

# THE SENSORY PLACE

England & Wales · Charity number 1195932

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2021-09-27

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

## Contact

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**Address** 6 Bedford Place  
Sunderland  
SR3 1LA

**Phone** 07749951903

**Email** [hello@thesensoryplace.net](mailto:hello@thesensoryplace.net)

**Website** [www.thesensoryplace.net](http://www.thesensoryplace.net)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO RELIEVE THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES AND THEIR PARENTS, CARERS AND SIBLINGS IN THE NORTH-EAST OF ENGLAND BY PROVIDING A SUPPORT NETWORK IN THE FORM OF SUPPORT GROUPS, SENSORY FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES, TRAINING COURSES AND FACILITIES FOR PLAY, SPORT AND RECREATION IN A SAFE, SECURE AND NON-JUDGMENTAL ENVIRONMENT.TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION AMONGST PARENTS/CARERS WHO ARE SOCIALLY ISOLATED OR EXCLUDED AS A RESULT OF THEIR CHILD'S CONDITION BY PROVIDING INFORMATION, ADVICE, GUIDANCE, PRACTICAL SUPPORT AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THEIR LIFE CONDITIONS.

**Activities:** The Sensory Place provide a wide range of inclusive activities for disabled children and their families across Sunderland, County Durham and surrounding areas. This includes social, leisure and sporting activities. We provide safe and non-judgemental spaces where everyone is able to be themselves and where families can meet other likeminded families. We also provide courses for parents and carers.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Disability
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities

## Geography

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- Durham
- Hartlepool
- South Tyneside
- Sunderland

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-10-31	£77,946	£58,768	-	-
2023-10-31	£44,009	£32,950	-	-
2022-10-31	£33,248	£23,048	-	-

## Trustees

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Name	Role	Appointed
Amy Henderson		2019-06-30
Ann Young		2021-06-01
Helen Elizabeth Abernethy		2021-06-01
Lucinda Mary Horsley		2024-09-13
Rebecca Follesa		2023-03-10

**THE SENSORY PLACE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1195932

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# Accounts

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The Sensory Place  
Report and Financial Statements  
Year Ended 31 October 2024

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## The Sensory Place Report of the Trustees

Year ended 31 October 2024

### Legal and administrative information

Board of Trustees	Ann Young Amy Henderson Louise Monaghan Helen Abernethy Rebecca Follesa
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Registered Address	6 Bedford Place Silksworth Sunderland SR3 1LA
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Independent Examiner	Paul O’Hehir SM Business Centre, Barnfield Road Spennymoor County Durham DL16 6EL
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## **Trustees Annual Report**

The trustees present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 October 2024.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

The Sensory Place is a registered charity with the Charity Commission for England and Wales since 27 September 2021, charity number 1195932. The Sensory Place is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

### **Public benefit statement**

The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit as published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales. In setting our objectives and planning activities our Trustees have given consideration to the public benefit and in particular to the relief of the needs of children and young people with additional needs and disabilities.

### **Objectives and Activities**

The objects of the CIO is: -

To relieve the needs of children and young people with additional needs and disabilities in the North East of England by providing a support network in the form of support groups, sensory friendly activities, training courses, facilities for play, sport and recreation in a safe, secure and non-judgemental environment.

To promote social inclusion amongst parents/carers who are socially isolated or excluded as a result of their child's condition by providing information, advice, guidance, practical support and recreational facilities in order to promote their life conditions.

### **Vision**

Our vision is that all children and young people no matter what their disability have the same opportunities for play, recreation and fun as their non-disabled peers and that they are free to be able to be themselves.

### **Mission**

Our mission is to provide inclusive and accessible activities for all children and young people with additional needs and disabilities and to give them opportunities they may not otherwise have. We also endeavour to support the whole family by providing family friendly activities and training and information sessions for parents and carers as well as opportunities for them to be relieved of the caring responsibilities even for a short period.

### **We will do this by:**

- researching appropriate, family friendly activities that are inclusive to all.
- Speaking to our families to find out what they would like to do.
- Recognise the contribution and sacrifices that siblings and other family members make and welcoming them to activities.
- Provide safe spaces, free from judgement where families can come together to relax and make friends.
- Provide a wide range of things to do. We aim to offer activities where there is something for everyone to choose from.
- Remove age and location barriers to activities. Where funding dictates that certain ages or locations are specified. We will utilise other funding to ensure that families who fall out of these brackets can still attend.
- Signpost families to other organisations where they can receive the support they need.
- Offering activities at a subsidised rate or for free.
- Providing training sessions to give parent carers information, advice and guidance on a range of subjects that will make their parenting journey easier.

### **The Team**

The Sensory Place is supported by a team of passionate trustees and volunteers. The trustees all live and work in the areas in which they serve and also have first-hand, lived experience of raising a child or young person with additional needs and/or disabilities. This gives trustees a unique perspective and an understanding of the challenges that families accessing the charity face as well having the knowledge to be able to provide the right type of support.

### **Achievements and Performance**

The Sensory Place is a family-friendly organisation dedicated to making a real difference in our community. We understand how challenging it can be for families with children who cannot access mainstream activities. That's why we believe every child should be able to be their authentic self and have fun in a way that's meaningful to them.

We regularly engage with our families to learn from their experiences—what they have enjoyed, what they would like to see more of and how we can keep improving our services.

Thanks to generous grants and donations, including support from the new local initiative \*Mackem Money\*, we have been able to significantly expand our offerings. This support has allowed us to collaborate with local organisations to provide a range of new activities, including art classes, dance sessions and the opportunity for families to learn Makaton and different forms of communication.

Throughout the year, we have offered a wide variety of inclusive activities such as swimming, forest school, science sessions, water sports, climbing, archery, snow tubing, crafts, trampoline

sessions and gymnastics. We have also hosted special days out to popular destinations including Adventure Valley, Whitehouse Farm, Beamish and Alnwick Gardens.

Following community feedback, our activities now cater to a wider age range—from 0 to 25 years. We've worked closely with Sunderland and County Durham Councils to provide holiday activities that include free meals for children. We are proud to be the main provider of SEND-friendly activities in the Sunderland area.

One of our standout events this year was \*The Greatest Showman\* family entertainment afternoon. Families enjoyed a relaxed environment with live entertainment, circus skills workshops and lots of fun for all ages. We also provided a two course meal for families to enjoy together. This was such a success that we plan to make entertainment afternoons a regular feature.

At Christmas, we ensured that every child who attended our Soft Play and Breakfast with Santa session received age and ability appropriate gift. We also provided parents and carers with a hot drink and cooked breakfast to share the festive joy.

We have also collaborated with 'Choice Wellbeing Service', a local CiC who provide support services for parent carers. We now feature in the new 'Rainbow Guide'—a local resource for all things SEND. Additionally, we have been able to fund a weekly Stay and Play session for local families.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who has supported us to be able to achieve our aims.

Below is an example of some of the activities we have offered to demonstrate the fun our young people have had.



## Independent Examiner's Report



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

### Independent examiner's report on the accounts

#### Section A Independent Examiner's Report

<b>Report to the trustees</b>	Charity Name The Sensory Place		
<b>On accounts for the year ended</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> October 2024	<b>Charity no (if any)</b>	1195932
<b>Set out on pages</b>	1		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/ 10/2024**.

#### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").  
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

#### Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

Signed:

Date:

26/03/2025

Name:

Paul O'Hehir

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Association of Chartered Certified Accounts (ACCA)

Address:

SM Business Centre, Barnfield Road

Spennymoor, County Durham

DL16 6EL



## Accounts

### Receipts and Payments Accounts

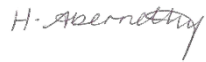
From 01/11/23 – 31/10/24

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds		Endowment funds		Total funds		Last year	
	to the nearest £		to the nearest £		to the nearest £		to the nearest £		to the nearest £	
<b>Section A Receipts and payments</b>										
<b>A1 Receipts</b>										
Grants	-	45,014	-	45,014	-	45,014	-	45,014	22,035	
Donations	32,932		-		-	32,932	-	32,932	21,924	
Cash		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	
		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>32,932</b>	<b>45,014</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>45,014</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>77,946</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>77,946</b>	<b>44,009</b>	
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>										
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>32,932</b>	<b>45,014</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>45,014</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>77,946</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>77,946</b>	<b>44,009</b>	
Training									45	
Insurance	519					519		519	471	
Advertising and Marketing	186					186		186	404	
Fundraising	609					609		609	1,154	
IT Costs	300					300		300	300	
Stationery and Postage	31	30		30		61		61	32	
Subscriptions	189	27		27		216		216	180	
Accountancy									200	
Legal and Professional	124					124		124		
Expenses	32					32		32	187	
Miscellaneous	42					42		42	50	
Refunds	281					281		281	78	
Refreshments	-	-		-		-		-		
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>24,462</b>	<b>34,306</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>34,306</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>58,768</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>58,768</b>	<b>32,950</b>	
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>										
	-	-		-		-		-		
	-	-		-		-		-		
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>24,462</b>	<b>34,306</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>34,306</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>58,768</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>58,768</b>	<b>32,950</b>	
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>8,470</b>	<b>10,709</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,709</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19,178</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19,178</b>	<b>11,059</b>	
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	-	-		-		-		-	-	
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>23,113</b>	<b>10,272</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,272</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33,385</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33,385</b>	<b>22,326</b>	
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>31,583</b>	<b>20,981</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,981</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>52,563</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>52,563</b>	<b>33,385</b>	

<b>Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period</b>				
<b>Categories</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds</b> to nearest £	<b>Restricted funds</b> to nearest £	<b>Endowment funds</b> to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank	31,553	20,981	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>31,553</b>	<b>20,981</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	OK	OK
	<b>Details</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds</b> to nearest £	<b>Restricted funds</b> to nearest £	<b>Endowment funds</b> to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Details</b>	<b>Fund to which asset belongs</b>	<b>Cost (optional)</b>	<b>Current value (optional)</b>
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	<b>Details</b>	<b>Fund to which asset belongs</b>	<b>Cost (optional)</b>	<b>Current value (optional)</b>
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	<b>Details</b>	<b>Fund to which liability relates</b>	<b>Amount due (optional)</b>	<b>When due (optional)</b>
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

The notes on pages 12-14 form an integral part of these accounts.

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 24.006.25 and are signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "H. Abernethy".

Helen Abernethy

Treasurer

## Notes to Accounts

### 1. Legal Status of the Charity

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and the liability of trustees is limited.

### 2. Accounting Policies

#### Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011. These financial statements are prepared in Sterling which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts are rounded to the nearest £1.

#### Preparation of accounts on a going concern basis.

The trustees have reviewed the cash flow forecasts and there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue its operations for at least the next twelve months and on this basis the trustees consider that the charity is a going concern.

#### Fund accounting – Unrestricted and restricted funds.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other income received or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds. Restricted funds are given for a specific and further details are provided in the notes below. General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designed for other purposes.

#### Reserves.

The purpose of the reserve policy is to ensure the stability of the ongoing operations of the charity by providing an internal source of funds should there be an unanticipated loss in funding, an unbudgeted expense or an unexpected increase in expenses.

In assessing our required level of reserves, we include consideration of:

- **Room Hire:** Regular venue hire used to deliver essential charitable activities.
- **Ongoing Contractor Costs:** Contracted fees essential for delivery of committed services.
- **Programme Delivery Costs:** Supplies, subscriptions and materials for ongoing activities.
- **Operational Overheads:** Insurance, IT systems, accountancy and other fixed running costs.
- **Legal or Regulatory Obligations:** Any liabilities arising from contracts or compliance requirements.

The Reserves Policy is to retain enough unrestricted funds at any given time to support six months costs. This ensures we could continue to operate essential services even during a short-term funding disruption. This is estimated to be approximately £15,000 which is approximately £2500 per month. There is also a commitment of £12000 which is ringfenced from reserves for an upcoming excursion. This leaves approximately £4000 in free reserves to be used for any purpose to help the charity achieve its aims.

The reserves level is reviewed regularly by the Board of Trustees as part of our financial reporting.

#### **Trustees Remuneration.**

The trustees give freely their time and expertise and do not receive remuneration for this. Expenses, for refreshments were paid to trustees to the value of £32.

### **3. Analysis of Income**

#### **i) Grants – Restricted**

<b>Name of Grant</b>	<b>Amount Received</b>
Community Foundation	£1750
Community Foundation	£5000
CDCF	£4992
The National Lottery	£20,000
Inclusion North	£2900
<b>Total</b>	<b>£34,642</b>

#### **ii) Income from Government Contracts**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Amount Received</b>
Sunderland City Council	£5474.86
Durham County Council	£4897.51
<b>Total</b>	<b>£10,372.37</b>

iii) **Other Donations – Unrestricted**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Amount Received</b>
Donations	£14912
<b>Total</b>	<b>£14912</b>

iv) **Income from Charitable Activities**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Amount Received</b>
Events and Activities	£18020
<b>Total</b>	<b>£18,020</b>

**THE SENSORY PLACE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1195932

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# Accounts

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**The Sensory Place**  
**Report and Financial Statements**  
**Year Ended 31 October 2023**

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**The Sensory Place**

**Report of the Trustees**

**Year ended 31 October 2023**

**Legal and administrative information**

Board of Trustees

Ann Young  
Amy Henderson  
Louise Monaghan  
Helen Abernethy  
Rebecca Follesa

Registered Address

6 Bedford Place  
Silksworth  
Sunderland  
SR3 1LA

Independent Examiner

Kevin Bell  
Accountancy Direct  
Jeffries House South  
Ramshaw  
Blanchland  
DH8 9XA

## **Trustees Annual Report**

The trustees present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 October 2023.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

The Sensory Place is a registered charity with the Charity Commission for England and Wales since 27 September 2021, charity number 1195932. The Sensory Place is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

### **Public benefit statement**

The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit as published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales. In setting our objectives and planning activities our Trustees have given consideration to the public benefit and in particular to the relief of the needs of children and young people with additional needs and disabilities.

### **Objectives and Activities**

The objects of the CIO is:

- To relieve the needs of children and young people with additional needs and disabilities in the North East of England by providing a support network in the form of support groups, sensory friendly activities, training courses, facilities for play, sport and recreation in a safe, secure and non-judgemental environment.
- To promote social inclusion amongst parents/carers who are socially isolated or excluded as a result of their child's condition by providing information, advice, guidance, practical support and recreational facilities in order to promote their life conditions.

### **Vision**

Our vision is that all children no matter what their disability have the same opportunities for play, recreation and fun as their non-disabled peers and that they are free to be able to be themselves.

### **Mission**

Our mission is to provide inclusive and accessible activities for all children with additional needs and disabilities and to give them opportunities they may not otherwise have. We also endeavour to support the whole family by providing family friendly activities and training and information sessions for parents and carers as well as opportunities for them to be relieved of the caring responsibilities even for a short period.

### **We will do this by:**

- researching appropriate, family friendly activities that are inclusive to all.
- Speaking to our families to find out what they would like to do.
- Recognise the contribution and sacrifices that siblings and other family members make and welcoming them to activities.
- Provide safe spaces, free from judgement where families can come together to relax and make friends.
- Provide a wide range of things to do. We aim to offer activities where there is something for everyone to choose from.
- Remove age and location barriers to activities. Where funding dictates that certain ages or locations are specified. We will utilise other funding to ensure that families who fall out of these brackets can still attend.
- Signpost families to other organisations where they can receive the support they need.
- Offering activities at a subsidised rate or for free.
- Providing training sessions to give parent carers information, advice and guidance on a range of subjects that will make their parenting journey easier.

### **The Team**

The Sensory Place is supported by a team of passionate trustees and volunteers. The trustees all live and work in the areas in which they serve and also have first-hand, lived experience of raising a child with additional needs and/or disabilities. This gives trustees a unique perspective and an understanding of the challenges that families accessing the charity face as well having the knowledge to be able to provide the right type of support.

### **Achievements and Performance**

The Sensory Place is a family friendly organisation who want to make a difference. We understand how difficult it can be for families to come together and enjoy activities when there is a child or children within the family who is unable to access mainstream activities. We believe that every child should be able to be their authentic selves and have fun in a way that is meaningful to them. With this in mind, we regularly speak to our families to find out what activities they have enjoyed in the past, what they would like to do in the future and any suggestions they can make so we can continue to improve upon what we do.

Throughout the year we have also been able to offer a wide range of activities due to receiving grants and donations. We are extremely grateful to all funders and people who have donated to us to enable us to be able to carry out our objectives.

Due to receiving such generous donations we have been able to increase our range of activities as well as being able to introduce regular monthly activities of swimming and soft play

Some of the other activities we have done include forest school sessions, science sessions, watersports, gymnastics, cooking sessions and craft and play sessions. One of our biggest events of the year was a family fun day to celebrate the coronation of King Charles in ways that were meaningful to each family. We had a wide variety of activities for the whole family to enjoy,

including a bubbleologist, circus skills, birds of prey, crafts and messy play and a silent disco. One of the highlights of the day was when a real fire engine turned up and the children were able to meet the fire fighters and have a go with some of the equipment. We also hosted a sensory friendly firework party for Bonfire Night to enable children who want to see fireworks but struggle with the noise of fireworks to be able to do so in a safe and quiet environment.

In addition to activities for the whole family, we also introduced our 'Caring for Carers' project following feedback about how socially isolating and draining being a carer can be. This project includes providing carer only craft activities, mindfulness sessions, swimming sessions and holistic therapies to help ease some of the stresses that parent carers often feel as well as improving support networks.

Below is an example of some of the activities we have offered which show how much our children and families enjoy what we have to offer.



Independent Examiner's Report



**CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's  
report on the accounts**

**Section A Independent Examiner's Report**

<b>Report to the trustees/ members of</b>	Charity Name The Sensory Place		
<b>On accounts for the year ended</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> October 2023	<b>Charity no (if any)</b>	1195932
<b>Set out on pages</b>	1-2		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/10/2023**.

**Responsibilities and basis of report** As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement** I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below \*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

*\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

**Signed:**  **Date:**

**Name:**


**Company Name:**

**Address:**

## Accounts

### Receipts and Payments Accounts

From 01/11/22 – 31/10/23

 <b>CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES</b>	The Sensory Place		1195932		<b>CC16a</b>
	<b>Receipts and payments accounts</b>				
	For the period from	01/11/2022	To	31/10/2023	
<b>Section A Receipts and payments</b>					
	<b>Unrestricted funds to the nearest £</b>	<b>Restricted funds to the nearest £</b>	<b>Endowment funds to the nearest £</b>	<b>Total funds to the nearest £</b>	<b>Last year to the nearest £</b>
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Grants	-	22,035	-	22,035	21,281
Donations	21,924	-	-	21,924	11,967
Cash	50	-	-	50	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>21,974</b>	<b>22,035</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>44,009</b>	<b>33,248</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>21,974</b>	<b>22,035</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>44,009</b>	<b>33,248</b>

<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Events and Activities	9,809	17,458	-	27,267	12,181
Materials	43	-	-	43	2,076
Equipment Purchased	179	227	-	406	1,929
Room Hire	489	1,644	-	2,133	2,966
Gifts	-	-	-	-	1,019
Training	-	45	-	45	350
Insurance	471	-	-	471	137
Advertising and Marketing	404	-	-	404	521
Fundraising	1,154	-	-	1,154	907
IT Costs	300	-	-	300	192
Stationery and Postage	20	12	-	32	72
Subscriptions	144	36	-	180	-
Accountancy	200	-	-	200	200
Legal and Professional	-	-	-	-	48
Expenses	99	88	-	187	-
Miscellaneous	50	-	-	50	-
Refunds	78	-	-	78	-
Refreshments	-	-	-	-	450
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>13,440</b>	<b>19,510</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>32,950</b>	<b>23,048</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>13,440</b>	<b>19,510</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>32,950</b>	<b>23,048</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>8,534</b>	<b>2,525</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,059</b>	<b>10,200</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>14,579</b>	<b>7,747</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>22,326</b>	<b>12,126</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>23,113</b>	<b>10,272</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33,385</b>	<b>22,326</b>

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

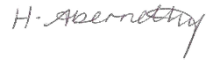
From 01/11/22 – 31/10/23

<b>Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period</b>				
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank	23,113	10,272	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>23,113</b>	<b>10,272</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		<b>Unrestricted funds to nearest £</b>	<b>Restricted funds to nearest £</b>	<b>Endowment funds to nearest £</b>
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

The notes on pages 13-14 form an integral part of these accounts.

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 22/08/24 and are signed on its behalf by:

Helen Abernethy  
Treasurer

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "H. Abernethy".

## Notes to Accounts

### 1. Legal Status of the Charity

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and the liability of trustees is limited.

### 2. Accounting Policies

#### Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

These financial statements are prepared in Sterling which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts are rounded to the nearest £1.

#### Preparation of accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees have reviewed the cash flow forecasts and there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue its operations for at least the next twelve months and on this basis the trustees consider that the charity is a going concern.

#### Fund accounting – Unrestricted and restricted funds

Unrestricted funds are donations and other income received or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Restricted funds are given for a specific and further details are provided in the notes below.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designed for other purposes.

#### Reserves

The purpose of the reserve policy is to ensure the stability of the ongoing operations of the charity by providing an internal source of funds should there be an unanticipated loss in funding, an unbudgeted expense or an unexpected increase in expenses.

The Reserves Policy is to retain enough unrestricted funds at any given time to support twelve months core costs. This is estimated to be approximately £8000.

This leaves approximately £15000 in free reserves to be used for any purpose to help the charity achieve its aims.

### Trustees Remuneration

The trustees give freely their time and expertise and do not receive remuneration for this. Expenses, for travel, were paid to trustees to the value of £129.84. Remaining expenses were paid to a volunteer, for travel, to the value for £56.95 for the year.

### 3. Analysis of Income

#### i) Grants - Restricted

Name of Grant	Amount Received
Local Giving	500
The National Lottery	2800
County Durham Community Foundation (Poverty Hurts)	2000
County Durham Community Foundation (Caring for Carers)	5000
Tesco (Groundworks)	250
Sport England (Sport for All)	8050
<b>Total</b>	<b>18600</b>

#### ii) Income from Government Contracts

Name	Amount Received
Durham County Council	3435.36
<b>Total</b>	<b>3435.36</b>

#### iii) Other Donations - Unrestricted

Name	Donation Amount
John Abernethy Memory	355
Other donations	10410.21
<b>Total</b>	<b>10765.21</b>

#### iv) Income from Charitable Activities

Name	Amount
Events and Activities	10238.79
Memberships	970
<b>Total</b>	<b>11208.79</b>



**THE SENSORY PLACE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1195932

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# Accounts

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**The Sensory Place**  
**Report and Financial Statements**  
**Year Ended 31 October 2022**

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Legal and administrative information	2
Report of the Management Committee	3-7
Report of the Independent examiner	8
Balance Sheet	9-10
Notes to the financial statements	11-13

## **Legal and administrative information**

Board of Trustees

Ann Young

Amy Henderson

Louise Monaghan

Helen Abernethy

Rebecca Follesa

Craig Henderson – resigned 22.05.22

Registered Address

6 Bedford Place  
Silksworth  
Sunderland  
SR3 1LA

Independent Examiner

Kevin Bell  
Accountancy Direct Ltd  
Jeffries House South  
Ramshaw  
Blanchland  
DH8 9XA

## **Trustees Annual Report**

The trustees present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 October 2022.

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

The Sensory Place is a registered charity with the Charity Commission for England and Wales since 27 September 2021, charity number 1195932. The Sensory Place is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

## **Public benefit statement**

The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit as published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales. In setting our objectives and planning activities our Trustees have given consideration to the public benefit and in particular to the relief of the needs of children and young people with additional needs and disabilities.

## **Objectives and Activities**

The objects of the CIO is:

- To relieve the needs of children and young people with additional needs and disabilities in the North East of England by providing a support network in the form of support groups, sensory friendly activities, training courses, facilities for play, sport and recreation in a safe, secure and non-judgemental environment.
- To promote social inclusion amongst parents/carers who are socially isolated or excluded as a result of their child's condition by providing information, advice, guidance, practical support and recreational facilities in order to promote their life conditions.

## **Vision**

Our vision is that all children no matter what their disability have the same opportunities for play, recreation and fun as their non-disabled peers and that they are free to be able to be themselves.

## **Mission**

Our mission is to provide inclusive and accessible activities for all children with additional needs and disabilities and to give them opportunities they may not otherwise have. We also endeavour to support the whole family by providing family friendly activities and training and information sessions for parents and carers as well as opportunities for them to be relieved of the caring responsibilities even for a short period.

We will do this by:

- researching appropriate, family friendly activities that are inclusive to all.
- Speaking to our families to find out what they would like to do.
- Recognise the contribution and sacrifices that siblings and other family members make and welcoming them to activities.
- Provide safe spaces, free from judgement where families can come together to relax and make friends.
- Provide a wide range of things to do. We aim to offer activities where there is something for everyone to choose from.
- Remove age and location barriers to activities. Where funding dictates that certain ages or locations are specified. We will utilise other funding to ensure that families who fall out of these brackets can still attend.
- Signpost families to other organisations where they can receive the support they need.
- Offering activities at a subsidised rate or for free.
- Providing training sessions to give parent carers information, advice and guidance on a range of subjects that will make their parenting journey easier.

## **The Team**

The Sensory Place is supported by a team of passionate trustees and volunteers. The trustees all live and work in the areas in which they serve and also have first-hand, lived experience of raising a child with additional needs and/or disabilities. This gives trustees a unique perspective and an understanding of the challenges that families accessing the charity face as well having the knowledge to be able to provide the right type of support.

## **Achievements and Performance**

The Sensory Place is a family friendly organisation who want to make a difference. We understand how difficult it can be for families to come together and enjoy activities when there is a child or children within the family who is unable to access mainstream activities. We believe that every child should be able to be their authentic selves and have fun in a way that is meaningful to them. With this in mind, we regularly speak to our families to find out what activities they have enjoyed in the past, what they would like to do in the future and any suggestions they can make so we can continue to improve upon what we do.

From the end of 2021 we were still adhering to Covid-19 government guidance which did make the organisation of some events a little more challenging. We ensured that venue rules were followed and passed important safety information onto families. Many people were still self-isolating as family members were still testing positive for Covid, meaning they were unable to attend events. There was also a high proportion of our medically vulnerable families who were continuing to shield as the risks of Covid to them were significantly higher. We

kept the lines of communication with these families open by completing doorstep visits and providing at home sensory activity packs and cooking packs to help relieve some of the boredom they felt by having to remain isolated.

Despite a high level of cancellations from families during this time due to testing positive for Covid, we were still able to run all of the activities that we had planned and were able to subsidise them so families didn't have to pay a higher fee or miss out by having to cancel the activity. We were able to do this from donations received.

One of our biggest achievements of 2021 and one we are particularly proud of is our Santa's Sensory Grotto. We had received feedback from some families that they had, in previous years, found it really difficult to visit Santa in his grotto as the grottos were either too busy, loud, bright and generally overwhelming for their children. There were also some of our families who were unable to access some grottos due to a lack of physical accessibility or facilities to change their children who had become too large for baby changing facilities. We wanted to change this so that all children had the chance to see Santa in an environment that was suitable for them and receive a gift that was matched to their needs. Over the course of two days that we ran the grotto, we had 84 children attend in small groups of no more than ten to help prevent the children becoming overwhelmed. As always, siblings were encouraged to come along so the whole family could be involved. This event was really well received and we had some fantastic feedback. Some of the feedback we received was:

*"Thank you for giving us the experience of meeting Santa as a family without any of the normal pressures or upset for my little girl."*

*"I would love to come to other activities that you run. It made a lovely change to be in an environment where you don't feel judged for your child acting how they do because of their disability."*

*"The whole experience was amazing and both children thoroughly enjoyed it. It would be amazing if this relaxed Santa visit could take place every year."*



Throughout the year we have also been able to offer a wide range of activities due to the generosity of people who have donated money to us through fundraising and the receipt of a number of grants. We are extremely grateful to all funders and people who have donated to us to enable us to be able to carry out our objectives. We have been able to provide forest schools, science sessions, cooking sessions, animal therapy and handling sessions, play and crafts, watersports, sensory sessions as well as activity packs for children to enjoy at home. Below is an example of some of the activities we have offered which show how much our children and families enjoy what we have to offer.



## **Independent Examiner's Report**

<b>Report to the trustees/ members of</b>	Charity Name THE SENSORY PLACE		
<b>On accounts for the year ended</b>	31 <sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2022	<b>Charity no (if any)</b>	1195932
<b>Set out on pages</b>	1 to 2.		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/10/2022.

**Responsibilities and basis of report** As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement** I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below \*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

**Signed:**  **Date:**

**Name:**

**Company Name:**

**Address:**

## Accounts

## Receipts and Payments Accounts

From 01/11/21 - 31/10/22

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Grants	-	21,281	-	21,281	-
Donations	11,967	-	-	11,967	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>11,967</b>	<b>21,281</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33,248</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>11,967</b>	<b>21,281</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33,248</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Events and Activities	6,079	6,102	-	12,181	-
Materials	606	1,470	-	2,076	-
Equipment Purchased	-	1,929	-	1,929	-
Room Hire	90	2,876	-	2,966	-
Gifts	11	1,008	-	1,019	-
Training	-	350	-	350	-
Insurance	137	-	-	137	-
Advertising and Marketing	413	108	-	521	-
Fundraising	907	-	-	907	-
IT Costs	192	-	-	192	-
Stationery and Postage	72	-	-	72	-
Accountancy	200	-	-	200	-
Legal and Professional	48	-	-	48	-
Refreshments	369	81	-	450	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>9,124</b>	<b>13,924</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23,048</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>9,124</b>	<b>13,924</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23,048</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>2,843</b>	<b>7,357</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,200</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>					
	11,736	390	-	12,126	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>					
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>14,579</b>	<b>7,747</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>22,326</b>	<b>-</b>

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities

From 01/11/21 - 31/10/22

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank Account	14,579	7,747	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>14,579</b>	<b>7,747</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

The notes on pages 11-13 form an integral part of these accounts.

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 13/07/23 and are signed on it's behalf by:

Helen  
Treasurer

*H. Abernethy*

Abernethy

## Notes to Accounts

### 1. Legal Status of the Charity

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and the liability of trustees is limited.

## **2. Accounting Policies**

### **Basis of Preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

These financial statements are prepared in Sterling which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts are rounded to the nearest £1.

### **Preparation of accounts on a going concern basis**

The trustees have reviewed the cash flow forecasts and there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue its operations for at least the next twelve months and on this basis the trustees consider that the charity is a going concern.

### **Fund accounting - Unrestricted and restricted funds**

Unrestricted funds are donations and other income received or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Restricted funds are given for a specific and further details are provided in the notes below.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designed for other purposes.

### **Reserves**

The purpose of the reserve policy is to ensure the stability of the ongoing operations of the charity by providing an internal source of funds should there be an unanticipated loss in funding, an unbudgeted expense or an unexpected increase in expenses.

The Reserves Policy is to retain enough unrestricted funds at any given time to support six months core costs. This is estimated to be approximately £2500.

The trustees have also designated £5000 towards a future project that the charity is continuing to fundraise towards.

This leaves approximately £2700 in free reserves to be used for any purpose to help the charity achieve its aims.

**Trustees Remuneration**

Trustees did not receive remuneration in any form during the year and were not paid for or claimed any expenses.

**3. Analysis of Income**

**i) Grants - Restricted**

<b>Name of Grant</b>	<b>Amount Received</b>
Asda	1000
Spacehive	4431.29
British Science Association	500
County Durham Community Foundation (Made by Sport)	2021
Barbour	1500
County Durham Community Foundation (Arts and Theatre)	3120
Grocer's Charity	3500
Community Foundation	1500
Woodward Trust	1000
Groundworks	1958.50
Tesco Community Fund	750
<b>Total</b>	<b>£21,280.79</b>

**ii) Other Donations - Unrestricted**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Donation Amount</b>
Lakeside Darts and Dominos Team in name of Ada Simpson	£2700
Margaret Rodda Memory	£444.15
Val Storey Memory	£80
Other donations	£1395.26
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4619.41</b>

**iii) Income from Charitable Activities**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Events and Activities	£6458
Memberships	£890
<b>Total</b>	<b>£7348</b>

