CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01/01/2025 **Period start date**
To 31/12/2025 **Period end date**

Charity name: Society for the Study of Childhood in the Past (SSCIP)

Charity registration number: 1200831

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The Society for the Study of Childhood in the Past (SSCIP) is an interdisciplinary society which aims to promote all aspects of the study of childhood in the past, incorporating research from archaeology, anthropology, history, art history, sociology, psychology and many other disciplines. SSCIP is a small but active, international Society that hosts an annual conference, publishes a journal and monograph series, hosts workshops and symposia, and undertakes outreach events.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	Annual Conference; annual public lectures; outreach initiatives; dissemination of research/events relating to the study of childhood in the past via social media accounts. Support of events organised by members that are for public benefit (e.g. outreach events, sponsored conference sessions). Publishing of the Society's journal, *Childhood in the Past* and monograph series to promote and support dissemination of research in this subject.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	Where possible, we incorporate public-facing event(s) as part of the annual conference. We have developed a broader outreach portfolio (for example, creation of a mobile poster exhibition based on members' research into childhood in the past which can be made accessible to the public at our events). We have funding opportunities for conference sessions e.g. reduced conference fees, speaker prizes. Our bi-annual journal is open to submissions beyond our membership and can be read open access (i.e. publicly available). Our monograph series also includes open-access publications.

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	Depending on our budget each year, we can offer sponsorship to those members of the Society who wish to organise events relevant to our Aims and Objectives. This can include events that relate to, or incorporate, public outreach activities. Such opportunities would take place on an ad-hoc basis and would be reviewed and approved by the Trustees on a case-by-case basis.
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	N/A
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	SSCIP is membership-led, and we are grateful to our members for participating in the Society, including taking part in our annual conference, contributing research for publication in our journal and monograph series, acting as peer reviewers for the journal, and hosting/participating in outreach events. We always aim to provide support to those members wishing to organise their own activities, particularly if they relate to public outreach.
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	We continue to distribute our quarterly newsletter to the membership; this is distributed to all members through a mailing list and provides an opportunity to highlight relevant activities that have been undertaken by the Society, as well as promoting the research and work of its members. For example, we have incorporated a 'Student Feature' piece and 'Student Prize Winner' report in the newsletter to highlight the work of early career researchers. Each year, we organise a free, in person and online annual public lecture that are publicly accessible. In March 2025, our annual public lecture was delivered by Prof. Mary Lewis in Bournemouth. This talk '*Adolescent Palaeopathology: A Gateway for Human Health',* attracted over 80 attendees, including both SSCiP members and non-members. In February 2025, Dr Mélie Le Roy was invited to speak at the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at UCLA as part of the Teen Friends of Archaeology programme. Her talk on 'Valuing Children in Life and Death in French Late Neolithic Societies' introduced participants to archaeological approaches to childhood in prehistory. Our annual conference provides a forum for the communication of research to both members and non-members. This event moves to a different region each year to ensure we visit those countries that are represented by our membership and to make it accessible to all. Our members benefit from a reduced conference registration fee; however, participation in the conference is open to anyone that wishes to attend. In June 2025, our conference took place at University of Aarhus, Denmark, under the theme 'Children and Climate Change'. The conference coverage using the #SSCIP2025 hashtag saw active contributions from attendees across X, BlueSky, Facebook, and Instagram. BlueSky and X recorded the highest engagement during the conference period. The SSCiP website continues to serve as the main hub for information on events, publications, and membership. Updates in

		2025 focused on improving accessibility and promoting society news and opportunities. Social media remained a key communication tool in 2025, with strong engagement across several platforms: Bluesky: 234 followers (increased from 139 in 2024) Facebook: 13 posts published; 7087 total content views. Instagram: 6 posts published; audience reach increased by 283%, made up of 89% followers and 11% non-followers. X (formerly Twitter): Analytics not available for non-verified account.

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	Please see Treasurer's report at end of document.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	Reserves allow us to meet our financial obligation to the journal publisher (Taylor & Francis), as well as any unexpected expenses which occur because of fluctuations in membership subscriptions. Excess funds are used to invest in the Society (e.g. maintenance of website).
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£9,927.69 as of 31/12/25

Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	None

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	Our only source of funding is our membership fees: https://sscip.org.uk/membership/. We use these fees to subsidise and cover costs related to the publication of our journal, 'Childhood in the Past'. Members are given a subscription to this journal for the duration of their membership with hard copies of the journal (2 issues per year) posted to the member regardless of where they live, and online access to the archive of previous journal volumes hosted by the publisher, Taylor & Francis. We also use the income from fees to cover/subsidise the costs associated with any outreach events organised by/for the Society, and to provide any prizes at our annual conference. As such, our income is solely spent on Society activities, and any excess held as a reserve to buffer expenses alongside potential fluctuations in membership numbers.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	We do not have an investment policy. Given the size of the organisation (<100 members) and our financial position, we do not plan to invest any of our funds beyond the immediate needs of the organisation e.g. paying for the publication of the journal.
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The main risk to the Society is either a significant reduction in our membership and/or no members joining the organisation as this would detrimentally affect our finances. We are committed to purchasing one subscription of the journal (2 issues) for each of our individual Members each year, and are committed to paying for a minimum of fifty (50) Members; this is equivalent to a commitment of £750 per annum.
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	We have an open call for nominations to committee roles; this call is open to both members and non-members at the time of nomination. All members of the Society are then asked to vote on the nominees via an online poll with the outcome of the voting announced at AGM and ratified if quorate.

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	Following their acceptance as a new Trustee at the AGM, any new Trustee is then provided verbal and written guidance from the Society's President and Secretary with regards to their role and responsibilities.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	The Society has seven Trustees, as well as two Ex-Officio officers who attend Committee meetings (the Journal Editor and Monograph Editor). The Journal Editor works closely with our publisher, Taylor & Francis, to coordinate the publication of our bi-annual journal, *Childhood in the Past*. Our Monograph series is published on an ad-hoc basis by the publisher *Archaeopress* but there is no contractual arrangement with this organisation.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	N/A
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Society for the Study of Childhood in the Past
Other name the charity uses	SSCIP
Registered charity number	1200831
Charity's principal address	20 Brincliffe Edge Road Sheffield S11 9BW

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Dr Katie Hemer	President		
2	Dr Sophie Newman	Ordinary Member		
3	Dr Claire Hodson	Membership Secretary		
4	Dr Ellen Kendall	Treasurer		
5	Dr Melie Le Roy	Outreach and Student Officer		
6	Rosie Crawford	Social Media and Publicity Officer		
7	Professor Sian Halcrow	Book Review Editor		
8	Dr Creighton Avery	Committee Secretary		

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
N/A		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	**Dates acted if not for whole year**	
N/A		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	None
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	N/A
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	N/A

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

Other optional information

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Dr Katie Anna Hemer	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	President	

Date	26/10/2026

Charities Commission - Financial Report 2025

21st October 2025

Income and Expenditure – January 2025 to December 2025

SSCIP Accounts December 2025

- Business Account: £9,017.68
- Community Account: £910.01
- Paypal: £0.00

Total Accounts: £9,927.69

Expenditure from January - December 2025	
T&F Journal fees for 2025	£1,170.00
Ink and Water Website Fees	£540.00
Wordpress fees	£26.40
2025 Aarhus conference organizer gifts	£52.46
Total Expenditure	**£1,788.86**

Income from January - December 2025	
Membership fees via standing order/transfer/cheque	£995.20
Membership fees via Stripe	£1732.67
Bank interest	£121.75
Total Income	**£2,849.62**

Comments

Spending was overall moderate in 2025, with the main expenditures being website and journal fees, and very minor expenses associated with the annual conference. Payment methods were also stable, with a clear preference for the new Stripe facility over bank transfers – this option has allowed greater ease to benefit overseas members and more flexibility for domestic UK members.