

# **Serendipity Creative Writers' Group**

Charity number 1201197

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 November 2024**



# **Serendipity Creative Writers' Group**

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 November 2024**

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**Prepared by West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO**

# **Serendipity Creative Writers' Group**

## **Trustees' report for the year ended 30 November 2024**

### **Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors**

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Kathy Trout	Chair	Appointed 1 November 2024
Amanda Rhodes	Secretary	
Mira Fadel		
Jayne Shepherd	Treasurer	Appointed 12 July 2024
Martin Hemingway		Resigned 17 June 2024
<b>Charity number</b>	1201197	Registered in England and Wales

<b>Registered and principal address</b>	<b>Bankers</b>
4 Fenay Lane	Barclays Bank
Almondbury	York 2
Huddersfield	Leicestershire
HD5 8UL	LE87 2BB

### **Independent examiner**

Alan Dodd FCCA

### **West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO**

Stringer House  
34 Lupton Street  
Leeds  
LS10 2QW

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

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) foundation formed on 2 December 2022 and is governed by a constitution.

### **Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees**

The trustees of the charity are appointed by the trustees at a duly convened meeting.

# **Serendipity Creative Writers' Group**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 30 November 2024**

### **Objectives and activities**

#### **The charity's objects**

The relief of those in need, by reason of youth, age, poor mental or physical health, disability, financial hardship or other social or economic disadvantage in Yorkshire for the public benefit by providing supported opportunities to explore and practise creative writing.

For the purpose of this clause "those in need" means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one or more of the following factors: unemployment; financial hardship; old age; ill health (physical or mental); substance abuse or dependency including alcohol and drugs; discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, disability, ethnic origin, religion, belief, creed, sexual orientation or gender re assignment; poor educational or skills attainment; relationship and family breakdown; poor housing (that is housing that does not meet basic habitable standards; crime (either as a victim of crime or as an offender rehabilitating into society)

#### **The charity's main activities**

We run Serendipity Creative Writing and Mindful Workshops across Kirklees and the broader West Yorkshire area, as cathartic and therapeutic outcomes of working through various mediums of the Arts, in particular, Creative Writing and Mindfulness. These are leader & service user led, are free and include free refreshments. We operate an open-door policy and also receive referrals from the NHS and other Organisations.

Creative Writing is the core service provided, at workshops throughout the Kirklees District. Various topics and prompts, music and artwork are presented to Service Users to stimulate ideas for writing.

Workshops designed to be welcoming, with Service User involvement a core function. In effort to motivate and drive wider mood and self-belief, Serendipity encourages Service Users to be drivers of our workshop formats design and delivery.

This is a vital mental health improvement principle.

We help by sign-posting to authorities. Service Users with current problems are directed to relevant authorities to help get them resolved.

#### **Public benefit statement**

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular the advancement of health.

#### **Achievements and performance**

Over 500 Service Users attended workshops over the last year.

Regular measuring and monitoring with progress reviews, ensure we continue to meet our objectives and can demonstrate Public Benefit.

We have achieved tremendous wins. Service Users report an increase in motivation, improved quality of life, feeling less lonely and isolated and increased self-esteem.

Our rigorous outcomes monitoring is viewed by our Trustees as good evidence reflective of the Service Users' personal stories. It has proved better quality of life resulting in understanding our communities better, putting central to our core objectives the voices of those we serve.

The consistent, "across the board" statistically significant improvement in the mental health and positive outlooks of our Service Users shows demonstrable community benefits for a significant number of people.

By entering into cross-community engagement we help the NHS and other Third Party Sector Partners. This involves our Service Users in helping other groups, and opportunities for our workshops to be delivered to those groups.

In recognition of the vulnerability of people with mental health issues, all our activities are strongly underpinned by risk management and safeguarding policies.

# **Serendipity Creative Writers' Group**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 30 November 2024**

### **Achievements and performance (continued)**

For this Financial Year only, we obtained two “one-off” grants to provide Cost of Living Crisis / Welfare Support against food and utility bills for those of our Service Users who are most in need.

### **Financial review**

The net receipts for the year were £10,473, including net payments of £6,403 on unrestricted funds and net receipts of £16,876 on restricted funds.

### **Reserves policy**

The charity's deficit on free reserves, at the year end was £2,311.

To maintain ongoing sustainability, it is the policy of this Charity to where possible maintain Unrestricted Fund Reserves between an upper and lower level to ensure that liabilities are covered. The upper level roughly approximates to 12 months and a lower level of 3 months' worth of costs and liabilities.

Approved by the board of trustees on 22/7/2025

Kathleen Trout (Trustee)

## **Serendipity Creative Writers' Group**

### **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Serendipity Creative Writers' Group**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the CIO for the year ended 30 November 2024, which are set out on pages 6 to 10.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the CIO 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 CIO's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act;
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

Alan Dodd FCCA

23/7/2025

#### **West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO**

Stringer House  
34 Lupton Street  
Leeds  
LS10 2QW

**Serendipity Creative Writers' Group**  
**Receipts and payments account**  
**for the year ended 30 November 2024**

	Notes	2024 Unrestricted funds £	2024 Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
<b>Receipts</b>					
Grants and donations	(2)	1,720	52,854	54,574	32,928
Transfer on incorporation		-	-	-	1,883
Fundraising		100	-	100	-
<b>Total receipts</b>		<u>1,820</u>	<u>52,854</u>	<u>54,674</u>	<u>34,811</u>
<b>Payments</b>					
Salaries NI and pensions		-	4,988	4,988	-
Welfare		163	8,400	8,563	9,476
Artist fees		450	4,640	5,090	1,185
Administration, office rent, IT, telephone		876	4,182	5,058	2,679
Workshops, room hire and refreshments		2,100	9,846	11,946	6,688
Independent examination of accounts		720	-	720	-
Volunteer expenses and peer support		40	2,117	2,157	1,480
Insurance		99	-	99	96
Van expenses		1,038	-	1,038	1,242
Travel		2,481	1,805	4,286	3,576
Sundry expenses		-	-	-	89
Publications		256	-	256	1,640
Office equipment		-	-	-	818
<b>Total payments</b>		<u>8,223</u>	<u>35,978</u>	<u>44,201</u>	<u>28,969</u>
<b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>		<u>(6,403)</u>	<u>16,876</u>	<u>10,473</u>	<u>5,842</u>
<b>Fund balances brought forward</b>		<u>4,092</u>	<u>1,750</u>	<u>5,842</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Fund balances carried forward</b>	(3)	<u>(2,311)</u>	<u>18,626</u>	<u>16,315</u>	<u>5,842</u>

# Serendipity Creative Writers' Group

## Statement of assets and liabilities

as at 30 November 2024

	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>Cash funds</b>				
Cash at bank	(2,311)	18,626	16,315	5,842
<b>Total cash funds</b>	<u>(2,311)</u>	<u>18,626</u>	<u>16,315</u>	<u>5,842</u>

<b>Debtors and prepayments</b>	2024
	£
Prepayments	445
	<u>445</u>

### Assets retained for the charity's own use

Mercedes-Benz 207D camper van

HP A10 computer

<b>Liabilities</b>	2024
	£
Accruals	792
	<u>792</u>

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 22/7/2025

Kathleen Trout (Trustee)



# **Serendipity Creative Writers' Group**

## **Notes to the accounts**

### **for the year ended 30 November 2024**

#### **1 Accounting policies**

##### **Basis of accounting**

The trustees have taken advantage of section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and have prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year.

No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

The previous accounting period was from 2 December 2022 to 30 November 2023.

##### **Taxation**

As a charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

##### **Fund accounting**

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

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

**Serendipity Creative Writers' Group**  
**Notes to the accounts continued**  
**for the year ended 30 November 2024**

2 Grants and donations	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	funds	funds	funds	funds
	£	£	£	£
Marsden Community Trust	-	1,000	1,000	-
National Lottery Community Fund	-	12,500	12,500	-
National Lottery Reaching Communities	-	28,963	28,963	-
One Community	-	7,800	7,800	7,987
SW Yorkshire Partnership NHS Trust	540	-	540	1,000
Third Sector Leaders (TSL)	550	2,000	2,550	5,150
Yetton Together	-	591	591	-
Assura Community Fund	-	-	-	2,000
Kirklees Council Community Plus Fund	-	-	-	5,000
Sir George Martin Trust	-	-	-	2,000
Sovereign Healthcare	-	-	-	1,000
West Yorkshire Combined Authority	-	-	-	8,000
Other donations	630	-	630	791
	<u>1,720</u>	<u>52,854</u>	<u>54,574</u>	<u>32,928</u>

3 Restricted funds	Balance b/f	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
TSL Healthy Hearts	-	1,000	1,000	-	-
One Community - Crisis Fund	869	6,800	7,669	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	-	12,500	12,500	-	-
Yetton Together	-	591	591	-	-
Marsden Community Trust	-	1,000	1,000	-	-
SW Yorks Partnership	753	-	753	-	-
National Lottery Reaching Communities	-	28,963	10,337	-	18,626
One Community - Grassroots Fund	-	1,000	1,000	-	-
TSL Health Inequalities	-	1,000	1,000	-	-
TSL - bool launch event	128	-	128	-	-
	<u>1,750</u>	<u>52,854</u>	<u>35,978</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,626</u>

Fund name	Purpose of restriction
TSL Healthy Hearts	Funding to support community conversations
One Community - Crisis Fund	For goods, amenities, food and supermarket vouchers for service users and their families
National Lottery Community Fund	Workshops expenses and vouchers to help our service users pay utility bills and food.
Yetton Together	Creative writing workshop expenses
Marsden Community Trust	Deliver creative writing workshops in Marsden and the surrounding area
SW Yorks Partnership	Health promotion workshops in Batley for six months
National Lottery Reaching Communities	Project expenses, workshop expenses, project manager salary and expenses, peer support and volunteer expenses, travel
One Community - Grassroots Fund	Deliver workshops April to June 2024
TSL Health Inequalities	To deliver health inequalities community led programme
TSL - bool launch event	Initial book launch event, Dewsbury

**Serendipity Creative Writers' Group**  
**Notes to the accounts continued**  
**for the year ended 30 November 2024**

**4 Related party transactions**

**Trustee expenses**

No trustee received any expenses during this year or the previous year.

**Trustee remuneration and benefits**

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.