TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Registered Charity Name: Seren in the Community CIO

Charity number: 1171417

Registered Charity Name: **Seren in the Community CIO**

Charity number: **1171417**

Trustees:

- Sian Regan (Chair)
- Huw Thomas (Treasurer)
- Sam Evans (Secretary)
- Paula Harris
- Germaine Ngoy Kyabu
- Harriet Rose
- Gordon Tyler
- Jennifer Beli Evans (appointed 04/11/2025)

Correspondence Address: c/o 31 Harold St Adamsdown CF24 1NZ

Email: sereninthecommunity@gmail.com

Independent Examiner: Deborah Mary Samothrakis BSc FCA Tester Accountancy & Bookkeeping Ltd Chartered Accountants 34 Fairoak Road, Cathays, Cardiff CF24 4PY

Overview of Activities

Seren in the Community's aim of bringing high quality, inclusive, adventurous and meaningful play opportunities to children and young people across the Splott, Tremorfa, Adamsdown and Roath areas continued to be of vital importance throughout 2025.

Playwork is about creating spaces where children can follow their own ideas, explore the world around them and take manageable risks. These spaces continue to be increasingly important in the face of ongoing financial pressures on families, reductions in accessible services and the growing need for inclusive community provision.

For Seren in the Community, 2025 was a year of strengthened partnerships, increased recognition within the playwork sector and reflection on the impact of our National Lottery funded project as it reached its conclusion.

- **Community Play Provision:** We continued to provide free open access play opportunities across the STAR area, including regular sessions in Anderson Fields, Maltings Park and Tremorfa Park. Following the end of warm space funding, we returned to outdoor delivery in Tremorfa Park with the aim of developing the area into a vibrant and welcoming space for local children and young people.

- **Schools and Events:** We successfully delivered our school project within Stacey Primary School, further building our relationships with local schools. We also hosted our annual Halloween event featuring games, crafts, pumpkin carving and a disco, along with a festive outdoor Christmas celebration complete with seasonal activities and community participation.

- **Partnerships and Community Development:** We continued to strengthen partnerships with a wide range of organisations including Oasis Cardiff, NoFit State Circus, Exeter University, C3SC and numerous members of our Play Action Group. These partnerships enabled us to provide additional opportunities for children and families while strengthening community networks throughout the area.

- **Strategic Growth and Sector Influence:** During the year, Seren in the Community participated in the Square Mile Collective, the Playwork Education and Training Council and Local Authority Play Sufficiency Assessment processes. This work enabled us to contribute

our practical knowledge and advocate for the needs of children, young people and communities across Cardiff.

- **Project Evaluation and Impact:** During the final year of our National Lottery funded programme we undertook extensive consultation and evaluation work. Findings demonstrated that our services had benefited not only children and young people but also parents, carers and the wider community. We engaged hundreds of families from a range of backgrounds and continued to provide safe, free and accessible opportunities for play, social connection and personal development.

Staffing and Operations

2025 was a year of continued organisational development and professional recognition.

A particular highlight of the year was receiving the Frontline Playworkers Award 2025 at the National Playwork Conference in Eastbourne. The award recognised the team's contribution to community-based playwork and their commitment to improving play opportunities for children and young people across the STAR area. This national recognition reflected the dedication, professionalism and commitment of the playwork team and reinforced the importance of high-quality community play provision.

Staff continued to strengthen partnerships, contribute to local and national discussions around playwork and participate in research, consultation and development opportunities. Through this work, Seren in the Community has continued to raise its profile both locally and nationally while remaining firmly rooted within the communities it serves.

The organisation continued to work collaboratively with local partners to maximise resources, expand opportunities for children and young people and improve the sustainability of future service delivery.

Public Benefit

The Trustees of Seren in the Community are committed to ensuring that the charity operates for the public benefit, furthering our charitable purpose to advance the development and education of children and young people through the provision of play opportunities.

We continue to prioritise making our services accessible to all children and families, particularly those living in areas of socio-economic disadvantage, those experiencing social isolation and those with additional needs. By providing free and inclusive play opportunities, we help ensure that financial circumstances are not a barrier to participation.

Through our work, children and young people are provided with opportunities to build confidence, creativity, resilience and social connections while families benefit from stronger community relationships and improved access to local support networks.

Risks

The Trustees remain in regular contact with staff and meet regularly to monitor risks facing the organisation.

Financial sustainability continues to represent the most significant risk. During 2025 the charity reached the end of a major National Lottery funded project and has therefore focused significant effort on identifying and securing future funding opportunities.

The Trustees recognise that the charity's greatest asset is its highly experienced and qualified playwork team, whilst staffing costs remain the organisation's largest area of expenditure. The

charity continues to seek efficiencies through partnership working, resource sharing, recycling and careful financial management whilst maintaining the quality of service delivery.

The Trustees will continue to monitor funding opportunities, expenditure levels and organisational resilience to ensure the charity remains sustainable in the longer term.

Future Plans

Looking ahead, we are focused on securing long-term funding that reflects the demand for our services and supports the continued growth of the organisation.

Following the conclusion of our National Lottery funded programme, we are actively pursuing new funding opportunities designed to support delivery over the next five years. We will continue strengthening existing partnerships, participating in strategic playwork initiatives and developing new projects that support children, young people and families across the community.

We also intend to expand opportunities through commissioned work, collaborative projects and further partnerships with local authorities, schools, community groups and third-sector organisations.

Governance and Trustee Details

Seren in the Community was registered with the Charity Commission on 1 February 2017.

The charity is governed by a Board of Trustees.

The governing document for the organisation is a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) constitution. During 2025, amendments to the governing document were approved at the Annual General Meeting to support the charity's ability to undertake commissioned work and strengthen the long-term financial sustainability of the organisation.

As of December 2025, the trustees were:

- Sian Regan (appointed 27/06/2023)
- Huw Thomas (appointed 05/12/2017)
- Sam Evans (appointed 08/07/2024)
- Paula Harris (appointed 27/06/2023)
- Germaine Ngoy Kyabu (appointed 15/11/2023)
- Harriet Rose (appointed 06/11/2024)
- Gordon Tyler (appointed 06/11/2024)
- Jennifer Beli Evans (appointed 04/11/2025)

Independent Examiner's Report and Accounts

TO THE TRUSTEES OF SEREN IN THE COMMUNITY CIO

ON THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025 set out below.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act and to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures, and seeking explanations from the Trustees concerning any such matters.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion as to whether the financial statements present a true and fair view.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention which give me cause to believe that, in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008.

I have come across no other matters, in connection with the examination, to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Deborah Mary Samothrakis BSc FCA

Tester Accountancy & Bookkeeping Ltd Chartered Accountants

34 Fairoak Road, Cathays Cardiff CF24 4PY

SEREN IN THE COMMUNITY CIO

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025 Expenditure

SEREN IN THE COMMUNITY CIO

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME:				
Big Lottery		32,664.25		29,593.50
Winter of Wellbeing/Play Sufficiency grants		6,494.52		11,614.27
Other grant funding		10,496.98		1,810.00
Fundraising:		1,055.00		627.88
Homeschool		900.00		90.00
		51,610.75		43,735.65
EXPENDITURE:				
Labour	43,733.51		40,185.13	
Expenses	543.74		900.03	
Insurance	412.58		817.20	
Independent Examiner's fees	-		700.00	
Equipment and consumables	3,619.83		6,472.70	
Trips	520.00		2,442.40	
Homeschool	630.00		270.00	
Storage	2,424.00		1,816.00	
Services, training & conferences	5,038.00		2,925.00	
Sundry expenses (including room hire)	1,871.19		152.98	
		(58,792.85)		(56,681.44)
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR		**£ £(7,182.10)**		**£ (12,945.79)**

SEREN IN THE COMMUNITY CIO

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025

		2025		2024
		£		£
Surpluses brought forward		23,306.37		36,252.16
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		(7,182.10)		(12,945.79)
Surpluses carried forward	**£**	**16,124.27**	**£**	**23,306.37**
Represented By:				
Balance at bank	**£**	**16,124.27**	**£**	**23,306.37**

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

COMPANY NUMBER: CE008981 **CHARITY NUMBER: 1171417**

SEREN IN THE COMMUNITY CIO

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

COMPANY NUMBER: CE008981 **CHARITY NUMBER: 1171417**

SEREN IN THE COMMUNITY CIO

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025