

# Play England

A Company Limited by Guarantee  
and not having a Share Capital

(Company no. 07880687)

(Charity no. 1150216)

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR END**  
**31 MARCH 2023**

<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>Page</b>
Trustees' (and Directors') Report	2-8
Statement of Financial Activities	8
Balance Sheet	9
Notes to the Financial Statements	10 - 13

# Play England

(A Company Limited by Guarantee No. 07880687)

## **TRUSTEES' (AND DIRECTORS') REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

The Trustees present their Report and independently examined Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

### **Reference and Administrative Details**

**Charity Registration Number**            1150216

**Company Registration Number**    07880687

### **Registered Office**

C/O Linden Accountants, Scrapstore House, 21 Sevier St, Bristol BS2 9LB

### **Trustees**

The Directors of the Charity are also its Trustees for the purposes of charity law and are referred to throughout this Report as the Trustees.

The Trustees who held office during the year, unless otherwise indicated, were as follows:

Anita Grant	Chair
Rose Gledhill	Secretary
Kirsty Wilson	
Libby Truscott	
Panash Shah	
Elizabeth Wilson (resigned October 2022)	
Simon Fagg	
Louise Lord	
Sean Longhurst	
Richard Cocker	
Archie Morrell (appointed November 2022)	
Helen Dodd (appointed November 2022)	

### **Staff**

n/a

### **Independent Examiner**

n/a

### **Legal Advisers**

Veale Wasbrough Vizards LLP, Orchard Court, Orchard Lane, Bristol BS1 5WS

### **Bankers**

CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

# **Play England**

(A Company Limited by Guarantee No. 07880687)

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

### **Governing Document**

Play England was incorporated on 13 December 2011 as a Company Limited by Guarantee without a Share Capital and registered as a charity on 18 December 2012.

It is governed by its Articles of Association, under which each Member is required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the liabilities of the Charity in the event of it being wound up whilst they are Members, or within one year of their ceasing to be Members.

Play England was previously a project of the National Children's Bureau that aimed to support improved play provision for children and young people in England.

Play England project's operations transferred to the new charity Play England on 1 April 2013.

### **Related Charities**

There are no related charities.

### **Appointment of Trustees**

Management of the Charity is vested in a Board of Directors. The Directors are also the Trustees of the Charity. Trustees are generally appointed at each Annual General Meeting (AGM) in accordance with the Articles of Association. At each AGM one third of Trustees, being the longest serving, retire by rotation and, if eligible, may offer themselves for re-appointment.

### **Induction and Training of Trustees**

All new trustees are given comprehensive induction information which includes the latest annual report, accounts and current policies. They are also given the opportunity to meet with other Trustees to further provide insight into the operations and management of the charity.

### **Organisational Structure**

The board of directors is responsible for the overall financial control, direction and work of the charity. It meets approximately six times a year. The board may delegate day to day and operations matters to staff who will work within a framework of approved policies and plans. In 22/23 there were no staff employed by the charity.

### **Risk Review**

The ongoing strategy of the charity in response to the risk review in respect to funding is to increase the range of funding sources, develop long-term relationships with key funders and strategic partners, develop the membership of the charity and build operating reserves. This approach will mitigate the major risks to which the charity is exposed.

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## Internal Controls

The Trustees have prepared a Financial Control Policy to document procedures in place to ensure all staff working in the Charity, especially those involved in the accountancy operation, correctly adhere to such controls. This should ensure that an audit trail can be followed and that allocation of costs have been properly ascertained and properly recorded. All transactions are recorded in proprietary accounting software, enabling tracking of all transactions and quarterly bank reconciliations to be carried out.

## Objectives and Activities

### Objects

The objects of the Charity, as set out in its Memorandum of Association, are:

- (1) To promote human rights (as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations conventions and declarations) in particular a child's right to play as a fundamental human right (Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child);
- (2) To promote the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or impairment, financial hardship or social circumstances, or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.
- (3) To provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or impairment, financial hardship or social circumstances, with the object of improving their conditions of life.
- (4) To advance the education of children and young people through quality play opportunities, and through developing and supporting high quality and accessible education, training and qualifications for all people with an interest in the provision of children's play services.
- (5) To promote the effective use of resources for charitable purposes by charities and non-charitable organisations for the benefit of the public in particular through the provision of administrative and other assistance for organisations supporting play opportunities and provision.

### Vision

For England to be a child-friendly country where all children and young people have freedom to play at home, at school, in parks and public spaces

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## Aims

- All children and young people have freedom — time, space, permission and opportunity — to play
- All children and young people can regularly play indoors and outdoors
- Everyone is aware of the importance of play

## Key Messages

- Play is vital for children's needs and vital for families and communities
- Play is fundamental to happy childhood and has power to transform lives
- Benefits of play and importance of risk in play
- Play and Play England can help deliver outcomes for children and young people
- Children's right to play benefits everyone
- Play services are value for money
- Play England can reach children, young people and families that other organisations can't reach
- Play contributes to children's health and well-being – it helps get children active
- We need to reduce barriers to play

## Public Benefit

In planning to meet the objectives we are satisfied that the activities fulfil the public benefit requirement referred to in the Charity Commission's general guidance. As well as benefit to the individuals concerned there is a broader gain for the public.

As a result of Play England's work, children and young people in England benefit from better opportunities for play and leisure. Thousands of children every year benefit from improved opportunities for play in adventure playgrounds, schools, streets, parks and public spaces, as a result of Play England's work providing information and advocacy on designing for play, quality in play and managing risk in play provision. This benefits the social, physical and emotional development of children, improves opportunities for families and benefits the wider community.

Benefits of play for children include social, physical, intellectual, creative, emotional and cultural development. As the National Sports Strategy 2015 states, "Encouraging active play at younger ages is important and can help develop healthy habits, enjoyment of physical activity and physical literacy skills."

A University of Bristol evaluation of our Street Play project found that children's moderate to vigorous physical activity increases while they are playing. Increased community cohesion was also identified through a study of parents' views.

## **Play England**

(A Company Limited by Guarantee No. 07880687)

### **Achievements and Performance**

We continued to concentrate our efforts in 4 key areas:

#### **Supporting Frontline Play Providers (proactive)**

- Play England was well represented at the National Playwork Conference in Eastbourne, sponsoring the Paul Bonel Special Mention award. We exhibited at the Club Central Conference too, sponsoring the Inclusive Practice award.
- 
- We supported the creation of a PETC (Playwork Education and Training Council): working with them on the new National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Playwork.
- 
- We ran an open meeting with the Playwork Foundation in March 2022.
- 
- We sent out 6 Newsletters to members in July, September, November, December 2022, January and March 2023.
- 
- We held a webinar at our November AGM with a presentation by Helen Dodd, Professor of Child Psychology at Exeter University on the research she's been doing about children's mental health and play.

#### **Providing expert play information (reactive)**

- Email enquiries continued and we fielded queries on matters ranging from training and qualifications to learning and nature. Adventure playgrounds were a recurring theme. We were able to use this data to plan and issue two information sheets on Recruitment and Retention and Children's Mental health.

#### **Strategic partnerships**

- Our strategic partnerships with the other three nations continued.
- We continued to build and strengthen our relationship with the Playwork Foundation, the UK Children's Play Policy Forum and the UK Play Safety Forum.

#### **Raising the profile of play and campaigning**

- We supported Playday 2022 particularly in Manchester, linking up with their Year of the Child, sponsorship by Magic Light Pictures.
- Attended the Bee Green Education Summit

# **Play England**

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## **Running the organisation**

- We recruited 2 new trustees: Helen Dodd and Archie Morrell
- Elizabeth Wilson resigned as Trustee after some years of fruitful service. We will miss her.
- We implemented a new safeguarding policy and all Trustees completed safeguarding training.
- We recruited a new (Interim) Executive Director, Eugene Minogue to start work on a part-time basis from 1 April 2023.
- Membership increased from 1217 in March 2022 to 2161 in March 2023.

## **Future Plans**

It is clear that children and young people's physical and mental health needs rebuilding post-Covid. Our plans to support this are as follows:

### **Supporting Frontline Play Providers (proactive)**

Initiatives include:

- Present the results of our OnePoll research sponsored by Save the Children at the International Play Conference in Glasgow.
- Continue to support the creation of a PETC
- Running further webinars with key voices in the play sector
- Have some form of play map which promotes play opportunities
- Develop resources to support organisations to promote the value of play
- Endorse more training courses

### **Providing expert play information (reactive)**

- Information sheets available to members on issues surrounding the provision of play
- Refresh our existing publications without changing the content.

### **Strategic partnerships**

- Forming partnerships with others with similar aims to raise the profile of play and to support children to access it.
- Participation and support for the UK Children's Play Policy Forum and the UK Play Safety Forum

### **Raising the profile of play and campaigning**

- Making the case for play, through advocacy, presenting and media work.
- Continue to support Playday, in partnership with Playboard Northern Ireland, Play Wales and Play Scotland.

# Play England

(A Company Limited by Guarantee No. 07880687)

## Running the organisation

- Raising sufficient funding to continue our work on a sustainable basis for the foreseeable future.
- Rework a Manifesto for Play.
- Make public our future strategic direction
- Succession planning for board members and Chair
- A governance review and associated actions to help us qualify for future funding.

### **Find out more:**

[www.playengland.org.uk](http://www.playengland.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/playengland](https://www.facebook.com/playengland)

Insta: @playengland

LinkedIn



# Play England

(A Company Limited by Guarantee No. 07880687)

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (Including Income and Expenditure Account) YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	Note	£	£	£	£
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations	2	4,100	-	4,100	-
Charitable activities					
Grants	3	-	-	-	10,000
Earned income	4	-	7,000	7,000	-
Other trading activities		22	-	22	-
<b>Total income</b>		<u>4,121</u>	<u>7,000</u>	<u>11,121</u>	<u>10,000</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities	5	6,006	7,989	13,996	11,238
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>6,006</u>	<u>7,989</u>	<u>13,996</u>	<u>11,238</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) for the year</b>		(1,885)	(989)	(2,875)	(1,238)
Transfers between funds		(989)	989	-	-
<b>Total funds at 1 April</b>	12	17,877	-	17,877	19,115
<b>Total funds at 31 March</b>	11	<u>15,002</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,002</u>	<u>17,877</u>

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the year as set out above.

All of the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

The notes below form part of these financial statements.

# Play England

(A Company Limited by Guarantee No. 07880687)

## PLAY ENGLAND

### BALANCE SHEET

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>			
Debtors	8	214	5,528
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>15,489</u>	<u>15,509</u>
		<b>15,704</b>	21,038
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES:</b>			
Creditors: falling due within one year	9	(701)	(3,161)
		<u>15,002</u>	<u>17,877</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS:</b>			
		<b>15,002</b>	17,877
<b>CREDITORS:</b> Amounts falling due after one year			
		-	-
<b>NET ASSETS:</b>			
		<u><b>15,002</b></u>	<u><b>17,877</b></u>
<b>FUNDS</b>			
Unrestricted funds	11	15,002	17,877
Restricted funds	11	-	-
		<u><b>15,002</b></u>	<u><b>17,877</b></u>

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

For the financial year ended 31 March 2023 the company was entitled to exemption from an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and no notice has been deposited under section 476 of that Act. In accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011, the company was entitled to exemption from an independent examination.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (a) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act; and
- (b) preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company, as at the end of the financial year, and of its net income or outgoing resources in accordance with the requirements of section 396 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to the accounts, so far as it applicable to the company.

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on the following date and are signed on their behalf by:

Date: 1 November 2023



Anita Grant (Chair)



Kirsty Wilson (Trustee)

# Play England

(A Company Limited by Guarantee No. 07880687)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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### 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS 102 SORP) issued in July 2014, and applicable UK Accounting Standards and the Charities Act 2011.

#### Funds structure

Unrestricted income funds comprise those funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects. Unrestricted funds include designated funds where the trustees, at their discretion, have set aside resources for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or the terms of a specific appeal.

#### Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the resources, it is certain that the resources will be received and the monetary value of income can be measured with sufficient reliability.

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Income from donations is included when these are receivable, except as follows:

- i) When the donors specify that the donations given to the charity must be used in future accounting periods;
- ii) When donors impose conditions which have to be fulfilled before the charity becomes entitled to use such income, the income is deferred until the pre-conditions have been met.

Income from grants, where there are performance or service deliverables required by the terms of the grant, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to payment through its performance.

#### Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that agree all costs related to the category. Support costs have been allocated 100% towards the charitable activities of the charity.

#### Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both the direct pay and non-pay costs and support costs relating to those activities.

#### Governance costs

Governance cost include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity, and include its independent examination fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity including trustee expenses.

#### Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the charity to the fund in respect of the year.

#### Corporation tax

As the company is a registered charity no provision is considered necessary for taxation on income that is exempt under Corporation Tax legislation and that is applied to the charitable objects.

# Play England

(A Company Limited by Guarantee No. 07880687)

## 2 DONATIONS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Sundry donations	1,400	-	1,400	-
London Marathon donations	2,700	-	2,700	-
	<u>4,100</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,100</u>	<u>-</u>

## 3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES: GRANTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Play Day sponsorship	-	-	-	10,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,000</u>

## 4 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES: EARNED INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Summer of Play research	-	7,000	7,000	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>7,000</u>	<u>7,000</u>	<u>-</u>

## 5 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

### Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022
<i>Other costs</i>				
Trustee travel and subsistence	861	-	861	-
Workshops and dissemination	1,591	-	1,591	6,666
Memberships and affiliations	505	-	505	66
Evaluation	-	-	-	1,950
External consultants	-	7,989	7,989	-
Insurance	472	-	472	659
Printing, postage and stationery	705	-	705	-
Telephone	-	-	-	-
Bookkeeping	1,800	-	1,800	1,800
<i>Other costs subtotal</i>	<u>5,934</u>	<u>7,989</u>	<u>13,924</u>	<u>11,142</u>
Governance costs	72	-	72	96
	<u>6,006</u>	<u>7,989</u>	<u>13,996</u>	<u>11,238</u>

## 6 CORPORATION TAX

As the company is a registered charity no provision is considered necessary for taxation on income that is exempt under Corporation Tax legislation and that is applied to the charitable objects.

# Play England

(A Company Limited by Guarantee No. 07880687)

## 7 STAFF COSTS

	2023 £	2022 £
The aggregate payroll costs were:		
Wages & salaries	-	-
Social security costs	-	-
Pensions	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The key management personnel of the Charity are its Trustees.

None of the trustees received any remuneration during this or the previous year and 4 were reimbursed expenses of £431.14 (2022 - nil)

The average number of employees during the year in total and calculated on the basis of full time equivalents, was as follows:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Support staff	0.0	0.0
	<u>0.0</u>	<u>0.0</u>

No members of staff received emoluments of more than £60,000.

## 8 DEBTORS

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	16	5,016
Prepayments	198	512
	<u>214</u>	<u>5,528</u>

## 9 CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	701	461
Deferred income	-	2,700
	<u>701</u>	<u>3,161</u>

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## 10 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Current Assets	15,704	-	15,704
Current Liabilities	(701)	-	(701)
	<u>15,002</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,002</u>

# Play England

(A Company Limited by Guarantee No. 07880687)

## 11 TOTAL FUNDS

Analysis of Fund movements	At start of year £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At end of year £
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>					
General funds	17,877	4,121	(6,006)	(989)	15,002
	<b>17,877</b>	<b>4,121</b>	<b>(6,006)</b>	<b>(989)</b>	<b>15,002</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Summer of Play research	-	7,000	(7,989)	989	-
	<b>-</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>(7,989)</b>	<b>989</b>	<b>-</b>

## 12 TOTAL FUNDS

Comparative information for the previous year	At start of year £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At end of year £
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>					
General funds	19,115	10,000	(11,238)	-	17,877
	<b>19,115</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>(11,238)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17,877</b>

## 13 PURPOSES OF RESTRICTED FUNDS

Summer of Play research project - Play England commissioned a survey of children's opportunities to play

## 14 FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

There were no financial commitments or contingent liabilities at the Balance Sheet date.