Company No. SC401334
Scottish Charity No. SC042505

Promoting & supporting the power of play

SMART PLAY NETWORK
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2025

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REFERENCE and ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
For the year ended 31 March 2025

Name of charity:	Smart Play Network
Scottish Charity Number	SC042505
Company Number	SC401334
Board of Trustees (Directors)	Deborah Jans (Chair) Iain Highley (Treasurer) Kat Fox (Resigned 24 June 2025) Laura McLaren (Resigned 24 June 2025) Matthew Williams Eliza Lam Catherine Ilett Sinead Thomas
Chief Executive Officer	Lesley Fox
Registered office and principal address	Unit 40, Castlebrae Business Centre Peffer Place Edinburgh EH16 4BB Telephone: 0131 554 2620 Website: www.smartplaynetwork.org
Bankers	The Co-operative Bank plc PO Box 250 Delf House Southway Skelmersdale WN8 6WT
	CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4TA
Solicitors	Morton Fraser MacRoberts LLP 9 Haymarket Square Edinburgh EH3 8RY
Auditor	CT Audit Limited Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor 61 Dublin Street Edinburgh EH3 6NL

The Trustees (who are also the Directors of the company for the purposes of company law) present their Report together with the financial statements and the independent auditor's report for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Objectives & Activities

Smart Play Network is established for the public benefit through supporting and aiding in the establishment and support of play and other services, including but not limited to toy libraries, free play services and services providing resources for play for the purpose of:

a. providing the best available play opportunities, toys and resources that reflect the cultural diversity of service users and that challenge gender, ethnic and disabled stereotypes;
b. promoting the value and benefits of play in assisting the all-round development, wellbeing and health of children from birth, including disabled children and young people, those with additional support needs and those living in disadvantaged circumstances;
c. promoting the social integration of disabled children and young people, those with additional support needs and those living in disadvantaged circumstances;
d. supporting parents, carers and other agencies in giving children the best start in life;

all with a view to the prevention and relief of poverty, the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship and community development.

Achievements & Performance

Smart Play Network is a membership organisation and also runs a number of direct delivery services for children, families and play practitioners.

Membership & Training Services

- Advice and support in setting up projects
- Guidance sheets with practical solutions for success
- Practical ideas for low-cost play activities
- One-to-one support via visits, where possible, and targeted information via direct email
- Workshops and networking events, both online and in person
- Training in free play, play topics and topical workshops
- Online Engage Hub for training, networking and sharing of good practice
- The latest information on funding sources in Scotland
- Support in monitoring and evaluation, policy and a range of templates

Membership has continued to grow this year, welcoming 42 new groups and individuals, with our total membership reaching 451. Targeted support was provided to 63 members directly, ranging from supporting schools to introduce loose parts to their playgrounds to helping toy libraries and small local groups determine eligibility for staff and volunteers with the upcoming new PVG regulation changes. We have held seven online networking events, which covered all aspects of play-type services within our membership. Monthly newsletters have a new dynamic design and keep our members up to date with current topics, funding news, good practice examples and upcoming changes they should be aware of. Our social media content is both planned and dynamic, with a full plan in place for specific help topics throughout the year, including periodic posts on current interests and information. Our digital traffic has increased by 1,624 unique users on our website and 107 direct engagements through social media. Our training delivery has picked up the pace this year, with 15 face-to-face courses, six further playground games sessions in school and six online e-learning courses. Overall, we have trained 280 adults and impacted 6,836 children through the training sessions delivered.

Impact: Existing and new member groups have had access to the wide range of services, knowledge, and experience of SPN teams. Practitioners have learned new skills and increased their confidence to manage their activity effectively through the wide training topics covered and the networking opportunities provided.

Direct training of teachers and playworkers has equipped adults with skills to embed play into learning. Training has also increased skills and confidence using practical demonstrations and interactive sessions. Attendees have learned how to offer quality play opportunities in their own settings, which is affordable, effective and supports children's rights. Children have access to more play opportunities and have their rights and needs met by practitioners and parents who understand the important role of play in their overall development and well-being.

Play Services – Direct Delivery

Play Plus Toy Library (PPTL)

PPTL provides a welcoming and flexible space for families, supporting various levels of engagement, from weekly play sessions and toy borrowing to occasional visits. Every member has a place held for them, regardless of how often they attend, ensuring long-term support for their child's development and family needs.

Key Highlights
- All families valued the opportunity for children to **socialise and develop** with peers in a safe, supportive environment.
- **90% of members borrowed toys**, significantly reducing waste and financial pressure.
- **75% of parents** reported that borrowing toys has **saved them money**, helping reduce unnecessary purchases.
- Parents appreciated not having to discard unused toys or contribute to the landfill.
- **Friendships flourish** both among children who may go on to attend school together and among parents who find connection and support in a relaxed setting.
- **Emotional well-being** was supported; one parent shared how the toy library helped her overcome isolation and build lasting friendships.
- **Summer holiday sessions** provided essential structure and creativity during a period with limited free activities.

Service Use & Participation
- 76 play sessions delivered
- 985 toys borrowed
- 30 new click & collect members, primarily working parents
- 100% of parents say their child has more play opportunities
- 90% of parents use toy library activities at home
- 70% of parents feel more confident engaging in play with their children at home
- 80% report their children have improved their ability to mix with others through their time at the toy library
- 80% report increased confidence in their child's communication and sharing skills
- 20% gained confidence to attend other services, though availability is limited locally

Developmental & Social Impact
- The toy library supported both early learning and social integration, particularly for families where English is not the first language.
- 20% of parents reported forming friendships that now extend outside of the sessions, with many others noting casual social ties that support transitions into nursery or school.70% of parents agreed that the toy library has significantly increased their child's play opportunities.

Impact: PPTL is a critical community asset, addressing social, emotional, and financial needs for families with young children. It fosters child development, builds parental confidence, and encourages community connection. With most parents reporting growth in their children's social skills and their own ability to support play at home, the library's impact is profound. By providing free, sustainable access to toys and inclusive play spaces, it not only reduces waste and expense but also empowers families, especially in an area where few other services remain.

Smart Play Rangers

Focused on providing **high-quality, inclusive outdoor play**, the programme operates across two community settings and has become a valued source of physical activity, social connection, and wellbeing for children and families.

Reach & Participation
- Settings/Communities Served: 2
- Play Sessions Delivered: 90
- Total Hours of Outdoor Play: 180
- Children Engaged: 158 individuals
- Parents/Carers Engaged: 41 individuals

Demographics of Children Attended
- Female (6–12 years): 62
- Male (6–12 years): 96
- Children with ASN: 7 (1 female, 6 male)

Key Highlights
1. Access to Quality Outdoor Play
  - 90% of children reported a positive experience from our sessions.
  - Regular, accessible outdoor play has brought joy and variety to children's daily routines, especially in communities where free play opportunities are limited.

2. Improved Health & Wellbeing
  - 75% of children and families reported improvements in happiness and mental health.
  - 75% reported new friendships and stronger community connections.
  - 80% of children and families reported increased physical activity due to the sessions.

3. Increased Awareness of Outdoor Play Benefits
  - 60% of families noted a rise in using local parks and green spaces outside of Play Ranger sessions.
  - 95% of parents/carers gained a better understanding of why outdoor play is vital for development and wellbeing.

4. Positive Community Attitudes
  - Increased positive attitudes from adults towards outdoor play and children playing in public spaces were observed, reflecting a cultural shift in support for community-based play.

Impact: The Play Ranger Service has delivered meaningful and measurable change across two local communities. With 180 hours of outdoor play, it has created safe, supportive, and exciting spaces for 158 children to engage in free, exploratory play that boosts health, happiness, and social skills. Families have grown more confident and informed about the importance of outdoor play, with many reporting increased usage of public parks and natural spaces. At the same time, the programme has strengthened our organisation's ability to manage and adapt delivery to meet the increasing demand for community-based services. The Play Ranger model continues to be an essential and impactful part of our community engagement and early years support strategy.

In summary, this year's work has:
  - Increased access to physical activity and peer interaction
  - Supported mental wellbeing
  - Fostered community connection
  - Enhanced parental understanding of the benefits of outdoor play
  - Built a strong foundation for future growth and delivery of inclusive, high-quality outdoor play

PlayTalkRead and Pathways Through Play

PlayTalkRead is aimed at promoting positive parenting in order to give children the best start in life and a strong platform for healthy growth, development and attainment. Smart Play Network is the delivery partner managing and delivering the PlayTalkRead roadshow as well as PathwaysThroughPlay.

PlayTalkRead (PTR)

During this period, grant funding from the Scottish Government enabled PTR to:
- Deliver sessions for families with children aged 0–4 in **all 32 Scottish Local Authorities**.
- Run **347 booked family sessions** across **67 locations** in **21 authorities**.
- Provide **220+ hours of drop-in sessions** in **42 locations** across **12 authorities**.
- Hosted **39 events** in **11 authorities**.
- Deliver **7 practitioner workshops** in **7 locations** across **5 authorities**, engaging **117 early years professionals**.
- Engage **3,546 families**, including **7,498 children** and **5,622 parents**.
- Gift a **play activity pack** to every attending family, supporting home-based play, talk, and read activities.
- Grow our online reach by gaining **3,017+ new social media followers**, reaching **over 650,000 accounts**.
- Promote the **ethos and benefits of PTR** to professionals and the wider play sector.
- Collaborate with **433 partners** to reach families most in need. Survey results show;
  - **95%** of families gained new activity ideas.
  - **90%** of sessions were delivered in areas within **SIMD deciles 1–5**.

Pathways Through Play (PTP)

During this period, the programme achieved the following:

- Reached **2,445 children**, **1,612 parents**, **1,519 families**, and **402 practitioners**.
- Delivered **445 sessions** across **131 venues** in **all 32 Local Authorities**, including all **11 SIMD priority areas**.
- Partnered with **140 organisations**, including **Scottish Book Trust**, **Family Nurse Partnership**, and **Walker Books**.
- Shared the PTR ethos with professionals across the sector.
- Distributed **play packs** to all attending families.
- Practitioner feedback indicated:
    - **93%** agreed that parents felt more confident playing, talking, and reading with their children.
    - **82%** strongly agreed sessions supported children's **speech, language, and communication**.
    - **93%** gained confidence using play to develop communication skills.

Impact: Together, PTR and PTP made a measurable, inclusive impact on early childhood development and family wellbeing across Scotland. Through play-based learning, targeted support in deprived areas, and strong community partnerships, thousands of families were empowered to engage in meaningful, developmentally rich experiences that support long-term positive outcomes.

Play On Wheels, Fife (POW)

In its first year, POW focused on planning, piloting, and delivering a variety of high-quality, play-based programmes across Fife. From initial development to full delivery, the project established a strong community presence, built valuable partnerships, and created engaging, developmentally rich experiences for families.

Pre-Delivery Phase

- **Development**: Designed play sessions with clear learning outcomes and created bespoke play resources.
- **Marketing & Communications**: Produced stakeholder materials, including a leaflet, play 'menu' poster, and launched a dedicated webpage.
- **Evaluation**: Developed tailored tools such as outcome stars, session logs, and questionnaires for parents and practitioners.
- **Capacity Building**: Recruited a part-time Play Support Worker and customised a van for mobile delivery.
- **Strategic Outreach**: Initiated partnerships to extend reach and support first-year delivery.

Project Delivery

Play-Based Programmes

- Delivered **11 structured programmes** in nurseries, libraries, and community venues.
- Sessions were shaped by children's interests and emphasised play as a key learning method.
- Ran **2 themed programmes**, *Children's Classic Fairy Tales* and *Winter,* in **16 libraries**, boosting creativity, literacy, and seasonal learning.

Practitioner Workshops

- Delivered **2 workshops**, tailored to local needs, to build practitioner confidence in play-based learning.

Summer Activity & Events

- Delivered a **6-week drop-in summer programme** at Kirkcaldy's Mercat Shopping Centre (with Nourish).
- Supported community events, including:
    - Three *Days to Play*
    - *Fife Play Day Roadshow*
    - *Family Picnic* at Letham Glen
    - *Active Kids Fun Day*
    - Holiday sessions at *Woodlands Family Nurture Centre*

Supportive Environment & Partnerships

- Fostered relaxed, welcoming environments encouraging parent engagement at their own pace.
- Supported more reserved or anxious parents to gradually build confidence.
- Partnered with trusted organisations like **Fife Gingerbread** and **Fife Cultural Trust** to ensure safe, familiar community access.
- Created resources for affordable, quality home play with a focus on speech and language development.

Key Learnings

- **Personalisation**: Adapting to children's motivations made sessions more meaningful.
- **Inclusivity**: Collaboration with families ensured all voices were heard, boosting confidence and creativity.
- **Evaluation**: Outcome tools helped track improvements in communication, confidence, and social skills.
- **Sustainability**: A solid foundation has been laid for continued, scalable delivery in future years.

Impact: In its first year, POW has laid a strong foundation for play-led learning and wellbeing across Fife. By placing children's interests at the heart of delivery and empowering families to engage in meaningful play, the project has created positive, lasting change. Through strong partnerships and community-based outreach, it has connected families with vital opportunities for growth, confidence, and connection, proving that accessible, high-quality play transforms lives.

In general, we have had a very productive year across core and work programmes. Our work with the Scottish Governments Transformational Change cohort has allowed us to share the experiences of our members and our children and families with policy makers across Health, Social Care and Local Authority leaders. Key partnerships have been formed with organisations such as Fathers Network Scotland and Family Nurse Partnerships. We had a successful staff away day in September, bringing together development with a fun day out at Conifox and have attended a range of conferences, giving most staff the opportunity to attend with colleagues to share the experience and spark ongoing conversations. We continue operating a hybrid working model, which seems to suit us well. Many new policies and procedures have been updated or developed to meet the emerging operational and legislative changes, and we feel well placed to move forward in 2025/2026 with a robust, impactful and motivated team.

Financial Review

The financial results are set out on pages 14 - 24.

Total income in the General Fund increased from £152,716 in the previous year to £166,934. Investment income in the General Fund was £13,397 compared with £9,964 in 2024.

Restricted Fund income and expenditure by fund is shown in Note 13. Total restricted income amounted to £691,342 (2024: £639,919).

The total cost of charitable activities was £836,764 compared to an amount of £780,871 spent in 2024.

The overall financial position remains healthy with net funds being £673,294 at 31 March 2025 (2024: £651,782). Of this £284,891 (2024: £269,630) is attributable to the unrestricted funds and £388,404 (2024: £382,152) to restricted funds. Of the £284,890 (2024: £269,630) unrestricted funds, £55,777 (2024: £63,201) relates to designated funds as outlined in notes 13.

Policy on Reserves

In the Trustees view, the reserves should provide the charity with adequate financial stability and the means for it to meet its charitable objectives for the foreseeable future.

The Trustees feel that an appropriate level of reserves should equate to approximately 12 months of overheads (core running costs). The current free reserves of the charity are £218,997 (2024: £206.429). This represents just over 11.5 months of projected core running costs based on our planned budgets for 2025/2026. The trustees review the amount of reserves that are required to ensure that they are adequate to fulfil the charity's continuing obligations on a quarterly basis. The trustees have adopted a moderate approach to risk in the investment of the charity's fund, with reserves being invested in cash.

Risk Management/Assessment

The trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that systems and procedures have been put in place to lessen and closely monitor these risks. Our Risk Register is examined and updated quarterly at Trustee meetings. Funding decisions this year were a cause for concern, with delay after delay in the news. We focused in part on some minor risks around our accommodation and lack of facilities, but these were easily mitigated or solved. The mental health and wellbeing of staff remains high on our priorities, and Trustees monitor our programme of benefits to support our staff to enjoy a better work-life balance.

Risk Management/Assessment (continued)

Cyber Security
Trustees are aware of the growing threats on organisations from hackers wishing to either exploit our data or gain access to our systems and programmes. Our Senior Management Team have developed robust policies and procedures to mitigate these risks including training all staff at induction and annually on cyber-crime and how to recognise this. We have taken all steps available to us to secure our systems with cross organisation virus protection, strong, regularly changed passwords and threat alerts from the UK's Action Fraud Team and Police Scotland. We have a full action plan in place for such threats or unauthorised attempts to access our systems with clear instructions on what to do and who to contact in the event of this happening.

Plans for future periods

The Core Outcomes for our work in 2025/2026 are set out below;

- Our members have increased ability to develop and deliver sustainable, quality, and inclusive play opportunities.
- Children have access to more play opportunities and can exercise their right to play.
- The wider children's sector, including policy, communities and practitioners, has an increased understanding of the role of play in children's health, wellbeing, and development, and has access to models of good practice.

We were informed by the Scottish Government at the end of March 2024 that all existing organisations that were previously funded through the CYPEIF would have their funding rolled over at the current level until March 2026. It is anticipated that a grant application process for core funding from the Scottish Government will open in the summer/autumn of 2025 for either a 1, 2 or 3-year funding round.

We will continue to deliver our programmes of work directly engaging with children, families and practitioners. We will enter our ninth year of delivering the PlayTalkRead programme, which is our largest project and continue to offer this across all 32 local authorities in Scotland. Our Play on Wheels programme will enter its second year of a three-year funding round, with the smaller Play Ranger and Toy Library work continuing at a slight cut in hours due to reduced funding.

We have developed our strategic plan for 2025 / 2026, and Senior Management will meet monthly to implement and track this. As part of these plans, we will focus on a number of developments around social media and functional AI platforms. Keeping up with new developments in technology will ensure we are best placed and ready to streamline functions that could free up capacity for other areas of work to support children and families. We anticipate the demand for our training increasing and will develop new courses to meet the needs of our members and the wider play community.

In general, we will continue to grow all areas of the organisation from membership and training through to delivery programmes. Funding will feel tighter in the coming year due to the increase in Employer's NI, lowering of the threshold and increase in National Minimum Wage, which has pushed all our salary bands higher. This in itself is a constant challenge - raising salaries to a level in keeping with the valuable work of our staff. We will implement all new regulations with regard to employment law changes and those of the PVG legislation. Our standards will remain high in relation to our policy development, employment practices and staff support.

Governance

We are looking to maximise the effectiveness of our finances this coming year. We have developed a draft Treasury Management policy and formed a subcommittee to research investment opportunities and offer informed recommendations to the wider Board members.

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Trustees and the Chief Executive. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity during the year, including Employer's National Insurance contributions, was £48,181 (2024: £45,606).

Structure, Governance & Management

The charity is a charitable company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to £1. The company is registered in Scotland. The company is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association and was registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) in July 2019 under charity number SC042505.

The Board of Trustees

The minimum number of trustees is three, and the maximum number is ten. The Board of Trustees may co-opt trustees as an addition to the board or if any elected Trustee retires or is otherwise unable to continue as a Trustee, provided that the maximum number of Trustees is not exceeded. Following their initial appointment, each trustee will serve for the period until the next anniversary date and will then retire but be eligible for re-election. Members may serve on the Board of Trustees for a maximum of two consecutive terms and must then stand down for a minimum of one year before being eligible for re-election.
The trustees who have served during the period under review are set out on page 1.

Trustee Induction & Training

When appointed, new trustees are provided with an information pack containing copies of the governing documents, annual report, strategic plan and other supporting papers. Training on specific topics is made available as required. A full induction follows, including meeting our treasurer to explain finances and visits to projects if required.

Trustee Meetings

The trustees meet every three months and ad-hoc as required.

Volunteers

Volunteers have provided valuable assistance in a number of areas of our work. Smart Play Network benefits from a number of short and long-term volunteers within our project settings. The Trustees very much appreciate the valuable contribution our volunteers make.

Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Act Scotland 2007

The Trustees of Smart Play Network take their responsibilities seriously regarding the above act and have robust procedures and policies in place. We carry out PVG scheme checks on all our staff and volunteers working regularly with children and ensure that we keep up to date with changes in legislation.

SMART PLAY NETWORK

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2025

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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

Company Law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Auditors

Trustees agreed to reappoint CT Audit Limited, Chartered Accountants, as auditors at the meeting of the Board of Directors on 3rd March 2025.

This report, which has been prepared in accordance with the provisions in the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies, was approved by the trustees on 20 August 2025 and signed on their behalf by:-

Deborah Jans

Deborah Jans
Director / Trustee (Chair)

Iain Highley

Iain Highley
Director / Trustee (Treasurer)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE

TRUSTEES AND MEMBERS OF SMART PLAY NETWORK

Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of Smart Play Network (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheets and the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:
- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

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

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

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

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

Other information
The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' annual report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' annual report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' annual report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:
- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

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

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
We have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with regulations made under those Acts.

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

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

- agreement of the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- review of minutes of board meetings throughout the period;
- review of legal correspondence or invoices;
- obtaining an understanding of the control environment in monitoring compliance with laws and regulations, and
- performing testing over the completeness of grant income during the year.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members and trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company, the charitable company's members as a body and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Jeremy M Chittleburgh CA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of CT Audit Limited
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
61 Dublin Street
Edinburgh
EH3 6NL

Date: 20 August 2025

CT Audit Limited is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

SMART PLAY NETWORK

STATEMENT of FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(including Income and Expenditure Account)
For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Un-Restricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £	Un-restricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	641	-	641	658	-	658
Charitable activities	3	152,746	691,342	844,088	137,594	639,919	777,513
Investments		13,397	-	13,397	9,964	-	9,964
Other income		150	-	150	4,500	-	4,500
Total income		166,934	691,342	858,276	152,716	639,919	792,635
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	4	151,674	685,090	836,764	139,765	641,106	780,871
Total expenditure		151,674	685,090	836,764	139,765	641,106	780,871
Net income/(expenditure)		15,260	6,252	21,512	12,951	(1,187)	11,764
Transfers between funds	13	-	-	-	(933)	933	-
Net movement in funds		15,260	6,252	21,512	12,018	(254)	11,764
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		269,630	382,152	651,782	257,612	382,406	640,018
Total funds carried forward		284,890	388,404	673,294	269,630	382,152	651,782

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 18 to 25 form part of these financial statements.

SMART PLAY NETWORK

BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 March 2025

	Notes		2025		2024
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10		70,146		51,278
Current assets					
Debtors	11	165,153		25,896	
Cash at bank and in hand		473,637		608,098	
		638,790		633,994	
Liabilities: amounts due within one year	12	(35,642)		(33,490)	
Net current assets			603,148		600,504
Total assets less current liabilities			673,294		651,782
Net assets			673,294		651,782
The funds of the charity:					
Unrestricted funds					
General Fund	13		229,113		206,429
Designated Funds	13		55,777		63,201
Total unrestricted funds			284,890		269,630
Restricted funds	13		388,404		382,152
Total charity funds			673,294		651,782

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 20 August 2025, and are signed on their behalf by:

Deborah Jans
Deborah Jans
Director / Trustee (Chair)

Iain Highley
Iain Highley
Director / Trustee (Treasurer)

The notes on pages 18 to 25 form part of these financial statements.

SMART PLAY NETWORK

STATEMENT of CASH FLOW
For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes		2025		2024
		£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash provided by operations	17		(101,779)		42,638
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(46,079)		(27,468)	
Proceeds on disposal of fixed asset investment		-		4,500	
Interest received		13,397		9,964	
Net cash generated from investing activities			(32,682)		(13,004)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			(134,461)		29,634
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			608,098		578,464
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			473,637		608,098

Analysis of changes in net debt

	At the start of the year	Cash Flows	At Year-End
	£	£	£
Cash	608,098	(134,461)	473,637

The notes on pages 18 to 25 form part of these financial statements.

1. Company information

Smart Play Network is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in Scotland with registered company number SC401334. The registered office is Unit 40, Castlebrae Business Centre, Peffer Place, Edinburgh EH16 4BB. The financial statements have been presented in Pounds Sterling as this is the functional and presentational currency of the charity.

2. Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognise at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to the financial statements. They have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities and Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the requirements of the SORP 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice for charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Updated – October 2019).

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

Going Concern
The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The trustees have assessed the charity's ability to continue as a going concern and have reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing these financial statements and consider that there are no material uncertainties relating to going concern. The Trustees have additionally addressed going concern in light of economic challenges and do not consider that it affects the company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income
Grants receivable
Grants received, including capital grants, are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities when relevant conditions for entitlement have been met, it is probable they will be received, and the amounts can be quantified with sufficient reliability. Where donors specify that grants are for particular purposes, this income is included in incoming resources within restricted funds when receivable. Where grants are specifically made for the performance of charitable activities in a period subsequent to the year-end they are deferred and excluded from the Statement of Financial Activities.

Donations, legacies and similar income
Donations, legacies and similar income is included in the year in which it is receivable, which is when the charity becomes entitled to the income, it is probable that it will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Investment income
Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Governance costs
Governance costs comprise those costs which involve public accountability of the charity, its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Expenditure
All expenditure is included on an accruals basis and is recognised when there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay for expenditure. All costs have been directly attributed to one of the functional categories of resources expended in the Statement of Financial Activities, with the exception of support costs which have been allocated to activities in proportion to estimated usage of the resources during the year. Costs of charitable activities consist of those applied by the charity in meeting its charitable objectives. Within support costs are governance costs, which include the costs of general governance of the charity as opposed to direct management inherent in meeting charitable objectives, and are those associated with strategic, constitutional and statutory requirements.

2. Accounting Policies (continued)

Tangible Fixed Assets
These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost over £1,000.

They are initially capitalised at cost, plus any incidental costs of acquisition.

Depreciation
Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost, less any estimated residual value, over the useful expected life of the asset as follows:
Motor vehicles – 25% per annum
Equipment – 25% per annum

Fund Accounting
Unrestricted funds
Unrestricted funds are grants, donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes of the organisation. They can be used at the discretion of the trustees for any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds
Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which have been earmarked or set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. For Smart Play Network, the designated fixed asset fund holds the value of unrestricted fixed assets.

Restricted funds
Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the object of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund held by the charity is included in note 16.

Pension
Pension contributions are made to an approved defined contribution pension scheme. These are charged to the Statement of Financial Activity in the year in which they are incurred.

Taxation
Smart Play Network is a registered Scottish charity exempt from corporation tax on income and gains applied to charitable purposes.

The charity is not registered for Value Added Tax and, accordingly, expenditure is shown gross of irrecoverable VAT.

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

Operating leases
Rentals payable under operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Debtors
Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Cash at bank and in hand
Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

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

SMART PLAY NETWORK

NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2025

3. Analysis of Donations and Legacies and Charitable Activities Income	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
Donations and legacies				
Donations	431	-	222	222
Subscriptions	210	-	436	436
Total donations and legacies	641	-	641	658
Charitable activities				
Membership and training	8,172	-	8,172	4,518
Grants - The Scottish Government (PTR)	32,140	612,860	645,000	645,000
- The Corra Foundation (General)	97,650	-	97,650	97,650
- Other grants	14,784	78,482	93,266	30,345
Total charitable activities	152,746	691,342	844,088	777,513

4. Analysis of Charitable Activities Expenditure	Direct Costs £	Support Costs £	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
Delivery of play services	612,187	188,361	800,748	746,106
Membership and training	555	35,661	36,216	34,765
Total charitable activity	612,742	224,022	836,764	780,871

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
Total charitable activity	151,674	658,090	836,764	780,871

5. Analysis of Governance Costs	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
Professional and other fees	115	-	115	114
Audit fee	-	8,502	8,502	8,100
Total governance costs	115	8,502	8,617	8,214

6. Support Costs	Delivery of Play Services	Membership and Training	2025 Total Funds	2024 Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Governance	8,186	431	8,617	8,214
Salaries	152,333	31,587	183,920	165,881
Staff costs	6,815	359	7,174	4,615
Premises	8,797	463	9,260	9,552
Office & IT	8,275	436	8,711	7,313
Vehicle costs	140	140	280	1,010
Professional & freelance fees	72	3	75	2,568
Depreciation	3,674	2,239	5,913	6,701
Other support costs	69	3	72	450
	188,361	35,661	224,022	206,304

7. Net income	2025	2024
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Rentals payable in respect of operating leases - land and buildings	15,888	15,888
Depreciation charge for the year	27,211	27,049

8. Trustee Remuneration, Benefits and Expenses

None of the trustees received any remuneration (2024: Nil).

No trustees received reimbursement of expenses (2024: £Nil) incurred in attending trustee meetings.

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Trustees and the Chief Executive. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity during the year, including Employers National Insurance contributions, were £48,811 (2024: £45,606).

9. Staff Costs and Emoluments	2025	2024
	£	£
Salary costs		
Gross salaries	533,004	480,613
Employer pension contribution	10,558	9,546
Employer’s national insurance	39,431	33,809
Total	582,993	523,968

	No.	No.
Average headcount		
Management	3	3
Administration/finance	4	4
Projects	17	17
Total	24	24

No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 (2024: Nil).

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Vehicles	Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At beginning of the year	234,829	30,553	265,382
Additions	46,079	-	46,079
At end of the year	280,908	30,553	311,461
Depreciation			
At beginning of the year	187,673	26,431	214,104
Depreciation	24,835	2,376	27,211
At end of the year	212,508	28,807	241,315
Net book value			
At beginning of the year	47,156	4,122	51,278
At end of the year	68,400	1,746	70,146

11. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	146,475	489
Prepayments and accrued income	18,678	24,319
Other debtors	-	1,088
Total debtors	165,153	25,896

12. Creditors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Taxation and social security	10,947	8,495
Accruals and deferred income	14,986	14,201
Other creditors	9,709	10,794
Total creditors	35,642	33,490

SMART PLAY NETWORK

NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2025

13. Fund Movements	Balance at 31 March 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds					
CCE	-	10,744	(10,387)	-	357
PTR	378,872	612,860	(612,402)	-	379,330
NLC	-	55,244	(49,232)	-	6,012
OCP	3,280	12,494	(13,069)	-	2,705
Total restricted funds	382,152	691,342	(685,090)	-	388,404
Unrestricted funds					
General Fund	206,429	166,934	(134,250)	(10,000)	229,113
Designated Fixed Asset Fund	13,207	-	(9,049)	-	4,158
Designated Events & Business Planning Fund	5,885	-	(2,551)	25,000	28,334
Designated Project Costs Fund	44,109	-	(5,824)	(15,000)	23,285
Total unrestricted funds	269,630	166,934	(151,674)	-	284,890
Total funds	651,782	858,276	(836,764)	-	673,294

	Balance at 31 March 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds					
CFG	6,703	14,170	(21,297)	424	-
PTR	372,345	612,860	(606,333)	-	378,872
ICF	(509)	-	-	509	-
OCP	3,867	12,889	(13,476)	-	3,280
Total restricted funds	382,406	639,919	(641,106)	933	382,152
Unrestricted funds					
General Fund	183,395	152,716	(128,749)	(933)	206,429
Designated Fixed Asset Fund	22,688	-	(9,481)	-	13,207
Designated Events & Business Planning Fund	6,529	-	(644)	-	5,885
Designated Project Costs Fund	45,000	-	(891)	-	44,109
Total unrestricted funds	257,612	152,716	(139,765)	(933)	269,630
Total funds	640,018	792,635	(780,871)	-	651,782

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Un-Restricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2025
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	4,158	65,988	70,146
Current assets	286,410	352,380	638,790
Current liabilities	(5,678)	(29,964)	(35,642)
	284,890	388,404	673,294

	Un-Restricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	13,207	38,071	51,278
Current assets	261,171	372,823	633,994
Current liabilities	(4,748)	(28,742)	(33,490)
	269,630	382,152	651,782

15. Transfers Between Funds

There were transfers during the year from the General Fund of £10,000 to DES EBP and a further £15,000 from DES PC to DES EBP.

16. Funds

- The **NLC** fund represents funding provided by National Lottery Community Fund, Communities and Families fund for delivering our Play On Wheels project from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2027..
- The **PTR** fund represents funding provided by the Scottish Government to deliver the roadshow element of their PlayTalkRead campaign and the Pathways through play programme. This funding is reviewed annually with the current grant remaining until the end of March 2025. This has now been extended to the end of March 2026.
- The **CCE** fund represents annual funding provided by the City of Edinburgh Council for the PPTL toy library project in Edinburgh, currently extended to 31st March 2026.
- The **OCP** fund represents funding from Inspiring Scotland from the Organised Outdoor Community Play fund to deliver our Play Rangers project from 1 April 2023 to 31st March 2025. This has now been extended until 31 March 2026.

16. Funds (continued)

Designated Funds

The **Designated Fixed Asset Fund** was set up in 2015 to hold the value of the fixed assets which were previously held in the General Fund.

The **Designated Events and Business Planning Fund** was originally set up by the Trustees to cover the costs of consultancy, business planning and planned events. This year, Trustees identified further purposes for the balance of this fund including to support our presence at the Europe Toy Library Group meeting in Naples and plan an away day for staff. In addition, funds were earmarked for promotional materials for conferences and events.

The **Designated Project Costs Fund** was set up by the Trustees to cover project costs funding gaps and provide for exit strategies of existing projects. This was used in the year to support gaps in both the Toy Library funding and the Play Ranger funding. A portion also covered the salary of our retiring Finance Officer who remained in post during a transition period to support and induct our new Finance Officer.

General Funds

The **General** fund represents the funds which are available for the general purposes of the charity. These funds will be spent in whichever way that the Board of Trustees sees fit in accordance with the stated objectives of the charity

17. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025	**2024**
	£	£
Net movement in funds	21,512	11,764
Add back depreciation charge	27,211	27,049
Less gain on disposal of fixed assets	(13,397)	(4,500)
Deduct interest income and rental income shown in investing activities	-	(9,964)
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	(139,257)	16,676
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	2,152	1,613
Net cash provided by operating activities	(101,779)	42,638

18. Operating Lease Commitments

The charity has commitments for the total of future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases in respect of property, IT equipment and vehicles as follows:

	2025	**2024**
	£	£
Leases expiring in:		
Less than 1 year	1,324	1,324

19. Related Party Transactions

The charity undertook no transactions with related parties during the year (2024: Nil).

The Trustees of Smart Play Network acknowledge the generous support of: