



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

## **Contents Page**

Legal and administrative information	Page 3
Report of the Management Committee	Pages 4-7
Report of the Independent examiner	Page 8
Statement of Financial Activities	Pages 9 – 11
Notes to the financial statements	Pages 12 – 14

## 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
Registered Address	6 Bedford Place
	Silksworth
	Sunderland
	SR3 1LA
Independent Examiner	Paul O’Hehir
	SM Business Centre,
	Barnfield Road
	Spennymoor
	County Durham
	DL16 6EL

## **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

##### Report to the trustees

Charity Name  
The Sensory Place

##### On accounts for the year ended

31<sup>st</sup> October 2024

Charity no  
(if any)

1195932

##### Set out on pages

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

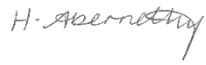
From 01/11/23 – 31/10/24

 CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES	The Sensory Place			1195932		CC16a
	Receipts and payments accounts					
	For the period from	01/11/2023	To	31/10/2024		
Section A Receipts and payments						
	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £	
A1 Receipts						
Grants	-	45,014	-	45,014	22,035	
Donations	32,932		-	32,932	21,924	
Cash		-	-	-	50	
		-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	32,932	45,014	-	77,946	44,009	
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).						
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	
Total receipts	32,932	45,014	-	77,946	44,009	
Training			-	-	45	
Insurance	519			519	471	
Advertising and Marketing	186		-	186	404	
Fundraising	609			609	1,154	
IT Costs	300		-	300	300	
Stationery and Postage	31	30	-	61	32	
Subscriptions	189	27		216	180	
Accountancy			-	-	200	
Legal and Professional	124		-	124		
Expenses	32			32	187	
Miscellaneous	42			42	50	
Refunds	281			281	78	
Refreshments	-	-	-	-		
Sub total	24,462	34,306	-	58,768	32,950	
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)						
	-	-	-	-		
	-	-	-	-		
Sub total	-	-	-	-		
Total payments	24,462	34,306	-	58,768	32,950	
Net of receipts/(payments)	8,470	10,709	-	19,178	11,059	
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	
A6 Cash funds last year end	23,113	10,272	-	33,385	22,326	
Cash funds this year end	31,583	20,981	-	52,563	33,385	

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

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>