



**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

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

Charity Name  
The Sensory Place

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

31<sup>st</sup> October 2023

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1195932

**Set out on pages**

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:**

*K Bell*

**Date:**

21/08/24

**Name:**

K BELL

**Company Name:**

ACCOUNTANCY DIRECT LTD

**Address:**


JEFFRIES HOUSE SOUTH, RAMSHAW, BLANCHLAND, DH8 9XA



## Accounts

### Receipts and Payments Accounts

From 01/11/22 – 31/10/23



CHARITY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Sensory Place

1195932

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from

01/11/2022

To

31/10/2023

CC16a

Section A Receipts and payments

	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	-	22,035	-	22,035	21,281
Donations	21,924		-	21,924	11,967
Cash	50	-	-	50	-
		-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	21,974	22,035	-	44,009	33,248
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	21,974	22,035	-	44,009	33,248

<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

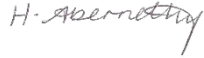
From 01/11/22 – 31/10/23

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period				
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	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
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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 dark ink, appearing to read 'H. Abernethy', written in a cursive style.

## **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>

