

Company Registration number 10156361

Charity Registration number 1168892

**The Fern Partnership
Company limited by guarantee**

Annual report and financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2025

The Fern Partnership

Contents

	Page
Trustees' annual report	1 - 7
Auditors' report	8 - 10
Statement of Financial Activities	11
Balance sheet	12
Cash flow statement	13
Notes to the financial statements	14 - 23

The Fern Partnership

Legal and administrative information Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee

Charity registration number	1168892	
Company registration number	10156361	
Registered office	Ferndale Hwb North Road Ferndale CF43 4PS	
Website	www.fernpartnership.co.uk	
Trustees who served during the year	Kelvin Jones David O Dean Michael Davies Howard Bruges Nathan Prygodzicz Heather Nichollas	Chair, appointed 22 February 2024 appointed 1 April 2025
Secretary	Michelle Coburn-Hughes	
Auditors	RH Jeffs and Rowe Chartered Accountants 27/28 Gelliwastad Road Pontypridd CF37 2BW	
Bankers	Unity Trust Bank plc Nine Brinfley Place Birmingham B1 2HB	

**The Fern Partnership
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

Legal and Administrative Information

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. Its members are the trustees, who also serve as the directors for the purposes of company law.

This report, which includes the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025, has been prepared in accordance with Part 8 of the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006, and constitutes both the Trustees' Report and the Directors' Report for statutory purposes.

Objectives and Activities

The charitable company's principal objectives, as set out in its Memorandum and Articles of Association, are:

- A. The advancement of education of the pupils of Ferndale community school by raising funds for items and activities over and above these which the LEA provide for;
- B. The promotion for the benefit of the public of urban or rural regeneration in areas of social and economic deprivation (and in particular in the upper Rhondda Fach by all or any of the following means:
 - i. The advancement of education, training or retraining, particularly among unemployed people, and providing unemployed people with work experience;
 - ii. the provision of assistance, advice or consultancy in order to provide training and employment opportunities; iii. the maintenance, improvement or provision of public amenities in relations to charity assets;
 - iv. The provision of recreational facilities for the public at large or those who by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances, have need of such facilities;
 - v. The protection or conservation of the environment;
 - vi. the provision of public health facilities and childcare;
 - vii. the promotion of public safety and prevention of crime;
 - viii. Such other means as may from time to time be determined subject to the prior written consent of the charity commissioners for England and Wales.

Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty under section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. They are satisfied that the charity's activities during the year have clearly furthered its charitable purposes and delivered identifiable benefits to the public. In particular, the charity has advanced the education of pupils at Ferndale Community School by working in partnership with staff, governors and the wider community to raise funds for items, initiatives and activities that fall outside the provision made by the local education authority. Through this support, the charity has contributed to enhanced educational opportunities and the wider wellbeing of pupils.

**The Fern Partnership
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

Achievements and Performance

During the year, the charity delivered the following outcomes and impacts in furtherance of its charitable objectives:

Strong Leadership and Operational Growth

Our management team has consistently strengthened its capabilities, both in driving the organisation forward and in managing daily operations. Their dedication, skills, and leadership have been instrumental in ensuring smooth operations and sustained growth during challenging times.

Expanding Our Social Enterprise Model

In February 2024, The Fern Partnership completed the purchase of FuZe Soft Play & Climbing Centre. The resulting savings from rental payments have been crucial in maintaining our financial viability. This acquisition reflects a wider trend in the third sector: the need to develop Social Enterprises that can generate income to safeguard and sustain charitable services.

FuZe Soft Play & Climbing Centre

FuZe has continued to thrive, reaching unprecedented levels of activity. Beyond soft play, we now deliver a wide range of programmes, including After School Clubs, Play Schemes, Baby & Toddler Groups, Additional Learning Needs (ALN) sessions, and themed events.

Government resilience grants have been vital in strengthening our business and supporting the Development Officer role, which has become increasingly crucial as the centre grows.

We continue to work in strong partnership with local schools, particularly Ysgol Hen Felin, offering voluntary work experience placements for pupils aged 16 and above. Recent donations, such as a baby soft play frame, have further enriched the experience for our youngest families.

Additionally, we are launching a Reuse & Recycle Shop on the first floor, supported by external funding, which will add to the centre's sustainability goals.

Ferndale Community Hwb - Childcare Services

Little Ferns Ferndale continues to thrive as a mixed childcare setting, combining Flying Start funded places with fee-paying provision. Both rooms remain consistently busy, supported by a strong operational structure and effective management.

We continue to deliver a wide range of childcare options, including Spot Purchase Flying Start, Registered Education places, 30-hour provision, and care for around 50 fee-paying children. However, the sector continues to face challenges due to changes in government funding and rising costs linked to the National Minimum Wage and National Insurance contributions.

In June 2024, we were invited to the Houses of Parliament to discuss funding mechanisms for childcare. These discussions reinforced that the approach we are taking at The Fern Partnership - operating as a Social Enterprise that prioritises sustainability and community impact - reflects the direction in which the Early Years sector wishes to progress.

**The Fern Partnership
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

Digital Media Project

Although setbacks with land surveys required us to reapply for planning permission, we are making progress. Solar panels have been installed at Ferndale, reducing energy usage, and a contract has been awarded for the installation of a new interactive board.

Government Childcare Expansion

All of our Flying Start settings continue to operate at full capacity and have maintained excellent standards, with all receiving top ratings in recent CIW inspections.

The Welsh Government's phased expansion of funded childcare provision for two-year-olds presents both opportunities and challenges. While demand is increasing, the additional care needs of these children, alongside rising staffing and food costs, place significant pressure on resources.

Our senior managers continue to engage proactively with Members of Parliament, Assembly Members, Councillors, and stakeholders to influence funding levels. RCTCBC has responded positively to these discussions, offering increased support.

Community Engagement

Although Communities for Work funding ended in June 2025, we continue to deliver the popular After School Club at Maerdy Hub, now managed under community leadership since April 2025. This has been highly successful, with the Hub in regular use.

We have worked closely with Keep Wales Tidy on our Net Zero journey and partnered with local schools and third sector organisations to deliver sustainability-focused activities.

In addition, our collaboration with Cardiff City Football Foundation is creating new opportunities to deliver health and wellbeing sessions for families across Ferndale Hub and FuZe.

Volunteer Contribution

Volunteers continue to play an essential role in the charity's operations. During the year, approximately 10 volunteers contributed an estimated 1,200 hours, supporting Community activities, for example, Mens Shed Knit & Knatter.

Impact Reporting

The trustees recognise the importance of demonstrating clear and measurable impact across the Fern Hwb's childcare, family support, employment and community programmes. An internal monitoring framework is used to track outcomes such as childcare occupancy levels, Flying Start attendance, ALN support sessions, community hub activity, and participation in learning, wellbeing and family engagement initiatives. This enables the trustees to assess the effectiveness of individual services, identify trends, and ensure that resources are directed toward areas of greatest need and benefit.

Regular impact reports are reviewed by the board, providing assurance that programmes are meeting their intended objectives, that grant-funded activities are delivering against agreed outcomes, and that the charity continues to achieve positive results for children, families and the wider community. This approach supports transparency, strengthens accountability to funders and partners, and informs ongoing service improvement and future planning.

**The Fern Partnership
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

Financial Review

The Statement of Financial Activities for the year is set out on page 11 of the financial statements. The charity's total income for the year was £1,298,127, compared with £995,170 in the prior year. Expenditure amounted to £1,240,648 (prior year £991,093), resulting in a net movement in funds of £57,479 (prior year £4,077).

The overall financial position remains robust, with unrestricted reserves and liquidity maintained at a prudent level. The balance sheet reflects continued investment in the charity's operational infrastructure, with fixed assets increasing in line with planned capital improvements. Current assets provide adequate liquidity to meet short-term obligations, while creditors primarily relate to normal operational commitments and grant-funded project cycles. The year-end position supports the trustees' reserves policy and aligns with the charity's non-complex investment approach, providing a stable platform for managing financial risk and sustaining future service delivery.

Reserves Policy

The trustees have adopted a reserves policy aimed at maintaining unrestricted reserves at a prudent proportion of core operating costs. At the year-end, unrestricted reserves amounted to £132,926, equivalent to approximately two months of expenditure. The management team will undertake a detailed review of reserves and projected costs to reassess the appropriate level going forward.

As the charity remains significantly dependent on grant funding, earned income alone would not sustain operations. A reduction in grant income therefore represents a material risk. To mitigate this, the trustees consider that maintaining three months of operating reserves is essential to ensure continuity of staffing and to allow service users to be supported or safely transitioned should funding difficulties arise.

The trustees will review and monitor the target level every six months, with a full annual policy review or earlier where operational changes require it.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The trustees have carried out a comprehensive review of risks and uncertainties, including those arising from financial pressures, cyber security, environmental factors, and governance matters.

The charity's primary risk remains the ongoing increases in the national minimum wage and national insurance contributions, coupled with government funding that has not kept pace with rising costs. These financial pressures are significantly impacting childcare providers, forcing many community organisations to close their operations.

While funding for activities remains a risk, The Fern Partnership has a strong track record of securing external funding. We have robust controls in place to closely monitor costs and the terms and conditions of any grant funding, ensuring we maximize all available resources.

Going Concern

The trustees confirm that they have assessed the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for at least twelve months from the date of approval of these financial statements and are satisfied that the charity has adequate resources to continue its operations.

Investment Policy

The charity does not hold material investments and therefore operates a non-complex investment policy focused on capital preservation and liquidity.

**The Fern Partnership
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

Fundraising Statement

The charity does not engage professional fundraisers or commercial participators. All fundraising activities are carried out by staff or volunteers in accordance with the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice. The charity monitors its fundraising activities to ensure compliance with recognised standards. No complaints were received during the year, and the trustees are satisfied that appropriate arrangements are in place to protect the public, including vulnerable persons, from undue pressure or persistent fundraising approaches.

Sustainability and Environmental, Social and Governance Reporting

The trustees remain firmly committed to enhancing the charity's performance in Sustainability and ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) Reporting. Throughout the year, steady progress has been made towards our Net Zero ambitions, including the introduction of energy-efficient technologies across the estate, the promotion of sustainable practices within childcare and community settings, and active participation in the RCT Climate Action Network.

Looking ahead, the trustees intend to ensure that ESG principles are fully embedded within all significant operational and strategic decisions. This will encompass strengthened procurement standards, targeted waste-reduction measures, improved carbon-tracking processes, and inclusive approaches to community engagement. These steps support our long-term objective of operating responsibly, minimising environmental impact, and delivering services that continue to benefit the community in an ethical and sustainable way.

The trustees also reaffirm their responsibility to operate with due regard for environmental, social and governance factors. Our commitment to the Net Zero pathway remains undiminished. The Director of Operations & Development continues to represent the Fern Partnership on the R.C.T. Climate Action Network steering group, helping to develop strong and constructive partnerships.

As a result of this engagement, together with detailed energy-efficiency audits, the charity has successfully secured funding for a range of improvements across its sites, including the installation of solar panels, destratification fans, and LED lighting. We are also actively seeking further funding to extend these measures to our forthcoming Treorchy development.

Plans for Future Periods

The trustees intend to build on the progress achieved during the year and have identified a number of key priorities to support the charity's continued development and long-term sustainability.

Lottery Funding and Sustainability

The trustees remain grateful for the National Lottery Community Fund's award of £350,000 over five years. This investment has been central to the development of the Community Hub project in Ferndale, enabling the recruitment of a dedicated Business Centre Manager and administrative staff to deliver the project effectively and to strengthen operational capacity. As the current funding period concludes in March 2026, discussions have already commenced with the Lottery and other potential funders to explore continuation funding and secure the long-term sustainability of the charity's work.

**The Fern Partnership
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

Developmental Project - Treorchy Regeneration

In July 2024, the charity purchased an unused property on Treorchy High Street. Although the town is recognised for its award-winning community-led regeneration, this property lies on the edge of the revitalised area and presents an opportunity to create an improved gateway to the town centre. The trustees' proposal is to transform the building into a vibrant, real-world learning environment that prioritises education, training and upskilling. Through practical experience in a welcoming hospitality setting, participants will gain skills that support long-term employability. The project is designed to be inclusive, offering flexible community spaces that ensure accessibility for all.

This initiative is expected to strengthen the charity's social enterprise activity, reduce dependence on grant income and support greater financial self-sufficiency in the future. The charity is currently awaiting final approval of its application to Rhondda Cynon Taf's Large-Scale Property Improvement Grant. Subject to approval, works are anticipated to commence in September 2024.

The trustees remain committed to developing these initiatives and to pursuing opportunities that will enhance the charity's impact and ensure the long-term strength and resilience of its operations.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association and is constituted as a company limited by guarantee. The board of trustees (who are also directors for company law purposes) is responsible for governance, risk management, and strategic direction. Day-to-day operations are delegated to the Chief Executive and senior management team.

Governance and Committees

The board operates through sub-committees, including Finance & Audit, Risk, and Remuneration, which report regularly to the trustees.

Trustee Recruitment and Training

Trustee vacancies were historically filled through members of the School Governors or School Management Team, but in recent years the charity has broadened its approach by appointing directors with specific professional expertise—such as legal and HR—ensuring the Board has an appropriate balance of skills. New trustees receive a structured induction covering the charity's governance, policies and regulatory responsibilities, supported by key documents and Charity Commission guidance, and all trustees have access to ongoing training and briefings to ensure their knowledge and skills remain current.

Remuneration Policy

The trustees determine the remuneration of key management personnel based on external benchmarking and performance evaluation, ensuring fairness and compliance with the charity's remuneration framework.

Trustees' Remuneration

No trustee received remuneration or benefits during the year. Expenses reimbursed to trustees are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements. There were no related party transactions requiring disclosure.

**The Fern Partnership
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report (including the Directors' Report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

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

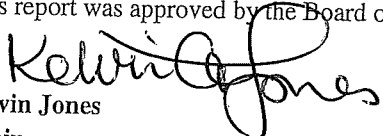
- a) select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- b) observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- c) make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- d) state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- e) prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue to operate.

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 company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approval

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on the 19 November 2025 and signed on its behalf by:


Kelvin Jones
Chair

The report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to audit under the Companies Act 2006.

**Independent auditors' report to The Fern Partnership, Company
limited by guarantee, under Section 449 of the Companies Act 2006**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Fern Partnership (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Independent auditors' report to The Fern Partnership, Company
limited by guarantee, under Section 449 of the Companies Act 2006**

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for company law purposes, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the charity has not kept adequate accounting records, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

As part of our risk assessment, we held discussions with management and those charged with governance to identify the laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material impact on the financial statements. These matters, together with consideration of where and how fraud might occur, were communicated to the engagement team during the audit planning process.

**Independent auditors' report to The Fern Partnership, Company
limited by guarantee, under Section 449 of the Companies Act 2006**

The following laws and regulations were identified as being of significance to the charitable company:

* Laws and regulations with a direct effect on the financial statements: UK financial reporting standards (including FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, and relevant taxation and pensions legislation.

* Laws and regulations fundamental to the charity's operations, where non-compliance could have a material effect on the financial statements: safeguarding requirements, health and safety legislation applicable to the charity's activities, and charity governance regulations.

In response to the risks arising from irregularities, our audit procedures included:

- * Enquiries with trustees and management regarding compliance with laws and regulations;
- * Reviewing legal and regulatory correspondence;
- * Inspecting minutes of trustee meetings;
- * Considering the risk of material misstatement in areas susceptible to management bias, including revenue recognition and stock balances; and
- * Testing journal entries to identify unusual patterns or indicators of override of controls.

No instances of material non-compliance were identified. However, the likelihood of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is affected by the inherent limitations of audit procedures, the effectiveness of the charity's internal controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the evidence obtained. Irregularities resulting from fraud may be inherently more difficult to detect than those arising from error. As such, there remains an unavoidable risk that material misstatements may not be detected, even when the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with ISAs (UK).

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

Other matters

I draw your attention to note 1.1 in respect of the comparative information in the financial statements being unaudited.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Robert Thomas BSc FCA

Senior Statutory Auditor

for and on behalf of RH Jeffs and Rowe,

Statutory Auditors & Chartered Accountants

27/28 Gelliwastad Road

Pontypridd

CF37 2BW

21 November 2025

The Fern Partnership

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2025

		Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Income and Endowments							
Voluntary income:	3						
- Grants		47,025	243,206	290,231	34,121	176,017	210,138
Trading Activities	3						
- Trading Income		221,537	-	221,537	220,255	-	220,255
Other income:	3						
- Flying Start		509,030	-	509,030	397,447	-	397,447
- Other Income		90,307	-	90,307	3,569	-	3,569
Charitable Activities:	3						
- Fee Income		187,022	-	187,022	163,761	-	163,761
Total Incoming Resources		<u>1,054,921</u>	<u>243,206</u>	<u>1,298,127</u>	<u>819,153</u>	<u>176,017</u>	<u>995,170</u>
Expenditure							
Charitable activities	4	<u>987,532</u>	<u>253,116</u>	<u>1,240,648</u>	<u>816,253</u>	<u>174,840</u>	<u>991,093</u>
Total Resources Expended		<u>987,532</u>	<u>253,116</u>	<u>1,240,648</u>	<u>816,253</u>	<u>174,840</u>	<u>991,093</u>
Net Incoming (Outgoing) resources							
	5	67,389	(9,910)	57,479	2,900	1,177	4,077
Transfer Between Funds		-	-	-	(3,376)	3,376	-
Net movement of funds		<u>67,389</u>	<u>(9,910)</u>	<u>57,479</u>	<u>(476)</u>	<u>4,553</u>	<u>4,077</u>
Total Funds brought forward		<u>156,457</u>	<u>9,910</u>	<u>166,367</u>	<u>156,933</u>	<u>5,357</u>	<u>162,290</u>
Total Funds carried forward		<u><u>223,846</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>223,846</u></u>	<u><u>156,457</u></u>	<u><u>9,910</u></u>	<u><u>166,367</u></u>

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

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The Fern Partnership

Charity number 1168892

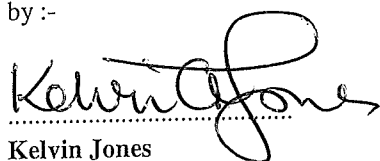
**Balance sheet
as at 31 March 2025**

		2025		2024	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	8		363,344		169,026
Current Assets					
Stocks		5,284		4,441	
Debtors	9	90,010		263,560	
Cash at bank and in hand		151,030		89,603	
		<u>246,324</u>		<u>357,604</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(81,692)</u>		<u>(67,809)</u>	
Net Current assets			164,632		289,795
Net Assets			527,976		458,821
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	10		(304,130)		(292,454)
			<u>223,846</u>		<u>166,367</u>
The Funds of the Charity					
Unrestricted Funds	11		223,846		156,457
Restricted Funds	11		-		9,910
Total Charity Funds			<u>223,846</u>		<u>166,367</u>

The notes on pages 14 - 23 form part of these accounts.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities and in accordance with the special provisions of Part VII of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustee Board on 19 November 2025 and signed on its behalf by :-


Kelvin Jones

The Fern Partnership

**Cash flow statement
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Reconciliation of operating profit/(loss) to net cash inflow from operating activities			
Operating profit/(loss)		57,479	4,077
Depreciation		20,713	16,754
(Increase) in stocks		(843)	(203)
Decrease (increase) in debtors		173,550	(193,417)
Increase / (Decrease) in creditors		13,883	28,406
Capital grant received		-	722,258
Net cash inflow from operating activities		<u>264,782</u>	<u>577,875</u>
 Net cash inflow from operating activities		 264,782	 577,875
Capital expenditure		(215,031)	(841,021)
		49,751	(263,146)
 Net cash inflow from financing activities			
Financing		11,676	190,052
Increase in cash in the year		<u>61,427</u>	<u>(73,094)</u>
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds			
 Increase / (Decrease) in cash in the year		 61,427	 (73,094)
Net funds at 1 April 2024		89,603	162,697
Net funds at 31 March 2025		<u>151,030</u>	<u>89,603</u>

The Fern Partnership

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting policies

1.1. Statutory Information

The Fern Partnership is a charitable company, limited by guarantee, incorporated in Wales in the United Kingdom. The registered office is North Road, Ferndale, CF43 4PS. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities is disclosed within the Trustees Report.

The financial statements are presented in Sterling (£), the charities functional currency, and rounded to the nearest pound.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

1.2. Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern.

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

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

The Trustees have considered the charity's finances for the coming year and have no concerns or material uncertainties over the going concern status of the charity.

Comparatives

The comparative figures are unaudited.

1.3. Taxation

As a registered charity The Fern Partnership, is entitled to the exemption from taxation in respect of income and capital gains received with sections 478-489 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 and section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects purposes only.

Its trading activities are taxable but currently no trading surpluses have been generated so that no Corporation Tax is due to date. The position on this will be kept under review.

1.4. Deferred income

Grants for which the money has been spent on capital expenditure is deferred to go through the statement of financial activities at the same rate as the asset is expensed.

Client fees received in advance for the following accounting year has been deferred.

The Fern Partnership

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

1.5. Financial instruments

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

Trade debtors and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due and prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

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

1.6. Incoming resources

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

* Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

* Income from government grants, whether 'capital' or 'revenue' is recognised when the the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and not deferred.

Capital grants are classified in restricted funds with depreciation charged against the fund.

1.7. Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Charitable activities 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 allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis.

The Fern Partnership

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

1.8. Fund Accounting

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

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

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

1.9. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Freehold property	-	50 years straight line excluding land an residual value
Leasehold improvements	-	10% Straight Line
Furniture & Fittings	-	20% Straight Line
Motor Vehicles	-	20% Straight Line

1.10. Intangible fixed assets

Goodwill represents the excess of the cost of acquisition of unincorporated businesses over the fair value of net assets acquired. It is initially recognised as an asset at cost and is subsequently measured at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Goodwill is considered to have a finite useful life and has been amortised over its expected useful life which is 1 year.

2. Company limited by guarantee

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company, in the event of the company being wound up, such amounts as may be required not exceeding £1.

The Fern Partnership

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

3. Incoming Resources

	year to 31/03/25 £	year to 31/03/24 £
Included within Incoming Resources for the Year are:		
Grants Received:		
<u>Unrestricted:</u>		
WG 30 Hours	15,190	16,395
Other Grants	30,835	800
Play	-	6,050
RCT	1,000	9,926
Henry Smith	-	950
	<u>47,025</u>	<u>34,121</u>
<u>Restricted:</u>		
COF	-	50,000
Communities First	33,368	40,491
Lottery	80,936	77,906
Interlink	-	1,000
RCT	6,000	2,620
RCT Play	2,038	-
RCT unpaid carers	1,992	-
PYC	30,096	-
RCTSPF	77,776	2,000
WCVA	10,000	-
Winter Hardship	1,000	2,000
Other	-	-
	<u>243,206</u>	<u>176,017</u>
Total Grant income	<u>290,231</u>	<u>210,138</u>
Income from charitable activities		
Fee Income	187,022	163,761
	<u>187,022</u>	<u>163,761</u>
Income from trading activities		
Fuze Income	120,773	-
Cafe	100,764	-
Trading Income	-	220,255
	<u>221,537</u>	<u>220,255</u>
Other income		
Flying Start	509,030	397,447
Other Income	78,239	3,569
One to One	12,068	-
	<u>599,337</u>	<u>401,016</u>
Total income	<u>1,298,127</u>	<u>995,170</u>

The Fern Partnership

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

4. Total resources expended

	Basis of Allocation	Charitable Activities	Governance	Total year to 31/03/25	Total year to 31/03/24
		£	£	£	£
Governance costs					
Audit fee	Direct	-	3,800	3,800	-
Accountancy & Independent Examiner	Direct	-	26,964	26,964	27,535
		-	30,764	30,764	27,535
Support costs allocated to activities					
Personnel costs	Direct	867,893	-	867,893	691,945
Running costs	Direct	155,141	-	155,141	134,062
Insurance	Direct	14,466	-	14,466	9,594
Rent payable	Direct	42,368	-	42,368	77,946
Utilities	Direct	44,873	-	44,873	10,839
Legal & Professional	Direct	1,866	-	1,866	-
Computer, telephone and internet	Direct	4,857	-	4,857	13,864
Bank Charges	Direct	8,602	-	8,602	3,720
Bank interest	Direct	15,127	-	15,127	1,530
Donation to Ferndale Community School	Direct	31,800	-	31,800	-
General expenses	Direct	(215)	-	(215)	1,453
Motor and travel expenses	Direct	2,393	-	2,393	1,851
Depreciation	Direct	20,713	-	20,713	16,754
		1,209,884	-	1,209,884	963,558
		1,209,884	30,764	1,240,648	991,093

5. Net Incoming (Outgoing)/Resources

	Total year to 31/03/25	Total year to 31/03/24
	£	£
This is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation	20,713	16,754
Auditors Remuneration	3,800	-

The Fern Partnership

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

6. Staff Costs

	Total year to 31/03/25 £	Total year to 31/03/24 £
Staff costs during the Year comprised of the following:		
Salaries and wages	803,664	652,423
Employers National Insurance	40,647	18,784
Employers Pension Costs	23,582	20,738
	<u>867,893</u>	<u>691,945</u>

The average number of full time and full time equivalent employees during the Year was as follows:

Management	5	5
Administration and support	1	1
Direct service delivery	49	51
Apprentices and placements	7	6
	<u>62</u>	<u>63</u>

No employee received emoluments of £60,000 or more during the Year (2024: nil).

The trustees received no remuneration or benefits in connection with the performance of their duties

£0 was paid to Trustees to cover legitimate expenses (LY: £0).

7. Intangible fixed assets

	Goodwill £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2024	20,000	20,000
At 31 March 2025	<u>20,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>
Amortisation		
At 1 April 2024	20,000	20,000
At 31 March 2025	<u>20,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>
Net book values		
At 31 March 2025	-	-
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The Fern Partnership

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

8.	Tangible fixed assets	Land and buildings freehold £	Leasehold Improve- ments £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
	Cost or Valuation					
	At 1 April 2024	118,763	167,546	30,840	18,522	335,671
	Additions	164,716	-	50,315	-	215,031
	At 31 March 2025	283,479	167,546	81,155	18,522	550,702
	Depreciation					
	At 1 April 2024	-	117,283	30,840	18,522	166,645
	Charge for the year	-	20,713	-	-	20,713
	At 31 March 2025	-	137,996	30,840	18,522	187,358
	Net book values					
	At 31 March 2025	283,479	29,550	50,315	-	363,344
	At 31 March 2024	118,763	50,263	-	-	169,026
9.	Debtors				2025	2024
					£	£
	Trade debtors				72,574	37,787
	Deferred expenditure				-	43,000
	Grant funding receivable				8,940	21,633
	Other debtors				-	7,750
	Tax and social security				3,788	147,348
	Prepayments				4,708	6,041
					90,010	263,559
10.	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year				2025	2024
					£	£
	Bank loan				20,825	-
	Trade creditors				21,952	27,621
	Other taxes and social security costs				7,993	10,105
	Other creditors				4,471	5,083
	Grants paid in advance				26,451	25,000
					81,692	67,809
	Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year				2025	2024
					£	£
	Loan				304,130	275,352
	Deferred income				-	17,102
					304,130	292,454

The Fern Partnership

**Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

11. Movement on Funds	At 01/04/23		Incoming Resources 2024		Outgoing Resources 2024		Transfers		At 31/03/24		Incoming Resources 2025		Outgoing Resources 2025		At 31/03/25	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds																
General	126,933	819,153	(816,253)	(3,376)	126,457	1,054,921	(987,532)	193,846								
Designated	30,000	-	-	-	30,000	-	-	30,000								
Total unrestricted funds	156,933	819,153	(816,253)	(3,376)	156,457	1,054,921	(987,532)	223,846								
Restricted funds																
The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:																
Awards for All	2,104	-	-	-	2,104	-	-	2,104								
Communities First	-	40,491	(35,938)	-	4,553	33,368	(2,104)	-								
RCTSPF	434	2,000	(2,000)	-	434	77,776	(37,921)	-								
Winter Hardship	690	-	-	-	690	1,000	(78,210)	-								
WOW	2,129	-	-	-	2,129	-	(1,690)	-								
Wellbeing	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-	-	(2,129)	-								
COF	-	50,000	(50,000)	-	-	-	-	-								
Interlink	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-	-	-	-								
Lottery	-	77,906	(81,282)	3,376	-	80,936	(80,936)	-								
RCT	-	2,620	(2,620)	-	-	10,030	(10,030)	-								
PYC	-	-	-	-	-	30,096	(30,096)	-								
WCVA	-	-	-	-	-	10,000	(10,000)	-								
Total Restricted funds	5,357	176,017	(174,840)	3,376	9,910	243,206	(253,116)	-								
Total funds	151,576	995,170	(991,093)	-	166,367	1,298,127	(1,240,648)	223,846								

The Fern Partnership

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Movement on funds - continued

Unrestricted funds:-

Unrestricted general funds may be spent generally for the furthering the charitable work of The Fern Partnership. The fund in this category is the General Fund.

The unrestricted designated fund was WG Resilience funding secured to provide support to families and young people who are suffering with mental health & well being problems caused by isolation through COVID. Funding has been set aside to work in partnership with Ferndale Community School to create a Wellbeing officer to support our families in the Community.

Restricted funds:-

Awards for All

The Fern Partnership was awarded £10,000 in 2023-24 to deliver a number of Health & Wellbeing events across our communities eg Jubilee events, Themed events , visits to outside attractions.

Communities for Work

CFW is a government funded project to help those adults furthest away from the labour into employment. It builds on our existing programmes to tackle poverty to help get people into work and helps engagement with our community in Maerdy and Ferndale.

RCTSPF

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a new funding stream for local investment in accordance with the UK government's Levelling up Agenda. This is a new funding programme for RCT and it is anticipated that the third sector will benefit from this funding up until March 2025.

Winter Hardship Fund

This grant was awarded by RCT to support families with food hampers etc through pressures caused by the cost of living crisis.

Winter of Wellbeing

The Fern Partnership secured funding for a number of projects through RCT. Play schemes After School Clubs Baby & Toddler Groups, Summer of Fun and Winter of Wellbeing. All these funds help us provide activities for children and young people.

Community Ownership Fund (COF)

The Fern Partnership was awarded £350,000, £250,000 capital and £50,000 revenue towards the purchase of FuZe Soft Play & Climbing Centre.

Interlink

This grant was awarded by Interlink to support families with food hampers etc through pressures caused by the cost of living crisis.

The Fern Partnership

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Movement on funds - continued

Lottery

People & Places funding was awarded to fund overhead costs of Ferndale Hwb. This funding has enabled us to strengthen our back-office support for the whole organisation. Managing systems such as fee collection for childcare as well a booking system for FuZe Soft Play & Climbing Centre.

RCT

RCT funding (£1,000) for Neighbourhood Network project and £1,620 from the Community Facilities.

12. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	2025
			£
Tangible Fixed Assets	363,344	-	363,344
Net Current Assets	164,632	-	164,632
Long Term Liabilities	(304,130)	-	(304,130)
	<u>223,846</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>223,846</u>

13. Related party transactions

No payment of salary or expenses was made to any trustee for the year under review. (2024 - Nil)