continue to seek new Trustees to strengthen the Board's experience and diversity.

All significant expenditure decisions continue to be authorised by the Board of Trustees, whilst income and outgoings are overseen by the Treasurer, who provides regular financial reports to the Trustees.

Our Patrons continue to provide active support and encouragement to the Charity.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

During 2023/24 the Trustees and CEO continued their policy of focusing our management team upon fund raising activities whilst investing significantly in the wider team to support our expanding services. This increased investment led to a deficit of £48,721 in the year, leading to a reduction in Unrestricted Funds to £204,068.

The Trustees have been able to maintain the Restricted Funds at £475,000 within the main charity to finance future buildings development and/or purchase (see plans for the future below).

All cash assets are held in a diverse range of FSCS indemnified accounts.

# SWINGS & SMILES

## TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT *(continued)*

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Trustees continue to re-evaluate expansion, and the Charity's longer term business plan, through to 2026 in the light of the experience gained from "A Place to Play" this year.

Although all options continue to be explored, the Board are in continuous discussions with West Berkshire Council to purchase the freehold site of "A Place to Play" and have prudently maintained the "restricted funds" to fully reflect this possibility.

### ACCOUNTANTS

A resolution to re-appoint E J Business Consultants Limited as accountants for the ensuing year was proposed and accepted at the Annual General Meeting on 13th November, 2024.

Registered office:

2 Toomers Wharf  
Canal Walk  
Newbury  
Berkshire  
RG14 1DY

Signed on behalf of the Trustees on 13th November 2024, by:



Mr Derek Hardman  
**Chair of Trustees**  
**Swings & Smiles**



Mr Mike Megan  
**Treasurer Trustee**  
**Swings & Smiles**

# **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of SWINGS & SMILES**

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, which are set out on pages 21 to 31.

## **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down under the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

## **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present 'a true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

## **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has 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 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
SWINGS & SMILES**

2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



---

E J Business Consultants Limited  
2 Toomers Wharf  
Canal Walk  
Newbury  
RG14 1DY

13.11.24

---

Dated

## SWINGS & SMILES

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
<b>INCOME</b>					
Income from generating funds:					
Investment income	2	9,107	-	9,107	6,229
Income from charitable activities	3	473,625	-	473,625	431,156
		<u>381</u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>482,732</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>482,732</b>	<b>437,385</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Costs of generating funds:					
Costs of generating voluntary income	4	(30,077)	-	(30,077)	(24,668)
Governance costs	5	(10,328)	-	(10,328)	(6,737)
Charity running costs	6	(466,810)	-	(466,810)	(403,198)
Depreciation	7	(24,238)	-	(24,238)	(21,723)
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>(531,453)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(531,453)</b>	<b>(456,326)</b>
<b>NET INCOME/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>(48,721)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(48,721)</b>	<b>(18,941)</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		252,789	475,000	727,789	746,730
Inter transfer of funds				-	-
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>204,068</b>	<b>475,000</b>	<b>679,068</b>	<b>727,789</b>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

# SWINGS & SMILES

## BALANCE SHEET

31 MARCH 2024

	Note	£	2024 £	£	2023 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	7		120,327		120,410
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	8	31,272		9,130	
Cash at bank		<u>535,890</u>		<u>641,442</u>	
		567,162		703,260	
<b>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	9	<u>(8,421)</u>		<u>(43,193)</u>	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			<u>558,741</u>		<u>607,379</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			<u>679,068</u>		<u>727,789</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Restricted income funds	10		475,000		475,000
Unrestricted income funds	11		204,068		252,789
			<u>679,068</u>		<u>727,789</u>

For the financial year ended 31 March 2024 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

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

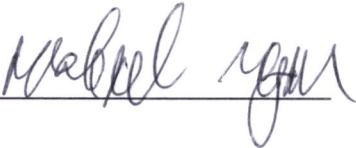
These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

# SWINGS & SMILES

## BALANCE SHEET

31 MARCH 2024

These financial statements were approved and signed by the members of the committee on 13th November, 2024.



---

Mike Megan

Treasurer

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and 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 the Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

**Fund accounting policy**

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are those donated for the use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

**Income**

Donations are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Income from charitable activities includes income recognised as earned (as the related goods or services are provided) under contract.

**Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be directly allocated to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

**Governance costs**

Governance costs include costs of the preparation and examination of the statutory accounts, the costs of trustee meetings and the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**Fixed assets**

All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost.

**Depreciation**

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

<b>Asset class</b>	<b>Depreciation method and rate</b>
Property improvements	10% straight line
Play Centre equipment	20% reducing balance
Outreach equipment	20% reducing balance
Office equipment	straight line over 3 years
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance

**2. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	<b>Total Funds 2024</b>	Total Funds 2023
	<b>£</b>	£
Building society interest receivable	<b>9,107</b>	6,229
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>9,107</b>	6,229
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£
Centre Income	114,406	114,406	84,901
Donations	17,989	17,989	28,506
Grants	263,950	263,950	258,923
Legacy	241	241	400
Fundraising, see below:	77,039	77,039	58,426
	<u>473,625</u>	<u>473,625</u>	<u>431,156</u>

Fundraising is broken down as below:

	2024 £	2023 £
Fundraising – Events	43,013	32,484
Fundraising – Community	13,961	15,211
Fundraising – Regular Giving	7,324	-
Fundraising – Other	6,514	1,603
Fundraising – Challenge Events	3,478	3,421
Fundraising – Digital	2,580	4,765
Fundraising – Facebook Online	169	942
<b>Total Fundraising</b>	<u>77,039</u>	<u>58,426</u>

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**4. COSTS OF GENERATING VOLUNTARY INCOME**

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£
Fundraising Costs	<u>30,077</u>	<u>30,077</u>	<u>24,668</u>

**5. GOVERNANCE COSTS**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Legal & Admin	7,564	-	7,564	5,567
Marketing	2,764	-	2,764	1,170
	<u>10,328</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,328</u>	<u>6,737</u>

**6. CHARITY RUNNING COST**

No salaries have been paid to employees over £60,000. No salaries have been paid to Trustees during the year.

An analysis of the staff costs are:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Staff Costs : Salaries	322,606	252,207
NI	13,169	10,950
Pension	6,829	5,522
Total Staff Costs	<u>342,604</u>	<u>268,679</u>
Premises Costs	101,909	89,385
Miscellaneous Costs	22,297	45,134
Charity Running Costs	<u>466,810</u>	<u>403,198</u>

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**7. FIXED ASSETS**

	Property Improve ments £	Play Centre Equipment £	Outreach equipment £	Office equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>						
At 1 April 2023	78,313	153,913	5,422	9,758	9,125	256,531
Additions	194	6,731	-	2,240	14,990	24,155
At 31 March 2024	78,507	160,644	5,422	11,998	24,115	280,686
<b>Depreciation</b>						
At 1 April 2023	(11,700)	(104,112)	(4,010)	(8,392)	(7,907)	(136,121)
Charge for the year	(7,851)	(11,306)	(282)	(747)	(4,052)	(24,238)
At 31 March 2024	(19,551)	(115,418)	(4,292)	(9,139)	(11,959)	(160,359)
<b>Net Book Value</b>						
At 31 March 2024	58,956	45,226	1,130	2,859	12,156	120,327
At 31 March 2023	66,613	49,801	1,412	1,366	1,218	120,410

**8. DEBTORS**

	2024 £	2023 £
Debtors	31,272	9,130

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**9. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade creditors	<b>2,480</b>	1,524
Income in advance	-	39,000
Other taxes and social security	<b>5,941</b>	2,669
	<b><u>8,421</u></b>	<u>43,190</u>

**10. RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS**

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
Building Fund	<b>475,000</b>	-	-	<b>475,000</b>

**11. UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS**

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31 March 2024
General Fund	<b>252,789</b>	<b>482,732</b>	<b>(531,453)</b>	<b>204,068</b>

**12. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

The total reserves as at 31st March 2024 are £679,068.

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

<b>13. ANALYSIS OF GRANT INCOME</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
National Lottery - Community Fund	86,250	94,795
Raised on The Good Exchange 23/24 from trusts including:	23,195	27,110
· Greenham Trust		
· Miss Lawrence Trust		
· Hungerford Town Council		
The Gerald Palmer Eling Trust	22,000	10,000
Baily Thomas Charitable Trust	20,000	-
Postcode Society	-	22,378
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	25,000
Berkshire Community Foundation	15,000	10,000
PADWA Charitable Foundation	10,000	15,000
Edward Gostling Foundation	-	10,000
The Kristina Martin Grant	10,000	-
The Childwick Trust	10,000	-
St James Place Foundation	10,000	2,500
Barbara Ward Foundation – 3 year respite	6,000	6,000
The Clothworkers Foundation	5,600	-
Colefax Charitable Trust	-	5,000
PF Charitable Trust	5,000	5,000
Masonic Charitable Foundation	5,000	-
The Sackler Trust	5,000	-
Anton Jurgens Charitable Trust	5,000	-
Englefield Charity	-	5,000
Shanly Foundation	4,000	3,000
Jules Thorn Foundation	3,000	3,000
The Hedley Foundation	2,200	-
The Syder Foundation	2,000	5,000
Boshier Hinton Foundation	2,000	-
Bernard Sunley Foundation	2,000	2,900
Berkshire Masonic Charity	-	1,200
Woodroffe Benton Foundation	1,750	-
Parry Family Charitable Trust	1,130	-
Cobrizo Lounges UK Ltd	1,000	-
The AMMCO Charitable Trust	1,000	-
Illiffe Family Trust	1,000	1,000
The David Shepherd Cricket Trust	1,000	-
Walter Guinness Charitable Trust	1,000	-
Percy Bilton Charity	750	3,605
The Neighbourly Foundation	700	-
ESC Lottery Fund	-	935
Stevenson Family Charitable Trust	-	500

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

<b>13. ANALYSIS OF GRANT INCOME (continued)</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Marsh Christian Trust	500	-
Wates Family Enterprise Trust	500	-
Groundwork UK	375	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>263,950</b>	<b>258,923</b>

**SWINGS & SMILES**

England & Wales - Charity number 1120598

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# Accounts

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Company Registration Number 06182577

Charity Registration Number 1120598

**Swings & Smiles**  
**Financial Statements**  
**Year ended 31 March 2023**

# SWINGS & SMILES

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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## Swings & Smiles – Annual Impact Report 2022/23

Support, friendship and play for children with special needs and their families.

### What We Do

Swings & Smiles was set up in 2007 by Sian Cook, who after visiting a specialist play centre 40 miles away with her daughter, identified that a similar provision was required in West Berkshire. Swings & Smiles successfully fundraised until 2014 when they started to deliver services at the Phoenix Resource Centre, Newbury. Renting rooms from West Berkshire Council in a day centre for adults with disabilities was the perfect way to establish the needs of the children and families and finally in March 2017 we were able to move to A Place to Play in Thatcham. Swings & Smiles now has a centre that offers a variety of accessible play opportunities, including a purpose built outdoor playground and specialist sensory area, this building is currently leased from West Berkshire Council.

Swings & Smiles offers a place to play and support for children with special needs and their whole family. No formal diagnosis or professional referral is necessary to access Swings & Smiles, and neither do you need to live in the local area. Their services are available to any children and young people with special needs aged 0 to 19 and their families.

Play is critical to a child's development and at Swings & Smiles we believe that all children, regardless of disability, have a right to access play in an environment that is suitable for their needs. Our centre in Thatcham, West Berkshire has a range of resources which include a sensory room, large activity room and a brilliant garden with accessible play equipment. We also have a personal care room and plenty of parking. From our centre we offer a timetable of **family play sessions, respite sessions, and a range of family support**. We are open on weekdays, evenings, weekends and during school holidays.

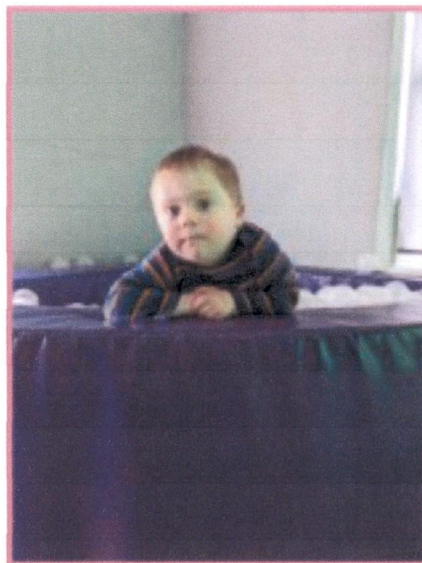
**Our Mission** – Swings & Smiles is committed to improving the quality of life for disabled children and their families

**Our Vision** - We want a world where everybody has the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential.

## **Aims and Objectives**

The objects of the charity are to support the needs of children and young people with special needs, their families and carers, specifically in the interests of recreational activity and to provide opportunities for increased quality family time. In particular Swings & Smiles aims to:

1. Provide fun and freedom in a stimulating, challenging and safe environment to develop self-confidence, independence and sensory and motor skills;
2. Provide parents, carers and siblings with support, guidance and information;
3. Promote the many benefits of developing and learning through play and the need for it's availability to all regardless of their disabilities.



## **At the Centre**

Our services have continued to go from strength to strength and demand for our services are at an all time high. We have helped 1,739 individuals and now have 1,226 families registered to use our service with this number growing weekly.

We have continued to offer a higher number of respite and after school clubs. The numbers of children with complex needs has also increased by 51%, going from 27 children to 41 children in the last year.

Having a positive, 'can-do' attitude has meant we have met new families and been able to deliver new groups and sessions to a wider cohort of children than we have ever done before.

***“Swings & Smiles is the only place my son can go without us being anxious about it. The last time he went to respite he came back and told me he had played with another child and they were friends. This happened because Swings & Smiles is a safe, happy place for him.”***

Following our annual February feedback survey, last completed in February 2023, we received the following feedback:

- 94% of families said that they had increased opportunities for social interaction as a result of accessing Swings & Smiles
- 89% felt their child had the opportunity to take part in something they wouldn't have been able to without our service
- 94% of families reported that they felt less isolated as a result of accessing the support Swings & Smiles provides

## **SIBSupport**

**SIBSupport has provided siblings with numerous opportunities to have fun and develop friendships with one another.**

This past year at SIBSupport has been full of activity and adventure. We completed our pilot SPARK programme (in which over 50 children signed up) which culminated in a fantastic PGL trip in August (with 34 sibling attendees). We covered a range of PSHE-style topics in the SPARK sessions (first weekend of each month), leading to a lot of helpful discussion. After our evaluations and feedback from both the siblings and parents, we made a decision to move future SPARK sessions to an online format and return our weekend sessions to our original offering of fun and games. This was to ensure that we are providing both forms of support (i.e. sibling-related content and respite) in a way that doesn't dilute the effectiveness of both.

In November we launched SPARK Online, a yearly online programme designed for siblings to interact with other siblings. Each monthly session aims to guide, inspire and encourage siblings with a healthy balance of fun (through games) and intentional life-related content. Each of the 10 modules throughout the year has been based on the '10 Keys to Happier Living' ([www.actionforhappiness.org](http://www.actionforhappiness.org)), and each session includes an optional take-away challenge! We have had between 3-10 siblings on each session, and these have prompted a lot of useful discussion.

SIBSupport sessions for all of our different age groups have continued to be full of fun, laughter and friendship. We have put on mystery food challenges, explored new and creative art forms, enjoyed sparklers and indoor fireworks at Bonfire Night, held Christmas jumper parties during the festive season, held our own version of Lego Masters and indulged in many seasonal sweet treats. These have always been well attended and since January 2023 we have supported 70 siblings (across the age groups) at these sessions. We have also taken the siblings on a number of trips including Four Kingdoms, Lydiard Park, Venue VR and Millets Farm. As well as trips, we have organised a few special events for the siblings too. We worked collaboratively with the NHS and Thatcham Young Carers to put on a successful event for siblings and young carers at the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading. We also organised a special transition event for siblings going from primary to secondary school, a SIBSupport Open Day for both new and existing siblings (along with their parents) and an Art of Brilliance workshop. We have also continued to run SIBSupport workshops in a wide range of local schools. As well as in-person workshops, we started online SIBSupport workshops for those who live further afield.

When asked about the aspects of our service to siblings that have been most beneficial, one parent said ***“I have noticed that my son has more self-esteem and has made really good like-minded friends.”*** Another parent answered ***“Just being together with others makes my child feel confident and happy.”***

***“Swings and Smiles has given my child the opportunity to meet other children with disabled siblings and to socialize with his peers.”***

## **Outreach**

Not everyone can get to our centre in Thatcham and so being able to take sessions into the community is an excellent way to fill this gap. The van allows us to take the joy of Swings & Smiles out and about to schools, groups and individuals by bringing specialist sensory equipment and engaging sessions to them.

Outreach was also able to move forward again this year. Between April 2022 and March 2023 we visited 40 Outreach venues, 33 in Berkshire, 6 in Oxfordshire and 1 in Hampshire.



***“I enjoyed that we were able to go to Reading Football Club as a family and as part of the Swings & Smiles group. It meant I knew I had back up to support my son.”***

### **Collaborative Working**

Our work with other professionals and organisations continues to expand. We have strong working relationships with the Local Authority, receiving regular referrals from various teams to work with families who may not otherwise receive support from statutory services. We comment and contribute towards the local SEND strategy and chair the local SEND providers forum. We have a number of groups that now deliver regular sessions from the centre included speech therapy and occupational therapy. Our outreach and sibling work also compliments this. In a wider context Swings & Smiles are also members of the Disabled Children’s Partnership and the Council for Disabled Children to help raise awareness and input into wider issues that affect families that use our services.

### **Lily’s story**

Lily is part of a family of five with her sister and brother. Lily is diagnosed with Down Syndrome and the family have found that there has been a lack of support when it comes to Lily’s diagnosis leaving Lily’s parents feeling they have to fight for help.

As a family they have found that there is nowhere safe they can take Lily to play and explore. This means that often the family has to split up so that Lily’s brother and sister can go to play at other places which leaves the family struggling to spend time together.

Lily has now been coming to Swings & Smiles for four years. Coming to the centre has allowed Lily and her family to have a place to play together, with it being the only place Lily's mum can take all three children and know they are safe.

Alongside accessing Family Play, Lily also comes to respite sessions at Swings & Smiles. Lily loves her respite sessions and it has been important to her parents that they have seen Lily coping on her own - and having fun!

Lily's sister also comes to SIBSupport and these sessions have been incredibly valuable. They have given her a chance to be around others who understand the struggles that can come with being a sibling without any judgement. SIBSupport has also meant that Lily's sister has been able to go on many adventures such as tree climbing and Christmas trips which they would be unable to do as a family.

Without Swings & Smiles the family feel that they would be even more restricted than they are currently. It has allowed the family to come to somewhere together other than home and the SIBSupport service has provided amazing support.



**The past year, more than ever, has highlighted to us how delicate everyone's wellbeing is and how important it is to look after our mental health. Families of children with special needs experience many challenges, and at Swings & Smiles we are there to help families navigate these.**

Sometimes we might help by making a parent a cup of tea and lending a listening ear at our coffee morning, other times we may offer longer term or more involved support. Whatever it is, we're there to help families through the difficult times and make sure they're thriving.

***"The sessions all provide us with something different and are all equally important to us. As my daughter gets older, respite provides her with the opportunity to socialise with her friends. It means that we can spend valuable time with our other children. Because of her physical and medical needs, we have absolutely no other option for her care so these sessions really are invaluable. Our son has built some lovely friendships with SIBSupport and the family play sessions provide a relaxed atmosphere that is safe and fun."***

## **Volunteers**

Volunteers are hugely valued at Swings & Smiles, a mixture of corporate groups, young people and individuals provided 2,215 hours of support in 2022/23 giving the charity a financial benefit of £22,150 (based on the equivalent wage system at a rate of £10 per hour). Our volunteers play an integral part to the Swings & Smiles team and in 2022/23 we had 50 regular volunteers and six trustees on our board.

In 2022/23 we were supported by 70 corporate volunteers.

We ensure all volunteers are made to feel welcome and part of the team and we ensure all of our volunteers feel appreciated through both informal and formal reward and recognition. We celebrate our volunteers as part of Volunteer Week as well as *holding an annual celebration event.*

***"Volunteering at Swing & Smiles has been an exciting, fun and the most fulfilling time. It's allowed me to not only understand but empathise with the experiences of a wide range of children and appreciate the incredible lives that they lead. I'm very happy to be a part of the Swings & Smiles community."***



## The Staff

Swings & Smiles has a dedicated and motivated team who place the needs of the children and families at the front of all that they do. Laura Lewis led the charity as Chief Executive for over eight years but left for pastures new in July 2022. Tor Sandars stepped down as Trustee to become interim CEO from September 2022 to December 2022. In December 2022 Rhonda Nicklin, who has known the charity for many years as her daughter Katie has been attending Swings & Smiles, was appointed as the new CEO in December 2022. The CEO has total responsibility for the safe and efficient running of the charity, and particularly to ensure that appropriate training, policies and risk assessments are in place for all activities, including GDPR compliance. The CEO reports to each regular meeting of the Swings & Smiles Trustees Board.

Swings & Smiles has invested in some key Senior Management roles to allow strategic growth of the charity. Ellora Shippen is in post as Centre Manager, Becky Smith as Service Development Manager and Katie Richman is Senior Play Leader. Hannah Waugh is now Fundraising and Impact Coordinator and takes responsibility for Admin and Impact measurement which is hugely beneficial to the charity. The play team is made up of a number of staff working different hours to accommodate the growing needs of the charity and an increasing number of casual staff and volunteers. SIBSupport and Outreach are led by dedicated staff.

## **Future Plans**

This coming year we will be working on ensuring that we can still offer services to everyone that needs us. As we now have more than 1200 families registered with us, it will be essential that we can still offer the high quality experience that they expect from Swings & Smiles. We are already putting in place ways to manage demand on family play sessions and some of our respite groups and will continue to work with families and other professionals on this. It is also likely that we will open more groups and explore new venues for delivery to further our growth.

Our work on inclusion and diversity continues to be a priority. An audit of what we are doing is underway. Swings & Smiles recognise the importance of this and whilst we are starting on our journey to improve how we work on this the commitment to do so is strong. Children, young people and families will be included in this very soon.

The need for increased support for siblings continues and this service continues to grow. Collaborative working with a national organisation has also seen the information and support we can provide siblings and parents increase hugely this year.

Our Outreach service continues to gain momentum. Having slowed down as a result of the pandemic our service is once again thriving with plenty of bookings. Demand in Hampshire is growing and we are continually looking at other venue options from which to run our Outreach sessions.

We have also entered into a joint initiative with Reading Football Club allowing us to invite families to attend Reading Football Club home matches but with a break out space and sensory area for families so that if their children find the whole match too much to cope with they can go and spend some quiet time in this sensory area.

## **Funding and Support**

The Big Lottery Fund continues to provide a large proportion of funding to cover revenue costs. Other foundations and trusts who have supported Swings & Smiles include: Greenham Trust, Gerald Palmer Eling Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation, Berkshire Community Foundation, Englefield Charitable Trust, Illffe Family Trust, Stevenson Family Trust, Kristina Martin Trust, Padwa Foundation, Barbara Ward Foundation and P F Charitable Trust.

Corporate and community support was secured from Village Financial Services, Coop, MKM Building Services, The Sash Window Workshop and Donnington New Homes as well as token schemes in Tesco and Waitrose. Services in kind from local companies, including Scofell and Castle Electrical Services also provide much benefit to the charity.

We are actively involved in the local community, taking part in fetes and events where we can, to not only help raise funds but also awareness of our charity.

School support is always very welcome and this year we were lucky to be chosen as the beneficiary of activities being run by Cheam Pre-Prep School, St Bartholomew's School and The Downs School. This support provides funds, awareness raising opportunities and young volunteers.

We have been able to run some highly successful fundraising events including a Chris Tarrant Music Quiz at Newbury Racecourse, our annual golf day this year was held at Wokefield Park and our annual Carol Concert.

Swings & Smiles is signed up to the Fundraising Regulator and has made the commitment to adhere to the high standards set out in the fundraising promise.

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

The Trustees of Swings & Smiles assume the responsibilities that the charitable status demands. Swings & Smiles is a Company Limited by Guarantee (No 06182577), whose governing document is the Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2007.

The Directors who served the company during the period were as follows:

- |                        |                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| - Tor Sandars          | Chair (resigned 14/09/22)  |
| - Luisa Godfrey        |                            |
| - Caroline Johnson     | (resigned 14/09/22)        |
| - Derek Hardman        | Chair (appointed 14/09/22) |
| - Mike Megan           | Treasurer                  |
| - Jeff Ives            | Re-elected 16/09/22        |
| - Quona Constable      |                            |
| - Amanda Walburn-Green | Re-elected 16/09/22        |
| - Vic Mistry           | Appointed 16/02/23         |

Trustees meet six times a year with regular committee meetings happening in between these times. Committees cover finance, funding, strategy, people, property, marketing, events and fundraising.

## **Public benefit statement**

Trustees have reviewed and considered the Charity Commissions guidance on public benefit. The issues affecting children with special needs and their families are found throughout the general population. Access to the services provided by Swings & Smiles are available to anyone who requires them. Swings & Smiles also dedicates time and resources to raising awareness of issues surrounding disability amongst the general public.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations. Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year.

Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and 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; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, have pleasure in presenting their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

<b>Registered Charity Name</b>	Swings & Smiles
<b>Charity Registration Number</b>	1120598
<b>Company Registration Number</b>	06182577
<b>Registered Office</b>	A Place 2 Play Lower Way Thatcham RG19 3RR

**THE TRUSTEES**

The trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Tor Sandars	Chair (resigned 14/09/22)
Mike Megan	Treasurer
Luisa Godfrey	
Caroline Johnson	(resigned 14/09/22)
Derek Hardman	Chair (appointed 14/09/22)
Jeff Ives	Re-elected 16/11/22
Quona Constable	
Amanda Walburn-Green	Re- elected 16/11/22
Vic Mistry	Appointed 16/02/23
<b>Company Secretary</b>	Sandra Ferguson
<b>Accountants</b>	E J Business Consultants Limited Chartered Accountants 2 Toomers Wharf Newbury Berkshire RG14 1DY

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT** *(continued)*  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

Swings & Smiles is a registered charity (N<sup>o</sup> 1120598) and Company Limited by Guarantee (N<sup>o</sup> 06182577), whose governing document is the Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated 26 March 2007 as amended by special resolution dated 5 July 2007.

The objects of the Charity are to support the needs of children and young people with special needs, their families and carers, by the provision of specialist facilities for play where the facilities and staffing meet the needs of a wide range of disabilities. In particular, the Charity aims to: -

1. Provide fun and freedom in a stimulating, challenging and safe environment, to develop self-confidence, independence and sensory and motor skills;
2. Provide parents, carers and siblings with support, guidance and information;
3. Promote the many benefits of developing and learning through play and the need for its availability to all regardless of their disabilities.

This Annual Report details our 16th year of operation which has seen our facility, "A Place 2 Play" continue to expand its range of services and attract more families from its base at Thatcham, Berkshire.

All Trustees are encouraged to read Charity Commission guidance on their role and responsibilities and receive regular updates from the Commission. Two Trustees each year are invited, by rota, to confirm that they wish to continue to serve as Trustees, and these are confirmed by a Trustees vote at the AGM. Trustees continue to seek new Trustees to strengthen the Board's experience and diversity.

All significant expenditure decisions continue to be authorised by the Board of Trustees, whilst income and outgoings are overseen by the Treasurer, who provides regular financial reports to the Trustees.

Our Patrons continue to provide active support and encouragement to the Charity and, this year, their patronage has been vital as the Charity coped with the recovery from the Covid 19 pandemic.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

During 2022/23 the Trustees and CEO continued their policy of focusing our management team upon fund raising activities whilst investing significantly in the wider team to support our expanding services. This increased investment led to a deficit of £19k in the year.

The Trustees have been able to maintain the "Restricted" funds at £475k within the main charity to finance future buildings development and/or purchase (see plans for the future below).

All cash assets are held in a diverse range of FSCS indemnified accounts.

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT** *(continued)*  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

Trustees continue to re-evaluate expansion, and the Charity's longer term business plan, through to 2024 in the light of the experience gained from "A Place to Play" this year.

Although all options continue to be explored, the Board are in continuous discussions with West Berkshire Council to purchase the freehold site of "A Place to Play" and have prudently maintained the "restricted funds" to fully reflect this possibility.

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations. Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year.

Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and 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; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT** *(continued)*  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**ACCOUNTANTS**

A resolution to re-appoint E J Business Consultants Limited as accountants for the ensuing year was proposed and accepted at the Annual General Meeting on 15th November 2023.

Registered office:


2 Toomers Wharf  
Canal Walk  
Newbury  
Berkshire  
RG14 1DY

Signed on behalf of the Trustees on the 15th November 2023, by:



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Mr Derek Hardman  
**Chair of Trustees**  
**Swings & Smiles**



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Mr Mike Megan  
**Treasurer Trustee**  
**Swings & Smiles**

# **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of SWINGS & SMILES**

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, which are set out on pages 20 to 29.

## **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down under the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

## **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present 'a true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

## **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has 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 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
SWINGS & SMILES**

2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



\_\_\_\_\_  
E J Business Consultants Limited  
2 Toomers Wharf  
Canal Walk  
Newbury  
RG14 1DY

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated

15/11/23

## SWINGS & SMILES

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
<b>INCOME</b>					
Income from generating funds:					
Investment income	2	6,229	-	6,229	1,381
Income from charitable activities	3	431,156	-	431,156	378,218
		<u>381</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>381</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>437,385</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>437,385</b>	<b>379,599</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Costs of generating funds:					
Costs of generating voluntary income	4	(20,013)	-	(20,013)	(18,211)
Governance costs	5	(11,392)	-	(11,392)	(6,204)
Charity running costs	6	(403,198)	-	(403,198)	(329,518)
Depreciation	7	(21,723)	-	(21,723)	(21,305)
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>(456,326)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(456,326)</b>	<b>(375,238)</b>
<b>NET INCOME/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>(18,941)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(18,941)</b>	<b>4,361</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		271,730	475,000	746,730	742,369
Inter transfer of funds				-	-
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>252,789</b>	<b>475,000</b>	<b>727,789</b>	<b>746,730</b>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

# SWINGS & SMILES

## BALANCE SHEET

31 MARCH 2023

	Note	£	2023 £	£	2022 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	7		<b>120,410</b>		96,880
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	8	9,130		14,875	
Cash at bank			<u>641,442</u>	<u>688,385</u>	
			<b>650,572</b>	703,260	
<b>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	9	<b>(43,193)</b>	<u>(53,410)</u>		
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			<b>607,379</b>		649,850
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			<b>727,789</b>		746,730
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Restricted income funds	10		<b>475,000</b>		475,000
Unrestricted income funds	11		<b>252,789</b>		271,730
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<b>727,789</b>		746,730

For the financial year ended 31 March 2023 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

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

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

# SWINGS & SMILES

## BALANCE SHEET

31 MARCH 2023

These financial statements were approved and signed by the members of the committee on 15th November 2023.



---

Mike Megan

Treasurer

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and 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 the Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

**Fund accounting policy**

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are those donated for the use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

**Income**

Donations are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Income from charitable activities includes income recognised as earned (as the related goods or services are provided) under contract.

**Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be directly allocated to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

**Governance costs**

Governance costs include costs of the preparation and examination of the statutory accounts, the costs of trustee meetings and the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**Fixed assets**

All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost.

**Depreciation**

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

<b>Asset class</b>	<b>Depreciation method and rate</b>
Property improvements	10% straight line
Play Centre equipment	20% reducing balance
Outreach equipment	20% reducing balance
Office equipment	straight line over 3 years
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance

**2. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	<b>Total Funds 2023</b>	Total Funds 2022
	£	£
Building society interest receivable	<b>6,229</b>	1,381
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>6,229</b>	1,381
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£
Centre Income	84,901	84,901	47,675
Donations	28,506	28,506	28,684
Grants	258,923	258,923	217,288
Legacy	400	400	120
Fundraising, see below:	58,426	58,426	84,451
	<u>431,156</u>	<u>431,156</u>	<u>378,218</u>

Fundraising is broken down as below:

	2023 £	2022 £
Fundraising – Events	34,087	60,231
Fundraising – Community	15,211	10,281
Fundraising – Challenge Events	3,421	5,068
Fundraising – Digital	4,765	5,909
Fundraising – Facebook Online	942	2,535
Fundraising – Regular Giving	-	427
<b>Total Fundraising</b>	<u><b>58,426</b></u>	<u><b>84,451</b></u>

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**4. COSTS OF GENERATING VOLUNTARY INCOME**

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£
Event costs	<u>20,013</u>	<u>20,013</u>	<u>18,211</u>

**5. GOVERNANCE COSTS**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Legal & Admin	10,222	-	10,222	5,443
Marketing	1,170	-	1,170	761
	<u>11,392</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,392</u>	<u>6,204</u>

**6. CHARITY RUNNING COST**

No salaries have been paid to employees over £60,000. No salaries have been paid to Trustees during the year.

An analysis of the charity's running costs are:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Staff Costs : Salaries	252,207	217,709
NI	10,950	11,053
Pension	5,522	5,652
Recruitment Costs	7,500	-
Training & Volunteer Costs	11,655	5,365
Total Staff Costs	<u>287,834</u>	<u>239,779</u>
Premises Costs	89,385	83,664
Outreach, Respite & SIB's	25,979	6,075
Charity Running Costs	<u>403,198</u>	<u>329,518</u>

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**7. FIXED ASSETS**

	Property Improve ments £	Play Centre Equipment £	Outreach equipment £	Office equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>						
At 1 April 2022	38,694	150,328	5,422	7,709	9,125	211,278
Additions	39,619	3,585	-	2,049	-	45,253
At 31 March 2023	78,313	153,913	5,422	9,758	9,125	256,531
<b>Depreciation</b>						
At 1 April 2022	(3,869)	(91,662)	(3,657)	(7,709)	(7,501)	(114,398)
Charge for the year	(7,831)	(12,450)	(353)	(683)	(406)	(21,723)
At 31 March 2023	(11,700)	(104,112)	(4,010)	(8,392)	(7,907)	(136,121)
<b>Net Book Value</b>						
At 31 March 2023	66,613	49,801	1,412	1,366	1,218	120,410
At 31 March 2022	34,825	58,666	1,765	-	1,624	96,880

**8. DEBTORS**

	2023 £	2022 £
Debtors	9,130	14,875

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**9. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	<b>1,524</b>	-
Income in advance	<b>39,000</b>	50,233
Other taxes and social security	<b>2,669</b>	3,177
	<u><b>43,193</b></u>	<u>53,410</u>

**10. RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS**

	<b>Balance at 1 April 2022</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March 2023</b>
	£	£	£	£
Building Fund	<b>475,000</b>	-	-	<b>475,000</b>

**11. UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS**

	<b>Balance at 1 April 2022</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March 2023</b>
General Fund	<b>271,730</b>	<b>437,385</b>	<b>(456,326)</b>	<b>252,789</b>

**12. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

The total reserves as at 31 March 2023 are £727,789.

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**13. ANALYSIS OF GRANT INCOME**

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
National Lottery - Community Fund	94,795	120,000
Short Breaks Funding 2022/23	-	24,247
Postcode Society	22,378	-
Raised on The Good Exchange 22/23 from trusts including:	27,110	21,690
· Greenham Trust		
· Miss Lawrence Trust		
· Hungerford Town Council		
West Berkshire Council		4,500
Garfield Weston Foundation	25,000	15,000
PADWA Charitable Foundation	15,000	-
Edward Gosling Foundation	10,000	-
Berkshire Community Foundation	10,000	5,000
The Gerald Palmer Eling Trust	10,000	5,000
Barbara Ward Foundation – 3 year respite	6,000	-
NFUM Donation	-	6,451
Colefax Charitable Trust	5,000	-
The Syder Foundation	5,000	-
PF Charitable Trust	5,000	-
Englefield Charity	5,000	-
Percy Bilton Charity	3,605	-
Skipton Building Society	-	3,000
The Payne-Gallwey Charitable Trust	-	2,500
Jules Thorn Foundation	3,000	1,250
Shanly Foundation	3,000	-
Education and Skills Funding Agency Apprenticeship	-	2,000
Bernard Sunley Grant	2,900	2,000
St James Place Foundation	2,500	-
Berkshire Masonic Charity	1,200	-
Arnold Clark Grant	-	1,000
Christopher Laing Foundation	-	1,000
Together Fund the Neighbourly Grant	-	1,000
Illiffe Family Trust	1,000	-
ESC Lottery Fund	935	-
Stevenson Family Charitable Trust	500	-
Big Dream Trust	-	500
Tigers Training	-	500
The Neighbourly Foundation	-	400
Newbury Building Society	-	250
<b>Total</b>	<b>258,923</b>	<b>217,288</b>

**SWINGS & SMILES**

England & Wales - Charity number 1120598

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# Accounts

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**Company Registration Number 06182577**

**Charity Registration Number 1120598**

**Swings and Smiles**  
**Financial Statements**  
**Year ended 31 March 2022**

# **SWINGS & SMILES**

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

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## Swings & Smiles – Annual Impact Report 2021/22

Support, friendship and play for children with special needs and their families.

### What We Do

Swings & Smiles was set up in 2007 by Sian Cook, who after visiting a specialist play centre 40 miles away with her daughter, identified that a similar provision was required in West Berkshire. Swings & Smiles successfully fund raised until 2014 when they started to deliver services at the Phoenix Resource Centre, Newbury. Renting rooms from West Berkshire Council in a day centre for adults with disabilities was the perfect way to establish the needs of the children and families and finally in March 2017 were able to move to A Place to Play in Thatcham. Swings & Smiles now have a centre that offers a variety of accessible play opportunities, including a purpose built outdoor playground and specialist sensory area, this building is currently leased from West Berkshire Council.

Swings & Smiles offers a place to play and support for children with special needs and their whole family. No formal diagnosis or professional referral is necessary to access Swings & Smiles, and neither do you need to live in the local area. Our services are available to any children and young people with special needs aged 0 to 19 and their families.

Play is critical to a child's development and at Swings & Smiles we believe that all children, regardless of disability, have a right to access play in an environment that is suitable for their needs. Our centre in Thatcham, West Berkshire has a range of resources which include a sensory room, large activity room and a brilliant garden with accessible play equipment. We also have a personal care room and plenty of parking. From our centre we offer a timetable of **family play sessions** and **short breaks sessions and a range of family support**. We are open on weekdays, evenings, weekends and during school holidays.

**Our Mission** – Swings & Smiles is committed to improving the quality of life for disabled children and their families

**Our Vision** - We want a world where everybody has the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential.

## **Aims and Objectives**

The objects of the charity are to support the needs of children and young people with special needs, their families and carers, specifically in the interests of recreational activity and to provide opportunities for increased quality family time. In particular Swings & Smiles aims to:

1. Provide fun and freedom in a stimulating, challenging and safe environment to develop self-confidence, independence and sensory and motor skills;
2. Provide parents, carers and siblings with support, guidance and information;
3. Promote the many benefits of developing and learning through play and the need for its availability to all regardless of their disabilities.



## **At the Centre**

For the past year we have continued to be impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic in terms of our service delivery, exploration of growth opportunities and fundraising. However, despite the challenges the pandemic provided we were also able to take advantage of new opportunities presented and as a result demand for our services are at an all time high. We have helped over 371 individual families this year (210 last year) and now have 864 (March 2022 figure) families registered to use our service with this number growing weekly.

From March 2021 much of our usual service delivery was back up and running, although with restrictions on capacity and many schools not allowing external visitors, our numbers were still limited. We tried to work outside as much as possible, running gardening groups and visits to local outside attractions so that as many people as possible would feel comfortable in attending groups and sessions.

Swings & Smiles made the decision to keep services running throughout the pandemic, initially with everything online and then only offering sessions outside and increasing our respite delivery significantly. As restrictions were lifted and normality resumed some services in our local area that were previously available for families have ceased or changed their access criteria. This has been especially true of groups offering breaks for families and time for children to be away from their parents. This has meant that we have continued to offer a higher number of respite and after school clubs. The numbers of children with complex needs has also increased by 91%, going from 44 children to 92 children in the last year.

As a result of the pandemic we felt it was important to offer support around mental health and wellbeing, many children and young people have experienced a level of disruption and in some cases trauma following the lockdowns and restrictions being put in place. As a charity we have seen large numbers of referrals from families who have had tricky home situations exacerbated by the pandemic and as a result we have put into place some new groups to mitigate this. This includes an extra daytime session and two specific sessions for children that are not in school currently. We have also made sure that our staff team are skilled to work in this way with additional training and resources now available.

Out of a very challenging set of circumstances Swings & Smiles has been able to grow and flourish as an organisation. Having a positive, 'can-do' attitude has meant we have met new families and been able to deliver new groups and sessions to a wider cohort of children than we have ever done before.

***“Swings & Smiles are a lifeline for us. Throughout periods I could not safely leave the house with Leo alone the centre offers a safe place to play with the most incredible and experienced staff who have literally helped me in/out from the car park. The centre makes the impossible, possible for us.”***

Our annual February feedback survey was well responded to with 42 parents giving us this feedback:

- 93% of families said that they had increased opportunities for social interaction as a result of accessing Swings & Smiles.
- 95% of families said that they had improved quality of life as a result of Swings & Smiles
- 88% of families state that Swings & Smiles has provided them with the opportunity to spend quality time together
- 90% of families report that they are less isolated as a result of accessing the support Swings & Smiles provides.

## SIBSupport

**SIBSupport has provided siblings with numerous opportunities to have fun and develop friendships with one another.** The siblings have participated in a wide range of fun activities over the course of the year, including a climbing wall, comic book making, designing tie dye t-shirts, water fights and much more. Over Easter we held the inaugural Egglympics, with the siblings participating in a series of egg-related events. During Halloween, the siblings dressed up as all sorts of ghouls and monsters and participated in games such as mummy racing. The older group have enjoyed trips out to Code Ninjas in Newbury and the Thatcham Christmas Light Switch On. They also enjoyed an enterprise day in which ENGIE came in to deliver an Apprentice-style team building exercise as well as workshops on CV writing and job interviews. In December, a team of siblings performed a fantastic action reading at the Carol Concert, and a number of our families were involved in the bucket collection in Sainsbury's in Newbury.

**Providing a space in which siblings feel safe and supported.** In a recent survey, 100% of siblings agreed with the following statements:

- As a result of coming to SIBSupport I feel like I can share anything about my sibling
- As a result of coming to SIBSupport I feel more able to cope with the pressures of having a sibling with special needs (20% strongly agreed)
- I have made new friends as a result of coming to SIBSupport (40% strongly agreed)
- I would recommend this group to a friend (80% strongly agreed)
- My confidence has increased as a result of attending SIBSupport (60% strongly agreed)

When asked about the aspects of our service to siblings that have been most beneficial, one parent said ***"I have noticed that my son has more self-esteem and has made really good like-minded friends."*** Another parent answered ***"Just being together with others makes my child feel confident and happy."***

## Outreach

Not everyone can get to our centre in Thatcham and so being able to take sessions into the community is an excellent way to fill this gap. The van allows us to take the joy of Swings & Smiles out and about to schools, groups and individuals by bringing specialist sensory equipment and engaging sessions to them.

Outreach was also able to move forward this year, although not quite at the pace that we would have hoped. Schools had been more cautious than we expected in allowing external visitors back. From early 2022 we have been delivering some sessions again with regular groups now running from Abingdon on weekends and in the holidays. School sessions have also started to build up again and delivery in

mainstream and special schools proving increasingly popular. Our joint working with other charities is a great way for us to meet new families and for them to be able to deliver specialist sensory sessions, these were always well booked before the pandemic and from Spring 2022 have been returning.



## **Collaborative Working**

Our work with other professionals and organisations continues to expand. We have strong working relationships with the Local Authority, receiving regular referrals from various teams to work with families who may not otherwise receive support from statutory services. We comment and contribute towards the local SEND strategy and chair the local SEND providers forum. We have a number of groups that now deliver regular sessions from the centre included speech therapy and occupational therapy. Our outreach and sibling work also compliments this. In a wider context Swings & Smiles are also members of the Disabled Children's Partnership and the Council for Disabled Children to help raise awareness and input into wider issues that affect families that use our services.

## **Our People**

### **Families – Kiera**

**The past year, more than ever, has highlighted to us how delicate everyone's wellbeing is and how important it is to look after our mental health. Families of children with special needs experience many challenges, and at Swings & Smiles we're there to help families navigate these.**

Sometimes we might help by making a parent a cup of tea and lending a listening ear at our coffee morning, other times we may offer longer term or more involved support. Whatever it is, we're there to help families through the difficult times and make sure they're thriving.

Kiera's parents met at school and were childhood sweethearts. Kiera is the couples' only child and they do not have any family who live close to them. Kiera was first diagnosed with epilepsy when she was 8 months old and following an MRI it was discovered that Kiera had a brain abnormality – which came as a shock to the family.

Kiera attends Swings & Smiles on a regular basis. The family started coming to the centre for Family Play sessions and now Kiera attends respite sessions on her own. Kiera can display challenging behaviour which makes it impossible for the family to go anywhere else. Places such as parks are simply not accessible and they struggle with other people not understanding Kiera. Before the family were able to access Swings & Smiles they felt very isolated with school being the only place Kiera attended.



Whilst at the centre Kiera has enjoyed accessing the garden and sensory room. She has gained so much from being around other children in small and bigger groups and Kiera has formed great relationships with staff and volunteers. Swings & Smiles has helped Kiera cope better around other people, especially in loud or larger groups. Kiera has found new and different things she loves to do at the centre and has been gaining more confidence in expressing what she wants to play with.

Respite sessions have also supported Kiera in developing her emotional wellbeing. She has been supported when she's been upset, when things aren't how she would like them, and this has helped the development of emotional resilience. Respite sessions have also provided Kiera's parents some time together as a couple which has supported their relationship. Family Play sessions have also meant Kiera's mum has made wonderful friends through Swings & Smiles, creating a community where she can feel less isolated.

***“Life would be awful without Swings & Smiles. I know that sounds dramatic, but I can honestly say without the support and services offered, we as a family just wouldn't cope.”***

## Volunteers

Volunteers are hugely valued at Swings & Smiles, a mixture of corporate groups, young people and individuals provided 1,689 hours of support in 2021 giving the charity a financial benefit of £16,890 (based on the equivalent wage system at a rate of £10 per hour). Our volunteers play an integral part to the Swings & Smiles team and in 2021 we had 43 regular volunteers and 9 trustees on our board.

Every year we ask our volunteers for feedback and 79% felt that the work they do has an impact and 89% say they felt appreciated. This is also reflected in length of service with 67% of our regular volunteers have been with us for over 6 months.

In 2021 we were supported by 4 corporate volunteer groups between them offering 156 hours of support.

We ensure all volunteers are made to feel welcome and part of the team and we ensure all of our volunteers feel appreciated through both informal and formal reward and recognition. We celebrate our volunteers as part of Volunteer Week as well as *holding an annual celebration event.*

***“Volunteering at Swing & Smiles has been an exciting, fun and the most fulfilling time. It’s allowed me to not only understand but empathise with the experiences of a wide range of children and appreciate the incredible lives that they lead. I’m very happy to be a part of the Swings & Smiles community.”***



## **The Staff**

Swings & Smiles has a dedicated and motivated team who place the needs of the children and families at the front of all that they do. Laura Lewis led the charity as Chief Executive and her deputy Lucille Harrison, Marketing and Fundraising Manager. As an organisation Swings & Smiles has invested in some key 'Senior Management' roles to allow strategic growth of the charity. Sara East is in post as Centre and Services Manager, Jo Ramsay as Volunteer and Fundraising Co-ordinator, Becky Smith as Service Development Co-ordinator and Ellora Shippen is Senior Play Leader. Hannah Waugh now takes responsibility for Admin and Impact measurement which is hugely beneficial to the charity. The play team is made up of a number of staff working different hours to accommodate the growing needs of the charity and an increasing number of casual staff and volunteers. SIBSupport and Outreach are led by dedicated staff.

## **Future Plans**

This coming year we will be working on ensuring that we can still offer services to everyone that needs us. As we approach having almost 1000 families registered with us it will be essential that we can still offer the high quality experience that they expect from Swings & Smiles. We are already putting into place ways to manage demand on family play sessions and some of our respite groups and will continue to work with families and other professionals on this. It is also likely that we will open more groups and explore new venues for delivery to further our growth.

Our work on inclusion and diversity will be a priority this year, a staff and volunteer survey has been distributed and an audit of what we are already doing is underway. Swings & Smiles recognise the importance of this and whilst we are starting on our journey to improve how we work on this the commitment to do so is strong. Children, young people and families will be included in this very soon.

During 2021 we started some specific work around mental health and wellbeing and have continued this with two groups recently starting to support young people currently out of school with some sessions being delivered by external tutors. One of our team is also a trained ELSA and she delivers 1:1 Emotional Literacy support to children as required. Managing the wellbeing of our team is also really important, following a staff survey towards the end of 2021 it was identified that time for people to relax and concentrate on themselves was really valued. We gave our team a Wellbeing Day off in April 2022 and have monthly 'Biscuit time' catch ups. Work on this continues, ensuring all of the team feel supported by the charity.

The need for increased support for siblings continues and having put additional resource into this over the past year we expect to see this service continue to grow. Our Sibling Support Co-ordinator has developed a new course, SPARK, which is a much more focused approach to supporting siblings and opens up many new opportunities for them. This course is unique and allows the young people to build upon skills each month working towards challenges. This programme has been well received and we are looking forward to taking a group of siblings on our first ever residential trip. We will also continue the offer at the centre, groups in school but also

focused online delivery for those who live further afield. Collaborative working with a national organisation will also see the information and support we can provide siblings and parents increase hugely this year.

After a slow year for outreach in 2021 this service is really gaining momentum. We are already running a regular group in Abingdon with more sites for this provision planned for areas in Hampshire and Reading. We put into place additional ways of delivering outreach to mainstream schools last year, working with children who would not have access to certain specialist, sensory resources. Bookings for this have been busy and for the first time ever we are working with mainstream secondary schools, this work grows and professionals are very excited by what we can offer. We also have a robust and exciting set of sessions that can be delivered in specialist schools and alongside other organisations to help offer opportunity for increased socialisation, friendship and play.

### **Funding and Support**

The Big Lottery Fund continues to provide a large proportion of funding to cover revenue costs. Other foundations and trusts who have supported Swings & Smiles include: Greenham Trust, Miss WE Lawrence, Gerald Palmer Eling Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation, St James's Place Charitable Foundation, Bernard Sunley, Berkshire Community Foundation and David Solomons Charitable Trust.

Corporate and community support was secured from NFU Mutual, Savills Estate Agents, Xtrac, Village Financial Services, Keller Williams, Skipton Building Society, Openworks Foundation, Arnold Clark, Sash Windows and Donnington New Homes as well as token schemes in Tesco and Waitrose. Services in kind from local companies, including Scofell and Castle Electrical Services also provides much benefit to the charity.

We are actively involved in the local community, taking part in fetes and events where we can, to not only help raise funds but also awareness of our charity. We were lucky this year to be the chosen charity by the Thatcham Mayor. Swings & Smiles sell tickets for a community lottery run by the local authority, this brings in an income of approximately £1400 a year.

School support is always very welcome and this year we were lucky to be chosen as the beneficiary of activities being run by The Downs School, Downe House School, Kennet School, Parson's Down School and St Bartholomew's School. This support provides funds, awareness raising opportunities and young volunteers.

We have been able to introduce back into our fundraising, events including a highly successful Fall Ball at Newbury Racecourse, our annual golf day this year held at Donnington Valley and a Gin tasting evening supported by The Globe, Newbury and a number of local Gin distillers as well as Fever Tree.

Swings & Smiles have signed up to the Fundraising Regulator and has made the commitment to adhere to the high standards set out in the fundraising promise.

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

The Trustees of Swings & Smiles assume the responsibilities that the charitable status demands. Swings & Smiles is a Company Limited by Guarantee (No 06182577), whose governing document is the Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2007.

The Directors who served the company during the period were as follows:

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| - Tor Sandars          | Chair<br>(resigned 14/09/22)                   |
| - Graham Page          | Treasurer and Secretary<br>(resigned 21/07/21) |
| - Andrew McKenzie      | (resigned 10/11/21)                            |
| - Luisa Godfrey        |  |
| - Caroline Johnson     | (resigned 14/09/22)                            |
| - Derek Hardman        | Chair<br>(appointed 14/09/22)                  |
| - Mike Megan           | Treasurer<br>(appointed 07/06/21)              |
| - Jeff Ives            | (appointed 01/04/21)                           |
| - Quona Constable      | (appointed 01/04/21)                           |
| - Amanda Walburn-Green | (appointed 01/04/21)                           |

Trustees meet six times a year with regular committee meetings happening in between these times. Committees cover finance, funding, people, property, marketing, events and fundraising.

Swings & Smiles was managed by Charity Director Laura Lewis, who reported directly to Derek Hardman (Trustee). Laura left the charity in July 2022. The trustees are working to recruit a replacement. In the interim Tor Sandars assumed the Charity Director role in September 2022. The Charity Director is responsible for the centre budget and reports to the finance Trustee, Graham Page who was replaced by new Finance Trustee, Mike Megan. It is the job of the Charity Director to ensure that appropriate training, policies and risk assessments are in place for all activities, including GDPR compliance and reports to each regular meeting of the Swings & Smiles Trustees.

### **Public benefit statement**

Trustees have reviewed and considered the Charity Commissions guidance on public benefit. The issues affecting children with special needs and their families are found throughout the general population. Access to the services provided by Swings & Smiles are available to anyone who requires them. Swings & Smiles also dedicates time and resources to raising awareness of issues surrounding disability amongst the general public.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations. Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year.

Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and 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; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, have pleasure in presenting their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

<b>Registered Charity Name</b>	Swings & Smiles
<b>Charity Registration Number</b>	1120598
<b>Company Registration Number</b>	06182577
<b>Registered Office</b>	A Place 2 Play Lower Way Thatcham RG19 3RR

**THE TRUSTEES**

The trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Tor Sandars	Chair (reappointed 10/11/22: resigned 14/09/22)
Graham Page	Treasurer and Secretary (resigned 21/07/21)
Mike Megan	Treasurer (appointed 07/06/21)
Andrew McKenzie	(resigned 10/11/21)
Luisa Godfrey	
Caroline Johnson	(resigned 14/09/22)
Derek Hardman	Chair (appointed 14/09/22)
Jeff Ives	(appointed 01/04/21)
Quona Constable	(appointed 01/04/21)
Amanda Walburn-Green	(appointed 01/04/21)
Sandra Ferguson	Secretary (appointed 01/04/21)
<b>Company Secretary</b>	Sandra Ferguson
<b>Accountants</b>	E J Business Consultants Limited Chartered Accountants 2 Toomers Wharf Newbury Berkshire RG14 1DY

# SWINGS & SMILES

## TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT *(continued)*

### YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

#### STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Swings & Smiles is a registered charity (N<sup>o</sup> 1120598) and Company Limited by Guarantee (N<sup>o</sup> 06182577), whose governing document is the Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated 26 March 2007 as amended by special resolution dated 5 July 2007.

The objects of the Charity are to support the needs of children and young people with special needs, their families and carers, by the provision of specialist facilities for play where the facilities and staffing meet the needs of a wide range of disabilities. In particular, the Charity aims to: -

1. Provide fun and freedom in a stimulating, challenging and safe environment, to develop self-confidence, independence and sensory and motor skills;
2. Provide parents, carers and siblings with support, guidance and information;
3. Promote the many benefits of developing and learning through play and the need for its availability to all regardless of their disabilities.

This Annual Report details our 15th year of operation which has seen our facility, "A Place 2 Play" continue to expand its range of services and attract more families from it's base at Thatcham, Berkshire.

All Trustees are encouraged to read Charity Commission guidance on their role and responsibilities and receive regular updates from the Commission. Two Trustees each year are invited, by rota, to confirm that they wish to continue to serve as Trustees, and these are confirmed by a Trustees vote at the AGM. Trustees continue to seek new Trustees to strengthen the Board's experience and diversity.

All significant expenditure decisions continue to be authorised by the Board of Trustees, whilst income and outgoings are overseen by the Treasurer, who provides regular financial reports to the Trustees.

Our Patrons continue to provide active support and encouragement to the Charity and, this year, their patronage has been vital as the Charity coped with the final stages of the Covid 19 pandemic.

#### FINANCIAL REVIEW

During 2021/22 the Trustees/Charity Director continued their policy of focusing our management team upon fund raising activities. Following a difficult fundraising year, unrestricted funds generated a surplus of £4k during the year.

The Trustees have been able to maintain the "Restricted" funds at £475k within the main charity to finance future buildings development and/or purchase (see plans for the future below).

All cash assets are held in a diverse range of FSCS indemnified accounts.

# **SWINGS & SMILES**

## **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT *(continued)***

### **YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

#### **PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

Trustees continue to re-evaluate expansion, and the Charity's longer term business plan, through to 2024 in the light of the experience gained from "A Place to Play" this year.

Although all options continue to be explored, the Board are in continuous discussions with West Berkshire Council to purchase the freehold site of "A Place to Play" and have prudently increased the "restricted funds" to fully reflect this possibility.

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations. Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year.

Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and 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; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

# SWINGS & SMILES

## TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT *(continued)*

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022


### ACCOUNTANTS

A resolution to re-appoint E J Business Consultants Limited as accountants for the ensuing year was proposed and accepted at the Annual General Meeting on 16th November 2022.


Registered office:

2 Toomers Wharf  
Canal Walk  
Newbury  
Berkshire  
RG14 1DY

Signed on behalf of the Trustees on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022, by:



Mr Derek Hardman  
**Chair of Trustees**  
**Swings & Smiles**



Mr Mike Megan  
**Treasurer Trustee**  
**Swings & Smiles**

# **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of SWINGS & SMILES**

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, which are set out on pages 20 to 29.

## **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down under the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

## **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present 'a true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

## **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has 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 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
SWINGS & SMILES**

2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



---

E J Business Consultants Limited  
2 Toomers Wharf  
Canal Walk  
Newbury  
RG14 1DY



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Dated

## SWINGS & SMILES

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
<b>INCOME</b>					
Income from generating funds:					
Investment income	2	1,381	-	1,381	6,974
Income from charitable activities	3	378,218	-	378,218	374,242
		-	-		-
		379,599	-	379,599	381,216
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Costs of generating funds:					
Costs of generating voluntary income	4	(18,211)	-	(18,211)	(7,481)
Governance costs	5	(6,204)	-	(6,204)	(13,398)
Charity running costs	6	(329,518)	-	(329,518)	(282,506)
Depreciation	7	(21,305)	-	(21,305)	(18,153)
		(375,238)	-	(375,238)	(321,538)
<b>NET INCOME/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>					
		4,361	-	4,361	59,678
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		267,369	475,000	742,369	682,691
Inter transfer of funds		-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>					
		271,730	475,000	746,730	742,369

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

# SWINGS & SMILES

## BALANCE SHEET

31 MARCH 2022

	Note	£	2022 £	£	2021 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	7		<b>96,880</b>		75,559
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	8	14,875		13,219	
Cash at bank		<u>688,385</u>		<u>654,603</u>	
		<b>703,260</b>		<b>667,822</b>	
<b>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	9	<u>(53,410)</u>		<u>(1,012)</u>	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			<b>649,850</b>		666,810
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			<b>746,730</b>		742,369
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Restricted income funds	10		<b>475,000</b>		475,000
Unrestricted income funds	11		<b>271,730</b>		267,369
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<b>746,730</b>		742,369

For the financial year ended 31 March 2022 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

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

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

# SWINGS & SMILES

## BALANCE SHEET

31 MARCH 2022

These financial statements were approved and signed by the members of the committee on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

Handwritten signatures of Mike and Megan in cursive script, positioned above a horizontal line.

Mike Megan

Treasurer

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and 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 the Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

**Fund accounting policy**

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are those donated for the use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

**Income**

Donations are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Income from charitable activities includes income recognised as earned (as the related goods or services are provided) under contract.

**Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be directly allocated to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

**Governance costs**

Governance costs include costs of the preparation and examination of the statutory accounts, the costs of trustee meetings and the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**Fixed assets**

All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost.

**Depreciation**

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

<b>Asset class</b>	<b>Depreciation method and rate</b>
Property improvements	10% straight line
Play Centre equipment	20% reducing balance
Outreach equipment	20% reducing balance
Office equipment	straight line over 3 years
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance

**2. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	<b>Total Funds 2022</b>	Total Funds 2021
	£	£
Building society interest receivable	<b>1,381</b>	4,730
Investment income	-	2,244
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>1,381</b>	6,974
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

**3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

		Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
		£	£	£
Centre Income		47,675	47,675	27,999
Donations		28,684	28,684	12,017
Grants	Note 13	217,288	217,288	299,386
Legacy		120	120	1,522
Fundraising, see below:		84,451	84,451	33,318
		<u>378,218</u>	<u>378,218</u>	<u>374,242</u>

Fundraising is broken down as below:

	2022 £	2021 £
Fundraising – Events	60,231	6,248
Fundraising – Community	10,281	13,287
Fundraising – Challenge Events	5,068	-
Fundraising – Digital	5,909	10,367
Fundraising – Facebook Online	2,535	2,801
Fundraising – Regular Giving	427	615
<b>Total Fundraising</b>	<u><u>84,451</u></u>	<u><u>33,318</u></u>

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

**4. COSTS OF GENERATING VOLUNTARY INCOME**

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£
Event costs	<u>18,211</u>	<u>18,211</u>	<u>7,481</u>

**5. GOVERNANCE COSTS**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£	£
Legal & Admin	5,443	-	5,443	8,343
Marketing	761	-	761	5,055
	<u>6,204</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,204</u>	<u>13,398</u>

**6. CHARITY RUNNING COST**

No salaries have been paid to employees over £60,000. No salaries have been paid to Trustees during the year.

An analysis of the staff costs are:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Staff Costs : Salaries	217,709	168,821
NI	11,053	8,974
Pension	5,652	4,709
Total Staff Costs	<u>234,414</u>	<u>182,504</u>
Premises Costs	83,664	86,600
Miscellaneous Costs	11,440	13,402
Charity Running Costs	<u>329,518</u>	<u>282,506</u>

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

**7. FIXED ASSETS**

	Property Improve ments £	Play Centre Equipment £	Outreach equipment £	Office equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>						
At 1 April 2021	12,124	134,272	5,422	7,709	9,125	168,652
Additions	26,570	16,056	-	-	-	42,626
At 31 March 2022	38,694	150,328	5,422	7,709	9,125	211,278
<b>Depreciation</b>						
At 1 April 2021	-	(76,995)	(3,216)	(5,922)	(6,960)	(93,093)
Charge for the year	(3,869)	(14,667)	(441)	(1,787)	(541)	(21,305)
At 31 March 2022	(3,869)	(91,662)	(3,657)	(7,709)	(7,501)	(114,398)
<b>Net Book Value</b>						
At 31 March 2022	34,825	58,666	1,765	-	1,624	96,880
At 31 March 2021	12,124	57,277	2,206	1,787	2,165	75,559

**8. DEBTORS**

	2022	2021
	£	£
Debtors	14,875	13,219

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

**9. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2022</b>	2021
	<b>£</b>	£
Trade creditors	-	2,474
Income in advance	<b>50,233</b>	-
Other taxes and social security	<b>3,177</b>	(1,462)
	<u><b>53,410</b></u>	<u>1,012</u>

**10. RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS**

	<b>Balance at 1 April 2021</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March 2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Building Fund	<u>475,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>475,000</u>

**11. UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS**

	<b>Balance at 1 April 2021</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March 2022</b>
General Fund	<u>267,369</u>	<u>379,599</u>	<u>(375,238)</u>	<u>271,730</u>

**12. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

The total reserves as at 31 March 2022 are £746,730.

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

**13. ANALYSIS OF GRANT INCOME**

	2022	2021
	£	£
National Lottery - Community Fund	120,000	120,000
Short Breaks Funding 2021/22	24,246	-
Raised on The Good Exchange 21/22 from trusts including:	21,690	35,715
· Greenham Trust		
· The Peter Baker Foundation		
· Hungerford Town Council		
National Lottery - Reaching Communities England	-	22,850
West Berkshire Council	4,500	20,900
PADWA Charitable Foundation	-	15,000
Garfield Weston Foundation	15,000	15,000
Baily Thomas Charitable Fund	-	15,000
BBC Children in Need	-	10,270
The Sobell Foundation	-	10,000
The Theodore Roussel Memorial Trust	-	8,125
St. James's Place Charitable Foundation	-	7,500
NFUM Donation	6,451	
Screwfix Foundation	-	5,000
Berkshire Community Foundation	5,000	5,000
The Gerald Palmer Eling Trust	5,000	3,000
Skipton Building Society	3,000	-
The Payne-Gallwey Charitable Trust	2,500	-
Shanly Foundation	-	2,500
Education and Skills Funding Agency Apprenticeship	2,000	-
Bernard Sunley Grant	2,000	-
Miss W E Lawrence 1973 Charitable Settlement	-	1,500
Jules Thorn Foundation	1,250	-
David Solomons Charitable Trust	-	1,000
Arnold Clark Grant	1,000	-
Christopher Laing Foundation	1,000	-
Together Fund the Neighbourly Grant	1,000	-
Other grants	-	1,026
Big Dream Trust	500	
Tigers Training	500	
The Neighbourly Foundation	400	
Newbury Building Society	250	
<b>Total</b>	<b>217,288</b>	<b>299,386</b>



**SWINGS & SMILES**

England & Wales - Charity number 1120598

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# Accounts

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**Company Registration Number 06182577**

**Charity Registration Number 1120598**

**Swings and Smiles**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**Year ended 31 March 2021**

# SWINGS & SMILES

## ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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## **Swings & Smiles – Annual Impact Report 2020/21**

Support, friendship and play for children with special needs and their families.



### **What we do**

Swings & Smiles was set up in 2007 by Sian Cook, who after visiting a specialist play centre 40 miles away with her daughter, identified that a similar provision was required in West Berkshire. Swings & Smiles successfully fund raised until 2014 when they started to deliver services at the Phoenix Resource Centre, Newbury. Renting rooms from West Berkshire Council in a day centre for adults with disabilities was the perfect way to establish the needs of the children and families and finally in March 2017 were able to move to A Place to Play in Thatcham. Swings & Smiles now have a centre that offers a variety of accessible play opportunities including a purpose built outdoor playground and soft play area. This building is currently leased from West Berkshire Council.

Swings & Smiles offers a place to play and support for children with special needs and their whole family. No formal diagnosis or professional referral is necessary to access Swings & Smiles, and neither do you need to live in the local area. Our services are available to any children and young people with special needs aged 0 to 25 and their families.

Play is critical to a child's development and at Swings & Smiles we believe that all children, regardless of disability, have a right to access play in an environment that is suitable for their needs. Our centre in Thatcham, West Berkshire has a range of resources which include a sensory room, large activity room, soft play room with ball pool and a brilliant garden with accessible play equipment. We also have a personal

care room and plenty of parking. From our centre we offer a timetable of **family play sessions** and **short breaks sessions** and **a range of family support**. We are open on weekdays, evenings, weekends and during school holidays.

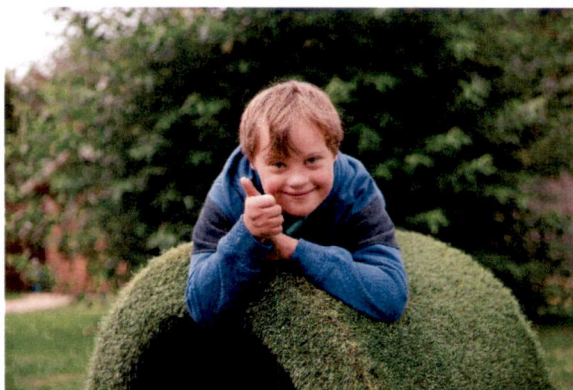
**Our Mission:** To support children and young people with special needs and their families to be happy, have fun and feel included.

### **Aims and objectives**

The objects of the charity are to support the needs of children and young people with special needs, their families and carers, specifically in the interests of recreational activity and to provide opportunities for increased quality family time. In particular Swings & Smiles aims to:

1. Provide fun and freedom in a stimulating, challenging and safe environment to develop self-confidence, independence and sensory and motor skills;
2. Provide parents, carers and siblings with support, guidance and information;
3. Promote the many benefits of developing and learning through play and the need for its availability to all regardless of their disabilities.

Swings & Smiles has a clear mission which is to support children and young people with special needs and their families to have fun, be happy and feel included. The charity facilitates these opportunities for support, friendship and play that would not be achieved elsewhere.



### **At the Centre**

Unsurprisingly this past year has been dominated by the Coronavirus pandemic and, to best cope in a fast moving situation, Swings & Smiles has continually adapted and changed the way we deliver our services. Ensuring children with special needs and their families still feel supported, have opportunities for social contact and could have a little fun too. We were able to help over 210 families this year.

From the end of March 2020 we were already working in a very different way, moving all of our support online or offering this virtually through telephone support. Having a clear plan and direction enabled this to happen quickly and the team were able to replicate a 7 day a week virtual timetable instead. This included running music, art, dance and cooking clubs, delivering specific sessions aimed at under 5s, sensory storytimes, Attention Autism groups and fun quizzes, general chatting and 'meeting up' for our older children too.

Whilst online support was gratefully received, as soon as restrictions started to ease families were keen to get back to the centre and in July 2020 we started some play sessions back in our garden. By the summer holidays we had reconfigured our timetable to offer more respite sessions than we have done before and, alongside our regular family play and sibling support groups, we delivered almost 1500 hours of support from May to September 2020.

As the picture continued to be so uncertain and further restrictions were put in place, by November 2020 the only face to face sessions we were able to deliver were respite groups. During this period, where guidelines allowed, we also ran family play, youth clubs, SIBSupport, outreach in schools and parent support. For families who could not attend face to face we continued to deliver virtual support.

Whilst there is still much unknown about the future we feel confident that we have the processes and newly acquired experience to be able to support our beneficiaries to have access to the right services as and when they need them. Having a positive, 'can-do' attitude has meant we have met new families and been able to deliver new groups and sessions to a wider cohort of children than we have ever done before, registering 113 new families in this period.

***"Thank you so much for your support throughout 2020.***

***I can't begin to tell you how much you have supported us and helped us as a family by providing Easter presents, pack for parents in lockdown, after school club, family play and respite sessions.***

***The whole team are truly amazing and your facility is wonderful, not just for Kiera but for me as a parent also."***

Spectrum and Oasis youth clubs continue to hugely enhance what we offer older children and teenagers. These groups are for young people aged 11-18 years who attend mainstream education, with a diagnosis of autism, and are a great opportunity to meet people and socialise in a safe environment. During lockdown these groups were some of our most engaged with online sessions. Now they are back to being face to face we are delivering them from the Swings & Smiles centre where previously these ran from a school hall. The young people are spending time making the centre a new home for the clubs and developing some of our outside space to better suit their needs. Following the success of these two groups we also run a new group for 8-11 year olds so that they can be part of these sessions and the opportunities they offer from an even younger age. We have also made the decision to expand the criteria of all the groups to include young people with social and emotional difficulties too. To compliment this set of youth clubs we are now running a group for young people who are at special school and would benefit from additional

social opportunities. This follows a very similar format to the other youth clubs but with some additional support if required.

***“Spectrum club has been an absolute life saver for my son and our family. Before Sam went he struggled with his diagnosis, high anxiety and found friendships difficult. Thursday evening is the only time Sam will leave the house without being forced. He comes back from spectrum happy and relaxed because he gets the opportunity to meet people like him, while being supported. I cannot express how grateful we are that this clubs exist.”***

***“Spectrum Club is a genuine lifeline for my son. It is the one place where he feels entirely at ease and is able to truly be himself. His confidence has grown since he has been attending and during lockdown, it was the one regular social contact he was willing to join in with. During the weeks of Zoom calls, he contributed regularly to discussions and quizzes. Since they have been able to meet face-to-face, he has also developed some firm friendships with one or two other members; this is not easy for him and he doesn't have a wide circle of friends so this has been a brilliant outcome. When we asked him what he likes about Spectrum, he replied that no-one there judges him and he feels normal. It's actually a lifeline for our whole family.”***

Parent support has been key during this past year with online quizzes, support phone calls, delivery of care packs and a new walking club. Parents have needed more interaction with our staff team than ever before and we had to be flexible in terms of the times we would deliver this, sometimes working evenings and weekends.

Our annual February feedback survey carried out this year was well responded to with 42 parents giving us this feedback:

- 85% of families said that they had increased opportunities for social interaction as a result of accessing Swings & Smiles.
- 100% of families said that they had had the chance to take part in an activity that previously they hadn't
- 95% of families state that Swings & Smiles has provided them with the opportunity to spend quality time together
- 93% of families report that they are less isolated as a result of accessing the support Swings & Smiles provides.

***“Just wanted to say a HUGE thank you for my thoughtful and wonderful care gift yesterday. It certainly brought a tear to my eye, this is such a difficult and strange time we are in and it's so lovely to know others are thinking of you. I hope you are keeping well and safe and I know myself and Archie are really looking forward to being able to return to normal sessions with you.”***

Alongside our online service delivery we also placed additional time and effort into making content to be shared on our social media channels. This included fun films showing how to make sensory resources, cooking with some of the children who

attend the centre and some Attention Autism sessions. At Christmas we filmed our own Nativity play that was viewed 59,000 times and shared by celebrity Giovanna Fletcher. This summed up the fun and joy that the children at Swings & Smiles have and provided them with the chance to do something that they would not usually have been able to do. Our social media engagement has increased significantly this year as a result of this extra energy, which not only raises the profile of our organisation but of children with special needs and their families as a collective.

## **SIBSupport**

For siblings the demand during lockdown increased significantly with around 30 children being supported each week online. In response to this demand we developed new ways to deliver activities and support. This continues to be the case as we try to work with as many young people as possible, mitigating against some of the issues that have been caused as a result of the lockdowns and restrictions. Our SIBSupport service has increased the level of support it offers and the reach of delivery over this past year, and we've employed a second member of staff to help specifically with this. There have been a number of research projects published recently citing the affects that lockdown has had on siblings of children with special needs and disabilities, and we echo these findings in our own interactions with young people. Many of our families felt hugely stressed. Parents were having to provide extra care and therapeutic interventions for their special needs child whilst also trying to support their other children with home schooling. More siblings were being required to take on a caring role as there was limited external support available to many families. Our online sessions during this time were very busy. New children were joining the groups each week and we were having to find additional ways to support those families who were reaching crisis point. 100% of our families praised the support we provided during this time.

***“Sib support at Swings and Smiles is a great service and offers our son a welcome source of fun, interesting events and the chance to share and discuss experiences outside the family environment. Staff are kind, helpful and full of encouragement. Nothing but praise for Sib support!”***

Time this year has also been spent developing the content of the SIBSupport groups we are running, with a specific SIBSChat group starting online for young people to come together across a wider geographical area and discuss key issues that affect them as a sibling. Collaborative SIBSupport sessions are being delivered with other charities and a new focused programme is being written and will be rolled out in September 2021, demonstrating that as a charity Swings & Smiles is pushing forward with the development of this area as a key priority within our 2021-24 strategy.

***“I asked Eddie about doing the older SIBS group but he said he didn't need to. We had a great conversation which he said I could share with you. I asked him why he didn't 'need' SIBS anymore and he said it was because his friends at home get it now and he gets any support he needs from them. We talked about how that happened and he told me that SIBS helped him to understand that he***

***could explain to his friends about T and gave him the skills to do that. Most importantly it gave him the confidence to do that.***

***So...I'm sad that Eddie doesn't want to do SIBS, but what an outcome! You have been instrumental in that - so a huge thank you to you and the team."***

## **Outreach**

Not everyone can get to our centre in Thatcham and so being able to take sessions into the community is an excellent way to fill this gap. The van allows us to take the joy of Swings & Smiles out and about to schools, groups and individuals by bringing specialist sensory equipment and engaging sessions to them.

Outreach was also able to evolve somewhat this year. Pre-pandemic it had been developing very quickly and bookings for sessions in schools and community venues had significantly increased. As soon as lockdown happened it was no longer possible to deliver this service so we had time to refine and develop a comprehensive and exciting programme. In the summer and autumn of 2020 Swings & Smiles were welcomed back into a few schools to deliver small group sessions. We had made the decision for these to focus on wellbeing and strategies around keeping calm. These went well and are planned to resume in June 2021.

***"Becky has been working with 3 of our children who have between them got difficulties in line with ASD, Attachment Disorder and Sensory Processing Difficulties. They can all be particularly hyper alert during the school day and there are points in the day that trigger their anxieties which results in difficulties with self-regulation. Calming activities always help and providing them with this layer of sensory opportunity has been a real success. The children have gone back into class calm and ready to learn which has been a delight to see and for them to experience. Becky has such a calm manner with the children and they have been really pleased to see her each time and looked forward to what she has brought with her. She was extremely well resourced and organised, and tidy!! Thankyou Becky for this wonderful opportunity for our children."***



## **Collaborative working**

Swings & Smiles are committed to working with other organisations to ensure best outcomes are gained for children and families. This is demonstrated through our work with local special needs and children's charities, being members of two local forums trying to prevent duplication of services and create activities that meet the needs of those that require them, with our CEO chairing one of these. In a wider context Swings & Smiles are also members of the Disabled Children's Partnership and the Council for Disabled Children to help raise awareness and input into wider issues that affect families that use our services.

Our work with other professionals and organisations continues to expand. We have strong working relationships with the Local Authority, receiving regular referrals from various teams to work with families who may not otherwise receive support from statutory services. We comment and contribute towards the local SEND strategy and chair the local SEND providers forum. Working with other groups and organisations has been more challenging over the past year but we've managed to develop and distribute a joint survey with the Local Authority and other SEND providers asking families to feedback views on respite and family support in the area. The findings from this are now being discussed and work to address gaps being put into place.

Our visibility within the local community has grown over the last year. Swings & Smiles has been part of three projects the Town Council have delivered during lockdown with the biggest being a Christmas event where several destinations around the town were chosen to showcase an art installation that the rest of the community could contribute and participate with. Swings & Smiles was one of these locations and we partnered further with a local primary school so that their children could be part of this. Subsequently relationships between us and the school have grown with them choosing us as the recipient of donations from a dress down day in the school. We also run two community toddler sessions a week at the centre, this is a great way to open up discussion about what we do with local families and to raise the profile of the charity.

## Our people

### Families - Charlie



***“I am just so grateful to swings & Smiles have they have gone above and beyond during such difficult times.”***

Charlie lives with his mum Jenny and is 4 years old. He has autism and hypermobility and it was apparent he had special needs when he was a few months old. Jenny is a single parent and they feel quite isolated, her father has dementia which means that it's difficult for him and Charlie to be around each other and this leaves them with limited family support.

Since starting to attend Swings & Smiles Jenny feels that she's been given some hope, Charlie got his diagnosis soon after becoming a part of Swings & Smiles and being able to come to sessions and discuss this with families that have been through the process was hugely helpful. There is somewhere that they can go together, play with people that are in similar circumstances, a place where others understand Charlie and his challenging behaviours

Friendships have been made for both of them, Jenny has made new friends herself and gets a lot from finding people that she can talk to and, through attending the centre, Charlie now has a small circle of friends that they can meet up with away from Swings & Smiles.

The staff team have been able to support Jenny and Charlie on their journey too. They have the experience to know what he needs, and understand the different ways he might engage in an activity, they push him to try new things too. The team also helped with the EHCP process and provided additional information about his behaviour in a social situation.

#### **During Lockdown**

Usually the family access a variety of activities and support including Portage, Nursery, SEND specific sessions at local play facilities and help from other charities, but this all stopped in March. Swings & Smiles offered a range of support through lockdown including making visuals specifically for Charlie to help him deal with all the changes he was going through. Easter eggs for Charlie and a care pack for Jenny, which really helped to pick her up when she was in a difficult place. Charlie had weekly Zoom calls with Helen, vital for him to interact with other children and adults,

including specific attention Autism sessions once a week which help him to engage focus for a specific amount of time. A great way for him to learn the skills he needs when he starts school in September. Becky offered a weekly phone call or a socially distanced visit for Jenny to just chat which made her feel less isolated, especially as a single parent.

***“If it wasn’t for Swings & Smiles I do not think we would have managed through lockdown as well as we have. I feel that the support from Swings & Smiles with the sessions for Charlie and the weekly phone calls for me has massively helped to protect our mental health and keep us in a more positive place. Charlies social skills and development would also have gone backwards as he would not have been getting the stimulation he needs. I think I would feel really depressed and in a very dark place if I had not of had the support I have received.”***

## **Volunteers**

Volunteers are hugely valued at Swings & Smiles, a mixture of corporate groups, young people and individuals provided 747 hours of support in 2020 giving the charity a financial benefit of £7470 (based on the equivalent wage system at a rate of £10 per hour). Our volunteers play an integral part to the Swings & Smiles team and in 2020 we had 22 regular volunteers and 7 trustees on our board. Every year we ask our volunteers for feedback and 88% felt that the work they do has an impact and 100% said they were satisfied with their volunteer experience. This is also reflected in length of service with 58% of our regular volunteers have been with us for over 6 months and of these 53% have been volunteering at Swings & Smiles for over 2 years.

In February 2020 Baxter Healthcare volunteered as a corporate group offering a total of 24 volunteer hours. We are so grateful for the support we receive from the local community and hope to continue to be able to welcome back more corporate groups in 2021.

We ensure all volunteers are made to feel welcome and part of the team and we ensure all of our volunteers feel appreciated through both informal and formal reward and recognition. We celebrate our volunteers as part of Volunteer Week as well as holding an annual celebration event.

***“There are so many talented and smart people at Swings & Smiles, to be a part and converse with like minded people opens up my perspective. Everyone should have the fair opportunities to achieve whatever they set their minds to and I feel Swings & Smiles gives them that backing to do so.”***



### **The staff**

Swings & Smiles has a dedicated and motivated team who place the needs of the children and families at the front of all that they do. Laura Lewis leads the charity as Chief Executive and her deputy Lucille Harrison, Marketing and Fundraising Manager. As an organisation Swings & Smiles has invested in some key 'Senior Management' roles to allow strategic growth of the charity. Sara East is in post as Centre and Services Manager and Jo Ramsay as Volunteer and Fundraising Co-ordinator. The play team is made up of a number of staff working different hours to accommodate the growing needs of the charity and an increasing number of volunteers. SIBSupport is led by Ben Hulks and Outreach by Becky Smith.

### **Future Plans**

Up until December 2020 we had been co-located with a pre-school which has at times been a challenge, both in terms of the physical space we have to deliver sessions to families but also having enough space to house our growing staff team. Now they have moved on we are reconfiguring our centre to make it even more accessible and to allow us the appropriate environments to work with a larger number of children and families. The work on the centre will be completed by July 2021 and has a new ceiling hoist, significantly increased sensory areas and a larger, accessible kitchen. There is also additional outdoor space that we will start to reconfigure and utilise to meet the needs of a wider and more diverse group of children and young people.

We started some specific work around mental health and wellbeing and hope to continue this, both as stand alone support but also to integrate that more into the day to day work we do. This isn't just for the families and we are now writing our first Wellbeing Strategy to support the team too.

The need for increased support for siblings has been clearly evidenced over this past year and we are already placing more resource into this. Our Sibling Support Co-ordinator has developed a new course, SPARKS, which is a much more focused approach to supporting siblings and opens up many new opportunities for them. This course is unique and allows the young people to build upon skills each month working towards challenges and eventually a residential trip. We will also continue the offer at the centre, groups in school but also much more online delivery and collaborative working so again more children and young people can benefit.

Outreach will also be pushed in terms of the support it can offer families who are unable to access community provision but also the sessions that can be delivered in schools. Our new model of going into mainstream schools and working with children who would not have access to certain specialist, sensory resources is exciting and bookings for the summer term are already in place. We also continue to have a robust and exciting set of sessions that can be delivered in specialist schools and alongside other organisations to help offer opportunity for increased socialisation, friendship and play.

Having additional space and the opportunity and drive to increase what we do means that even more children and young people with special needs and their families will be able to access specialist support, have time to make friends and have places that they can play. This past year has taught us that we are capable of growing our service even during the most challenging times and we will hold onto that whilst we work towards our new plans.

As an organisation we are placing even more importance on impact measurement and evaluation than ever before. Whilst this has been developed over the past year with clear success we now want to take it further, involving more of our beneficiaries, collecting information in different ways and utilising it so that the charity can be the best that it can be.

### **Funding and support**

The Big Lottery Fund continues to provide a large proportion of funding to cover revenue costs. Other foundations and trusts who have supported Swings & Smiles include: Greenham Trust, Miss WE Lawrence, Gerald Palmer Eling Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation, St James's Place Charitable Foundation, Shanly Foundation, Sobell Foundation, Padwa Foundation, Berkshire Community Foundation and David Solomons Charitable Trust. We also had great success taking part in the Greenham Trust Double Matched Day on the Good Exchange.

Corporate and community support was secured from Newbury Building Society, Newbury and Crookham Golf Club, token schemes in Tesco and Waitrose. Services in kind from local companies, including Scofell and Westronics also provides much benefit to the charity.

We are actively involved in the local community, taking part in fetes and events where we can. We are again the chosen charity for Woolton Hill Village Market, and have been able to talk at the market and take promotional material to let more people know about the work we do. Swings & Smiles sell tickets for a community

lottery run by the local authority, this brings in an income of approximately £1400 a year.

Sporting events and challenges are always a popular way to fundraise for Swings & Smiles. During lockdown, families took part in a 'Smiles and Miles' challenge to keep them busy and raise funds. We also received support from the Thatcham Rugby Club Under 15s who held a 'Six Nations Challenge'.

School support is always very welcome and this year we were lucky to be chosen as the beneficiary of activities being run by The Downs School, Downe House School, Kennet School and St Bartholomew's School. This support provides funds, awareness raising opportunities and young volunteers.

While unable to have many of our usual fundraising events in person this year, we were able to host an online quiz hosted by Chris Tarrant which was well attended by new supporters and raised a significant amount. We look forward to being able to resume our usual calendar of events in the coming year.

We are also lucky to be well supported through online donations. Digital fundraising has helped us raise £10,367 in the last year as a result of Facebook fundraisers and more donations through our website. We plan to build upon this further.

This year we were shortlisted as finalists for the Thames Valley Business and Community Awards and Berkshire High Sheriff Awards as recognition of the work we've undertaken this year. We were also extremely honoured to be invited to a very special event at Windsor Castle where our Chief Executive spoke with members of the Royal Family about how Swings & Smiles had been able to continue to support families and children throughout the pandemic. Being recognised at this level is great for us a small charity and really raises the profile of what we are aiming to achieve through the work we do.

Swings & Smiles have signed up to the Fundraising Regulator and has made the commitment to adhere to the high standards set out in the fundraising promise.

### **Structure, governance and management**

Swings and Smiles operates within the charitable framework of its parent, and the Trustees of Swings & Smiles assume the responsibilities that the charitable status demands. Swings & Smiles is a Company Limited by Guarantee (No 06182577), whose governing document is the Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated 20/02/2014

The Directors who served the company during the period were as follows:

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| - Tor Sandars          | Chair  |
| - Graham Page          | Treasurer and Secretary<br>(resigned 21/07/21) |
| - Andrew McKenzie      |  |
| - Luisa Godfrey        |  |
| - Simon Fenton         | (resigned 19/11/20)                            |
| - Caroline Johnson     |  |
| - Derek Hardman        |  |
| - Mike Megan           | Treasurer<br>(appointed 07/06/21)              |
| - Jeff Ives            | (appointed 01/04/21)                           |
| - Quona Constable      | (appointed 01/04/21)                           |
| - Amanda Walburn-Green | (appointed 01/04/21)                           |

Trustees meet six times a year with regular committee meetings happening in between these times, committees cover finance, funding, people, property, marketing, events and fundraising.

Swings & Smiles is managed by Charity Director Laura Lewis, who reports directly to Derek Hardman (Trustee). Laura is responsible for the centre budget and was reporting to finance Trustee, Graham Page who has since resigned on 27/06/21 and replaced by new Finance Trustee Mike Megan. It is the job of the Charity Director to ensure that appropriate training, policies and risk assessments are in place for all activities, including GDPR compliance and reports to each regular meeting of the Swings & Smiles Trustees.

**At the 2020 AGM it was unanimously agreed that the Charity's corporate structure be simplified to assist in the Public understanding of the Charity's accounts and funding needs.** The subsidiary company "Swings & Smiles (Phoenix) Ltd" was wound-down on the 31/3/2020 with all outstanding assets and liabilities transferred to Swings & Smiles.

### **Public benefit statement**

Trustees have reviewed and considered the Charity Commissions guidance on public benefit. The issues affecting children with special needs and their families are found

throughout the general population. Access to the services provided by Swings & Smiles are available to anyone who requires them. Swings & Smiles also dedicate some time and resources to raising awareness of issues surrounding disability amongst the general public.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations. Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year.

Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and 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; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, have pleasure in presenting their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

<b>Registered Charity Name</b>	Swings & Smiles
<b>Charity Registration Number</b>	1120598
<b>Company Registration Number</b>	06182577
<b>Registered Office</b>	The Rectory 1 Toomers Wharf Newbury Berkshire RG14 1DY

**THE TRUSTEES**

The trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Tor Sandars	Chair
Graham Page	Treasurer and Secretary (resigned 21/07/21)
Mike Megan	Treasurer (appointed 07/06/21)
Andrew McKenzie	
Simon Fenton	Resigned (19/11/20)
Luisa Godfrey	
Caroline Johnson	
Derek Hardman	
Jeff Ives	(appointed 01/04/21)
Quona Constable	(appointed 01/04/21)
Amanda Walburn-Green	(appointed 01/04/21)

<b>Company Secretary</b>	Mr Graham Page (resigned 21/07/21) Sandra Ferguson (appointed (01/04/21)
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<b>Accountants</b>	E J Business Consultants Limited Chartered Accountants The Rectory 1 Toomers Wharf Newbury Berkshire RG14 1DY
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# **SWINGS & SMILES**

## **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT *(continued)***

### **YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

Swings & Smiles is a registered charity (N<sup>o</sup> 1120598) and Company Limited by Guarantee (N<sup>o</sup> 06182577), whose governing document is the Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated 26 March 2007 as amended by special resolution dated 5 July 2007.

The objects of the Charity are to support the needs of children and young people with special needs, their families and carers, by the provision of specialist facilities for play where the facilities and staffing meet the needs of a wide range of disabilities. In particular, the Charity aims to: -

1. Provide fun and freedom in a stimulating, challenging and safe environment, to develop self-confidence, independence and sensory and motor skills;
2. Provide parents, carers and siblings with support, guidance and information;
3. Promote the many benefits of developing and learning through play and the need for its availability to all regardless of their disabilities.

This Annual Report details our 13th year of operation which has seen our facility, "A Place 2 Play" continue to expand its range of services and attract more families from its base at Thatcham, Berkshire.

All Trustees are encouraged to read Charity Commission guidance on their role and responsibilities and receive regular updates from the Commission. Two Trustees each year are invited, by rota, to confirm that they wish to continue to serve as Trustees, and these are confirmed by a Trustees vote at the AGM. Trustees continue to seek new Trustees to strengthen the Board's experience and diversity.

All significant expenditure decisions continue to be authorised by the Board of Trustees, whilst income and outgoings are overseen by the Treasurer, who provides regular financial reports to the Trustees.

Our Patrons continue to provide active support and encouragement to the Charity and, this year, their patronage has been vital as the Charity coped with the onset of the Covid 19 pandemic. We are particularly indebted to Chris Tarrant and his team for their media skills and advice in expanding Swings & Smiles digital services.

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

During 2020/21 the Trustees/Charity Director continued their policy of focusing our management team upon fund raising activities. Following a strong fundraising year unrestricted funds generated a surplus of £60k during the year.

The Trustees have been able to maintain the "Restricted" funds at £475k within the main charity to finance future buildings development and/or purchase (see plans for the future below).

All cash assets are held in a diverse range of FSCS indemnified accounts.

# SWINGS & SMILES

## TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT *(continued)*

### YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

**Corporate structure** – at the 2019 AGM it was unanimously agreed that the Charity's corporate structure be simplified to assist in the Public understanding of the Charity's accounts and funding needs. The subsidiary company "Swings & Smiles (Phoenix) Ltd" was wound-down on the 31/3/2020 with all outstanding assets and liabilities transferred to Swings & Smiles.

#### PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Trustees continue to re-evaluate expansion, and the Charity's longer term business plan, through to 2024 in the light of the experience gained from "A Place to Play" this year.

Although all options continue to be explored, the Board are in continuous discussions with West Berkshire Council to purchase the freehold site of "A Place to Play" and have prudently increased the "restricted funds" to fully reflect this possibility.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations. Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year.

Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and 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; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

## SWINGS & SMILES

### TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT *(continued)*

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

#### ACCOUNTANTS

A resolution to re-appoint E J Business Consultants Limited as accountants for the ensuing year was proposed and accepted at the Annual General Meeting on 10th November 2021.

Registered office:

The Rectory  
1 Toomers Wharf  
Canal Walk  
Newbury  
Berkshire  
RG14 1DY

Signed on behalf of the Trustees on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021, by:



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Mrs Tor Sandars  
**Chair of Trustees**  
**Swings & Smiles**



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Mr Mike Megan  
**Treasurer Trustee**  
**Swings & Smiles**

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of SWINGS & SMILES**

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, which are set out on pages 23 to 32.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down under the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present 'a true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has 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 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
SWINGS & SMILES**

2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



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E J Business Consultants Limited  
The Rectory  
1 Toomers Wharf  
Canal Walk  
Newbury  
RG14 1DY

18 November 2021

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Dated

## SWINGS & SMILES

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
<b>INCOME</b>					
Income from generating funds:					
Investment income	2	6,974	-	6,974	4,263
Income from charitable activities	3	374,242	-	374,422	237,331
		-	-		-
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>381,216</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>381,216</b>	<b>241,594</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Costs of generating funds:					
Costs of generating voluntary income	4	(7,481)	-	(7,481)	(13,539)
Governance costs	5	(13,398)	-	(13,398)	(12,371)
Charity running costs	6	(282,506)	-	(282,506)	(241,039)
Depreciation	7	(18,153)	-	(18,153)	(20,466)
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>(321,538)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(321,538)</b>	<b>(287,415)</b>
<b>NET INCOME/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>59,678</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>59,678</b>	<b>(45,821)</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		207,691	475,000	682,691	728,512
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>267,369</b>	<b>475,000</b>	<b>742,369</b>	<b>682,691</b>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 MARCH 2021**

	Note	£	2,021 £	£	2,020 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	7		75,559		75,681
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	8	13,219		11,491	
Cash at bank		<u>654,603</u>		<u>597,402</u>	
		667,822		608,893	
<b>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	9		<u>(1,012)</u>		<u>(1,883)</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			<u>666,810</u>		607,010
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			<u>742,369</u>		<u>682,691</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Restricted income funds	10		475,000		475,000
Unrestricted income funds	11		267,369		207,691
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<u>742,369</u>		<u>682,691</u>

For the financial year ended 31 March 2021 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

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

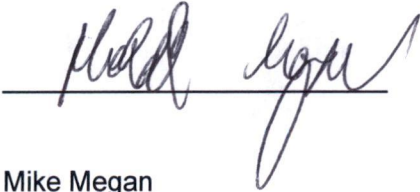
These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

**SWINGS & SMILES**

**BALANCE SHEET**

**31 MARCH 2021**

These financial statements were approved by the members of the committee and signed on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Megan", is written over a horizontal line.

Mike Megan

Treasurer

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and 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 the Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

**Fund accounting policy**

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are those donated for the use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

**Income**

Donations are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Income from charitable activities includes income recognised as earned (as the related goods or services are provided) under contract.

**Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be directly allocated to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

**Governance costs**

Governance costs include costs of the preparation and examination of the statutory accounts, the costs of trustee meetings and the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**Fixed assets**

All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost.

**Depreciation**

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

<b>Asset class</b>	<b>Depreciation method and rate</b>
Play Centre equipment	20% reducing balance
Outreach equipment	20% reducing balance
Office equipment	straight line over 3 years
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance

**2. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	<b>Unrestricted / Total Funds 2021</b>	<b>Total Funds 2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Building society interest receivable	<b>4,730</b>	-
Investment income	<b>2,244</b>	4,263
	<hr/> <b>6,974</b> <hr/>	<hr/> 4,263 <hr/>

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

**3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

		Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
		£	£	£
Centre Income		27,999	27,999	30,854
Donations		12,017	12,017	28,096
Grants	Note 13	299,386	299,386	141,535
Legacy		1,522	1,522	3,432
Fundraising, see below:		33,318	33,318	33,414
		<u>374,242</u>	<u>374,242</u>	<u>237,331</u>

Fundraising is broken down as per below:

	£
Fundraising – Events	6,248
Fundraising – Community	13,287
Fundraising – Digital	10,367
Fundraising – Facebook Online	2,801
Fundraising – Regular Giving	615
<b>Total Fundraising</b>	<u><b>33,318</b></u>

## SWINGS & SMILES

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

#### 4. COSTS OF GENERATING VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
	£	£	£
Event costs	7,481	7,481	
Professional services	-	-	13,539
	7,481	7,481	13,539
	7,481	7,481	13,539

#### 5. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
	£	£	£	£
Legal & Admin	8,343	-	8,343	11,591
Marketing	5,055	-	5,055	780
	13,398	-	13,398	12,371
	13,398	-	13,398	12,371

## 6. STAFF COSTS AND EMOLUMENTS

No salaries have been paid to employees over £60,000, no salaries have been paid to Trustees during the year.

An analysis of the 2021 staff costs are:

	<b>2021</b>	2020
	<b>£</b>	£
Salaries	<b>168,821</b>	147,739
NI	<b>8,974</b>	7,448
Pension	<b>4,709</b>	3,564
Staff Costs	<b>182,504</b>	158,751
Premises Costs	<b>86,600</b>	61,693
Miscellaneous Costs	<b>13,402</b>	20,595
Charity Running Costs	<b>282,506</b>	241,039

Note: Comparative 2020 figures included results of Swings & Smiles (Phoenix) Ltd.

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

**7. FIXED ASSETS**

	Property £	Play Centre Equipment £	Outreach equipment £	Office equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>						
At 1 April 2020	-	130,816	5,108	5,572	9,125	150,621
Additions	12,124	3,456	314	2,137	-	18,031
At 31 March 2021	12,124	134,272	5,422	7,709	9,125	168,652
<b>Depreciation</b>						
At 1 April 2020	-	62,676	2,664	3,362	6,238	74,940
Charge for the year	-	14,319	552	2,560	722	18,153
At 31 March 2021	-	76,995	3,216	5,922	6,960	93,093
<b>Net Book Value</b>						
At 31 March 2021	12,124	57,277	2,206	1,787	2,165	75,559
At 31 March 2020	-	68,140	2,444	2,210	2,887	75,681

**8. DEBTORS**

	2021	2020
	£	£
Debtors	13,219	11,491

**SWINGS & SMILES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

**9. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year**

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors and accruals	2,474	(1,875)
Other taxes and social security	<b>(1,462)</b>	3,758
	1,012	1,883

**10. RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS**

	Balance at 1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£
Building Fund	475,000	-	-	475,000
	475,000	-	-	475,000

**11. UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS**

	Balance at 1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31 March 2021
General Fund	207,691	381,216	(321,538)	267,369
	207,691	381,216	(321,538)	267,369

**12. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

The total reserves as at 31 March 2021 are £742,369.

## SWINGS & SMILES

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

#### 13. ANALYSIS OF GRANT INCOME

Below is an analysis of the grant income received in the year to 31 March 2021

	£
National Lottery - Community Fund	120,000
Raised on The Good Exchange from trusts including:	35,715
· Greenham Trust	
· The Peter Baker Foundation	
· Miss W E Lawrence 1973 Charitable Settlement	
· Thatcham Town Council	
· Newbury Town Council	
National Lottery - Reaching Communities England	22,850
West Berkshire Council	20,900
PADWA Charitable Foundation	15,000
Garfield Weston Foundation	15,000
Baily Thomas Charitable Fund	15,000
BBC Children in Need	10,270
The Sobell Foundation	10,000
The Theodore Roussel Memorial Trust	8,125
St. James's Place Charitable Foundation	7,500
Screwfix Foundation	5,000
Berkshire Community Foundation	5,000
The Gerald Palmer Eling Trust	3,000
Shanly Foundation	2,500
Miss W E Lawrence 1973 Charitable Settlement	1,500
David Solomons Charitable Trust	1,000
Other grants	1,026
<b>Total</b>	<b>299,386</b>