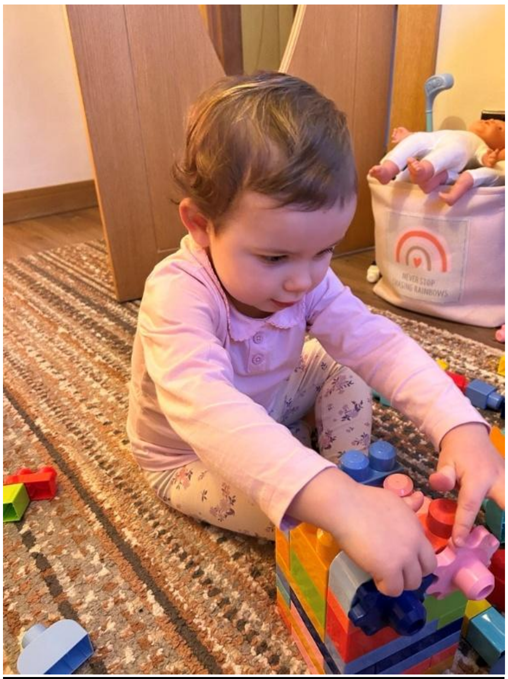
Company No. SC401334
Scottish Charity No. SC042505

SMART PLAY NETWORK
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 2026



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(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
<u>For the year ended 31 March 2026</u>

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REFERENCE and ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
For the year ended 31 March 2026

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 (resigned 27 January 2026)	
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	

SMART PLAY NETWORK

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
For the year ended 31 March 2026

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 2026.

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

A further drive to increase membership has been successful, with 34 new members joining this year, bringing the total membership to 477. Many of these new members are from Additional Support Needs (ASN) services, reflecting an increased focus on inclusive play provision across the sector. Support provided to members included: Networking events and #Playchats held every two months, covering a wide range of play topics and targeting diverse groups, including toy libraries, play rangers, and teachers interested in introducing loose parts play. One to one support on a range of topics from funding to staffing. 141 practitioners received training through 21 courses, including sessions on fire safety, outdoor play, and loose parts. One-to-one support for groups was provided, focusing on setting up new groups, PVG compliance, policy writing, and funding applications. 22 communications were sent to all members, including newsletters and targeted information on navigating new regulations and employment law changes. Our dynamic Engage Hub continued to grow with online courses, articles, templates, and guidance sheets, supporting members in delivering quality play opportunities.

Impact

Through this work, we have supported the development of new skills, increased confidence, and innovative ideas to embed play in various settings. For example: • ELC staff at Argyll and Bute Council now feel more confident in using stories to create play and learning activities for babies and toddlers. • Play Borders received new activity ideas and a platform for parents to discuss concerns about their children's speech, language, and communication development. Wester Hailes Growing Group have been successful in their funding bid to develop a new Play Ranger programme in a high SIMD area of Edinburgh.

Achievements and performance (continued)
Our direct programs have encouraged individuals and groups to seek ongoing support from us, with many joining our play chat series and accessing additional training. A headteacher shared: "This meeting has really enthused me with ideas on how we can further enhance play within our school. The children love a committee, so I can't wait to start up a new one for Play Champions and let the children have their voice on play." Overall, we feel we have improved support for members with further plans for even more of a focus this year. Support with practice has ensured group sustainability and effective delivery outcomes.

Play Services – Direct Delivery

Play Plus Toy Library (PPTL)

PPTL provides a welcoming and flexible environment for families, supporting a wide range of engagement levels from weekly play sessions and toy borrowing to occasional visits. Every member retains their place regardless of attendance frequency, ensuring ongoing support for children's development and family wellbeing.

Annual statistics

- 1,000 toys borrowed
- 79 play sessions delivered
- 19 new Click & Collect members, primarily working parents

Key highlights

- Families consistently valued the opportunity for their children to socialise, learn and develop alongside peers in a safe and supportive environment.
- 90% of members borrowed toys, helping to reduce waste and alleviate financial pressures on families.
- 75% of parents reported that borrowing toys saved them money, reducing the need for unnecessary purchases.
- Parents valued being able to access a wide range of toys without contributing to waste or landfill.
- The Toy Library fostered meaningful friendships among both children and parents, creating supportive social networks that often continued beyond the sessions.
- Summer holiday sessions provided valuable structure, creativity and play opportunities during a period when free local activities were limited.

Feedback

- 100% of parents reported that their child had increased opportunities to play
- 90% of parents used Toy Library activities at home
- 80% of parents felt more confident engaging in play with their children at home
- 80% reported improvements in their child's ability to interact with others
- 80% reported increased confidence in their child's communication and sharing skills
- 20% gained the confidence to access other local services, despite limited availability within the area

Quotes from children, families and practitioners
"We absolutely love the Toy Library. It is an essential service for the local community. The sustainability aspects are unrivalled as it reduces the need to buy new toys constantly, helping to reduce landfill while also saving money for local families. This is particularly important during the cost-of-living crisis. Thank you!" – Parent

"We met up with some of the other mums from the Toy Library over the summer holidays. This is a great place to meet new friends, for myself and for my children." - Parent

Impact statement
PPTL continues to be a vital community asset, addressing the social, emotional and financial needs of families with young children. The service promotes child development, strengthens parental confidence and fosters community connections. Most parents reported improvements in their children's social skills and in their own ability to support learning through play at home.
By providing free, sustainable access to toys and inclusive play opportunities, the Toy Library not only reduces household costs and environmental waste but also empowers families and strengthens community resilience in an area where few alternative services remain available.

PlayTalkRead (PTR)

A national mobile programme under the banner of the Scottish Government's Parent Club initiative. Through an extensive and practical programme of delivery. PTR engages directly with families utilising our attractive bespoke vehicle and skilled play practitioners. We demonstrate and deliver key messages on the benefits of positive engagement to support children's development through playing, talking and reading together and provide a host of ideas for low cost play at home.

Annual statistics (combined PlayTalkRead and Pathways)

- 945 Sessions delivered across all 32 Local Authorities.
- 8170 Families engaged.
- 10,520 activity packs delivered.
- 12,070 children attended sessions.
- 1,170 practitioners worked with.
- 9,489 parents at sessions.
- 42,641 miles travelled – equivalent to 6.5 trips around the moon!

Key highlights

- Partnering with 135 organisations and groups to connect with more families locally.
- 85% of our tour delivery took place or were adjacent to SIMD areas 1-3 including isolated communities such as in the Hebrides, Shetland and Orkney.
- Social Media engagement jumped significantly with 65,000 page visits and 2.6 million post views.

Feedback

- 8,351 Parents reported exploring our activity book ideas.
- 5,739 Parents reported they felt signposted to additional resources.
- 6,130 Parents reported a new enjoyment of reading books with their child.

Quotes from children, families and practitioners

"*staff were wonderful, the activities were appropriate and held my childs interest well. This has given me ideas on how else to play and use every day things to play" – Parent after Benji session.*

"We will make more and better time for interactive play when we get home" – Parent on Benji.

Pathways through Play

An extension of PlayTalkRead providing play and storytelling sessions with a focus on early speech, language and communication. Pathways aim is to promote the importance of the home learning environment for early language development. Out sessions are delivered in Early Learning and Childcare settings (ELC's), Family Learning Centres, libraries and community based venues in partnership with family support services such as Family Nurse Partnership and Home Start.

Key highlights

- Visited 66 ELC settings across Scotland with 2,358 children in attendance.
- Building confidence in practitioners through our workshops to support them reading loud and delivering creative interactive story sessions.
- Provision of workshops for college students in Fife and West Lothian.
- Our 'wonderful world' celebrations and partnerships delivering special events to celebrate our 4 years of Pathways. Based on the famous song, this familiar and uplifting text empowered practitioners to deliver engaging sessions, fostering strong connections between children, families and learning environments across 13 local authorities.
- Engaging with all early year's settings in the Western Isles, sourcing and gifting Gaelic language books for the February Gaelic week.
- Working with Family Nurse Partnerships and using our vehicles to create welcoming, safe spaces for parents and babies.

Feedback

- 80 Partners said they would be interested in further training sessions.
- 90 Families reported they felt more confident about their child's speech and language and development.
- 99 Families said that we gave them new ideas on activities to do with their children.

Quotes from children, families and practitioners
"*Excellent storytelling. At home we just 'read' a book. This just shows how good making it interactive is. Will definitely give more thought to how we tell stories in the future" – Parent*

"Your team has upskilled our staff to such a high standard that they now confidently lead our own monthly stay and play sessions… Pathways is now fully embedded within the culture and ethos of our centre and we are incredibly grateful for the role your team has played in that journey" – ELC Manager.

Impact statement (combined PTR and PTP)

Throughout 2025/26, PlayTalkRead (PTR) and Pathways Through Play (PTP) delivered a significant positive impact for children, families and practitioners through play, storytelling and community engagement. Working across urban, rural and island communities, the programmes reached families in all 32 local authorities during their busiest year to date, with demand remaining exceptionally high and several tours selling out within 48 hours. The programmes successfully engaged families who may traditionally face barriers to participation, with partners reporting that PTR and PTP activities encouraged vulnerable families to attend and connect within their communities. Training delivered to practitioners, students and support staff strengthened confidence in using play, books and interactive storytelling to support early speech, language and communication development, with overwhelmingly positive feedback received throughout the year. New partnerships with ASN services, health teams, libraries and community organisations expanded the reach and accessibility of the programmes, while strong collaboration ensured delivery remained responsive and inclusive. Parent feedback highlighted increased confidence in supporting children's learning and play at home, with families valuing the welcoming approach of staff and the practical ideas shared during sessions. Together, PTR and PTP continued to demonstrate the powerful role of play and storytelling in strengthening family relationships, improving confidence and creating positive early learning experiences for children across Scotland.

Play on Wheels

Play On Wheels offers a mobile play based programme in Fife designed for parent/carers and their children from pre-birth up to 4 years. In partnership with local communities, we offer 8 week blocks of sessions featuring a menu of activities to support parents/carers to increase their confidence in supporting their child's well-being and developmental needs in their early years. Using a range of low cost, sustainable playful materials, resources and activities to support speech language and communication.

Annual statistics

- 1212 children attended our sessions
- 1016 parents attended our sessions
- 303 practitioners worked with through partnerships
- 15 volunteers supported
- 38 partner organisations supported
- 67 family sessions delivered
- 41 events supported
- 24 communities across Fife reached

Key highlights

- **New Partners** – This years' Partners brought different expertise, perspectives, and insights. This has enriched session design, strengthened facilitation, and supported continuous improvement.
- **Playful Bumps** -A major focus this year has been the development of our new Playful Bumps programme for expectant parents, aligning closely with our strategic goals. This work has involved designing session content, creating learning activities and resources, and piloting the programme with parents-to-be.
- **Toll Community Centre –** Establishment of a new parent & baby toddler group, leading the delivery of sessions initially to establish good practice and share ideas then supported the centre manager to apply for funding. Funding was secured to March 2027.

- **Community Events -** In the last year, we have delivered and supported 41 community events, from Playday Week celebrations to family fundraising activities and events designed for specific groups and audiences. This breadth of involvement demonstrates both the demand for our work and the value of our contribution across Fife.
- **Key Venues -** This year we significantly increased our presence in libraries and community centres, delivering sessions in 14 library venues and 10 community centres across Fife. These valued community spaces offer welcoming, accessible venues for our sessions and, in turn help bring new families into their buildings to access services and support. They play an important role in strengthening community connection and supporting family wellbeing, whilst offering a wide range of social, developmental, and practical benefits

Feedback

Key Outcomes Reported by Parents:

- 95% reported feeling more knowledgeable about play and its benefits.
- 85% reported feeling more confident when playing with their baby or toddler.
- 87% more informed about how play supports their child's development.
- 97% reported having more ideas for low cost play at home.
- 87% made friendships and new connections through the sessions.
- 98% feel inspired to develop their skills and knowledge further.
- 72% now spend less on toys and other play activities.
- 88% reported increased confidence in using play to support their child's speech and language at home.

Key Outcomes Reported by Practitioners:

- 89% more knowledgeable about play and its benefits
- 79% more confident when engaging with families
- 94% more informed about how play supports child development
- 84% increased capacity to support parents with young children
- 44% made new contacts and connections
- 89% more confident using play to support children's speech and language in their setting

Quotes from children, families and practitioners

"My son enjoyed the people and children. He has become more engaging and releasing from myself as he is very attached to me. He enjoyed messy play quite much. His motor skills developed drastically over the last four weeks." - parent

"I personally enjoyed these sessions as it helped my own confidence, and I made a few friends as did my child " - parent

"I wanted to take a moment to sincerely thank you and the entire team at Play on Wheels for the incredible work you've done—not only in supporting our service users but also in delivering such valuable training and learning opportunities for our staff and volunteers this year. Your efforts have had a lasting impact, and we truly appreciate the dedication and expertise you bring to your work." – practitioner.

Impact statement

During 2025/26, Play on Wheels made a meaningful impact on babies, young children, parents and practitioners by creating welcoming, play-based environments that strengthened early relationships, encouraged family participation and supported child development. Through partnerships with nurseries, libraries, Home Start groups and Family Nurse Partnership teams, the programme successfully engaged families who may otherwise experience barriers to participation, including young and expectant parents. The programme increased caregiver confidence in using play to support development at home. The programme's work with fathers and perinatal families demonstrated particularly positive engagement, with partners reporting unusually high attendance and willingness from families to continue participating in future sessions. Practitioner feedback highlighted increased confidence, new ideas and improved understanding of how play supports children's learning and wellbeing. By combining high-quality play experiences with trusted partnership working and responsive community engagement, Play on Wheels continued to demonstrate the important role of play in strengthening family relationships, improving wellbeing and supporting positive early childhood outcomes.

Financial Review

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

Total income in the General Fund decreased from £166,934 in the previous year to £165,269. Investment income in the General Fund was £9,648 compared with £13,397 in 2025.

Restricted Fund income and expenditure by fund is shown in Note 13. Total restricted income amounted to £683,002 (2025: £691,342).

The total cost of charitable activities was £903,147 compared to an amount of £836,764 spent in 2025.

The overall financial position remains healthy with net funds being £618,419 at 31 March 2026 (2025: £673,294). Of this £288,938 (2025: £284,891) is attributable to the unrestricted funds and £329,480 (2025: £388,404) to restricted funds. Of the £288,938 (2025: £284,890) unrestricted funds, £53,288 (2025: £55,777) 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 £235,648 (2025: £229,113). This represents just over 12 months of projected core running costs based on our planned budgets for 2026/2027. 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.

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 2026/2027 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 are hopeful that there will be developments in the funding landscape to potentially look at multi year funding. We hope this will be announced in the autumn of 2026 with the provision to apply to a fund with more realistic costings to reflect the significant financial challenges the sector is facing with increases in NI contributions, NMW increases and the cost of living soaring. In addition to this, we are embarking on a year of efficiencies, not only budgetary, but utilising new technologies such as AI, analysis of employee skills and making the most of their interests and in turn staffing structures.

We will continue to deliver our programmes of work directly engaging with children, families and practitioners. We will enter our 10th 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 third year of a three-year funding round and we will be exploring ways to continue this highly effective programme. Play Ranger services will continue on Friday as usual, but our Play Plus Toy Library will reduce to a 1 day a week service from the Autumn school term due to a 50% cut in funding from Edinburgh City Council.

We have developed our strategic plan for 2026 / 2027. Senior Management will meet monthly to implement and track this. Our work to strengthen the Board of Trustees from within our membership and appealing for new Trustees with specific skills is well underway and we are on track to have a full contingent by the end of June 2026. We will continue to look at new technologies such as AI to work smarter and utilise existing skills across the organisation. We will be branching into modern social media platforms such as TikTok and engage specialists to support us to get this right from the start. We anticipate further increase in demand for our training with new relationships developing across colleges and schools.

In general, it will be business as usual, but with an open mind to new opportunities and improvements to our services through listening to feedback from our families and our staff. Work within the policy landscape will shape our direction as well as our involvement with the landscape being a conduit for us to help shape policy to the feedback and information we are receiving from our beneficiaries.

Governance

We will be taking forward our intent 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. This was delayed due to a lack of Trustee numbers, but with a stronger Board, we are in a better position to realise this aim.

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Trustees and the Chief Executive. Key management remuneration is considered annually alongside staff remuneration levels and is determined by studying other roles within the sector benchmarking against similar sector roles and using the Charity Job salary Report 2025. Trustees are currently looking at a 5 year plan to bring our salaries closer overall to the results of the exercise carried out in 2024 which identified considerable gaps in our salary scales for similar roles in the sector.

<u>Structure, Governance & Management</u>

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.

<u>The Board of Trustees</u>

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.

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 27th January 2026.

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 09 September 2026 and signed on their behalf by:-

Deborah Jans | Iain Highley

Deborah Jans
Director / Trustee (Chair)

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 2026 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 2026, 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 prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and 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:

- making enquiries of management about known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and instances of fraud;
- Reviewing any available correspondence with regulators including OSCR;
- reviewing minutes of board meetings;
- reviewing legal and other professional correspondence and invoices;
- auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness.

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.

Steven Smillie

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

Date: 15 September 2026

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 2026

	Notes	Un-Restricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2026 Total Funds £	Un-restricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	1,938	16	1,954	641	-	641
Charitable activities	3	146,259	682,987	829,246	152,746	691,342	844,088
Investments		9,648	-	9,648	13,397	-	13,397
Other income		7,425	-	7,425	150	-	150
Total income		165,270	683,003	848,273	166,934	691,342	858,276
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	4	161,246	741,902	903,148	151,674	685,090	836,764
Total expenditure		161,246	741,902	903,148	151,674	685,090	836,764
Net income/(expenditure)		4,024	(58,899)	(54,875)	15,260	6,252	21,512
Transfers between funds	13	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		4,024	(58,899)	(54,875)	15,260	6,252	21,512
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		284,890	388,404	673,294	269,630	382,152	651,782
Total funds carried forward		288,914	329,505	618,419	284,890	388,404	673,294

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 2026

	Notes		2026		2025
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10		60,815		70,146
Current assets					
Debtors	11	17,414		165,153	
Cash at bank and in hand		580,509		473,637	
		597,923		638,790	
Liabilities: amounts due within one year	12	(40,319)		(35,642)	
Net current assets			557,604		603,148
Total assets less current liabilities			618,419		673,294
Net assets			618,419		673,294
The funds of the charity:					
Unrestricted funds					
General Fund	13		235,531		229,113
Designated Funds	13		53,383		55,777
Total unrestricted funds			288,914		284,890
Restricted funds	13		329,505		388,404
Total charity funds			618,419		673,294

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 09 September 2026, 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 2026

	Notes		2026		2025
		£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash provided by operations	17		110,821		(101,779)
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(21,022)		(46,079)	
Proceeds on disposal of fixed assets		7,425		-	
Interest received		9,648		13,397	
Net cash generated from investing activities			(3,949)		(32,682)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			106,872		(134,461)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			473,637		608,098
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			580,509		473,637

Analysis of changes in net funds

	At the start of the year £	Cash Flows £	At Year-End £
Cash	473,637	106,872	580,509

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

SMART PLAY NETWORK

NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 March 2026

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. The financial statements are prepared in pounds sterling rounded to the nearest £.

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 2026

3. Analysis of Donations and Legacies and Charitable Activities Income	**Unrestricted Funds** £	**Restricted Funds** £	**2026 Total Funds** £	**2025 Total Funds** £
Donations and legacies				
Donations	1,633	-	1,633	222
Subscriptions	305	16	321	436
Total donations and legacies	1,938	16	1,954	641
Charitable activities				
Membership and training	5,549	-	5,549	8,172
Grants - The Scottish Government (PTR)	32,140	607,080	639,220	645,000
- The Corra Foundation (General)	97,650	-	97,650	97,650
- Other grants	10,920	75,907	86,827	93,266
Total charitable activities	146,259	682,987	829,246	844,088

4. Analysis of Charitable Activities Expenditure	**Direct Costs** £	**Support Costs (Note 5)** £	**2026 Total Funds** £	**2025 Total Funds** £
Delivery of play services	679,382	186,942	866,324	800,748
Membership and training	521	36,303	36,824	36,216
Total charitable activity	679,903	223,245	903,148	836,764

	Unrestricted Funds £	**Restricted Funds** £	**2026 Total Funds** £	**2025 Total Funds** £
Total charitable activity	161,246	741,902	903,148	836,764

5. Support Costs	**Delivery of Play Services** £	**Membership and Training** £	**2026 Total Funds** £	**2025 Total Funds** £
Governance (note 6)	8,682	457	9,139	8,617
Salaries	161,081	33,831	194,912	183,920
Staff costs	3,705	195	3,900	7,174
Premises	6,653	350	7,003	9,260
Office & IT	5,071	267	5,338	8,711
Vehicle costs	-	-	-	280
Professional & freelance fees	8	-	8	8
Depreciation	1,649	1,110	2,759	5,913
Other support costs	93	93	186	72
	186,942	36,303	223,245	224,022

6. Analysis of Governance Costs	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2026 Total Funds £	2025 Total Funds £
Professional and other fees	153	39	192	115
Audit fee	34	8,928	8,962	8,502
Total governance costs	187	8,967	9,154	8,617

7. Net income	2025 £	2024 £
This is stated after charging:		
Rentals payable in respect of operating leases - land and buildings	14,794	15,888
Depreciation charge for the year	30,353	27,211

8. Trustee Remuneration, Benefits and Expenses

None of the trustees received any remuneration (2025: Nil).

No trustees received reimbursement of expenses (2025: £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 £52,816 (2025: £48,811).

9. Staff Costs and Emoluments	2025 £	2024 £
Salary costs		
Gross salaries	568,552	533,004
Employer pension contribution	11,575	10,558
Employer’s national insurance	55,980	39,431
Total	636,107	582,993

	No.	No.
Average headcount		
Management	3	3
Administration/finance	4	4
Projects	18	17
Total	25	24

No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 (2025: Nil).

SMART PLAY NETWORK

NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2026

10. Tangible fixed assets	**Vehicles**	**Equipment**	**Total**
	£	£	£
Cost			
At beginning of the year	280,908	30,553	311,461
Additions	21,022	-	21,022
Disposals	(17,274)	-	(17,274)
At end of the year	284,656	30,553	315,209
Depreciation			
At beginning of the year	212,508	28,807	241,315
Depreciation	29,754	599	30,353
Disposals	(17,274)	-	(17,274)
At end of the year	224,988	29,406	254,394
Net book value			
At beginning of the year	68,400	1,746	70,146
At end of the year	59,668	1,147	60,815

11. Debtors	**2026**	**2025**
	£	£
Trade debtors	1,140	146,475
Prepayments and accrued income	16,274	18,678
Total debtors	**17,414**	165,153

12. Creditors	**2026**	**2025**
	£	£
Taxation and social security	12,453	10,947
Accruals	14,752	14,986
Other creditors	13,114	9,709
Total creditors	**40,319**	35,642

NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2026

13. Fund Movements	Balance at 31 March 2025	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2026
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds					
CCE	357	10,760	(11,828)	-	(711)
PTR	379,330	607,080	(661,986)	-	324,423
NLC	6,012	54,120	(54,679)	-	5,454
OCP	2,705	11,042	(13,409)	-	338
Total restricted funds	388,404	683,002	(741,902)	-	329,504
Unrestricted funds					
General Fund	229,113	165,270	(146,481)	(12,370)	235,531
Designated Fixed Asset Fund	4,158	-	(4,158)	-	-
Designated Events & Business Planning Fund	28,334	-	(5,503)	-	22,832
Designated Project Costs Fund	23,285	-	(5,103)	2,370	20,552
Designated Software & Security	-	-	-	10,000	10,000
Total unrestricted funds	284,890	165,270	(161,245)	-	288,915
Total funds	673,294	848,273	(903,148)	-	618,419

	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

SMART PLAY NETWORK

NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 March 2026

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Un-Restricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2026
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	-	60,815	60,815
Current assets	294,861	303,062	597,923
Current liabilities	(5,946)	(34,373)	(40,319)
	288,915	329,504	618,419

	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

15. Transfers Between Funds

There were transfers during the year from the General Fund of £2,370 to DES PC and a further £10,000 to DES Software & Security.

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 2026. This has now been extended to the end of March 2027.
- 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 2027.
- 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 2028.

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 Marseille, an away day for staff and expenditure in relation to the publishing and design of our first children's book.

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 as part time support worker for our Training programmes and to mitigate any other unexpected staff costs.

The **Designated Software and Security Fund** was set up for upgrading our finance software for added security, functionality and efficiency and engaging external consultants (Exquitech) to review our cyber security, offer recommendations and provide ongoing support.

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

	2026	**2025**
	£	£
Net movement in funds	(54,875)	21,512
Add back depreciation charge	30,353	27,211
Less gain on disposal of fixed assets	(7,425)	-
Deduct interest income and rental income shown in investing activities	(9,648)	(13,397)
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	147,739	(139,257)
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	4,677	2,152
Net cash provided by operating activities	110,821	(101,779)

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:

	2026	**2025**
	£	£
Leases expiring in:		
Less than 1 year	1,684	1,324

19. Related Party Transactions

The charity undertook no transactions with related parties during the year (2025: Nil).

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