



Local Aid for Children and Community Special Needs (Local Aid)
Registered Company Number 4734267
Registered Charity Number 1104585



Financial Statements year ending 30 April 2021

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MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees who served the Charity during the period were as follows:

Pauline Lewis (**Chair**)

Denise Inger (**Finance Director**)– May 2020 to September 2020

Marie Powell

Lindsay Brewis (**Treasurer**)– September 2020 onwards

Rebecca Francis

Phillip Nicholson

Registered Office:

Acorn Business Centre
250 Carmarthen Rd
Cwmbwrla
Swansea
SA1 1HG

Accountant:

RR Watkins A.F.A
9 Gwerneinon Rd
Sketty
Swansea
SA28EN

Bankers:

Lloyds TSB
10 Newton Road
Mumbles
Swansea
SA3 4AT

Solicitors:

JCP
Venture Court
Waterside Business Park
Valley Way
Enterprise Park, Swansea
SA6 8QP

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

Year Ending 30 April 2021

The Trustees, the Directors for the purpose of the Companies Act, present the Annual Report and the Financial Statements of the Charity for the year ending 30 April 2021

LEGAL STATUS

The Charity is a limited company, registration number 4734267, and is governed by its memorandum and articles of association. It is registered with the Charities Commission, number 1104585. The Trustees are Directors of the Limited Company.

MISSION STATEMENT

To work collaboratively with other agencies to support the needs of vulnerable children, young people and adults in our communities, raising awareness of their needs and aspirations, increasing opportunities for inclusion in all aspects of community life.

CHARITABLE AIMS & OBJECTIVES

- (i) to help to provide specialist equipment and services not readily available through statutory sources;
- (ii) to support families experiencing hardship where travel to out of county specialist children's hospitals and centres is needed;
- (iii) to raise public awareness of the needs and aspirations of young people with special needs in the community.

TRUSTEES

Trustees are nominated to the Board of Trustees and are elected annually by the voting members at the Annual General Meeting. Each Trustee stands for an initial period of two years before retiring but shall be eligible to stand for re-election without further nomination. The Trustees who are nominated to the Board via the membership manage Local Aid. The appointments to the Board of Trustees are reviewed annually. The Board of Trustees ensures that appointments of Trustees are made for their appropriate skills and experience to benefit the Company and its charitable activities. The operational management of the organisation is the responsibility of the Chairperson who leads the management team.

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Denise Inger

Jan 1952 - Sept 2020

It is with great sadness that we share with the sudden death of our founder Denise Inger on Sunday, 13 September 2020. She touched the lives of so many families and individuals in Swansea over the past four decades. So many of us will have our special memories of things she has done with us.



Denise first set up Local Aid in the early 1980s. She was a huge advocate for equality and open access to all with additional learning needs enabling all to be a meaningful part of their local community.

In her professional life, Denise was the chief executive of SNAP Cymru. Although they differ in what they do, both charities have inclusion in society and the community at the heart of what they do. Denise was an all-Wales ambassador and friend to the learning disability community and a person whose door was always open.

Denise's can do and will do approach as our Chairperson for over 25 years and then more recently overseeing our finances as treasurer has inspired us all. From fundraising in the early days, the inception of our projects, to setting up our charity shops, providing volunteering opportunities, arranging work experience placements and training opportunities for all. Denise was a driving force and always ready to pioneer new ideas such as the Schools Challenge, which ran for 20 years. Each year, Schools Challenge gave over 1,000 children in inclusive teams from local schools the opportunity to go to Gnoll Park for a week of adventuring providing everyone volunteers and children and young people with unique and challenging experiences. Denise's vision that volunteering opportunities and work experience could be the beginning of career paths is realised. Many of our volunteers have moved into roles in the health, social care and education fields, crediting their experience with Local Aid as their springboard.

Denise had the ambition, drive, and persistence to bring about change and create a community within our organisation which will be her long-lasting legacy. Denise, the person who did just about everything in Local Aid, listener, supporter, coach, mentor, shop volunteer, project developer and manager, health and safety officer, fundraiser, Chairperson and treasurer, never missing the opportunity to spread the message and get support for the Charity. Denise was in her element sorting through the donations, going down the water slide in Schools Challenge, as well as meeting dignitaries, including the Queen. Right up to a few days before she died, she was still passionately involved in supporting families. She was a truly inspirational lady who will be greatly missed and never forgotten.

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Review of the year 1 May 2020 to 30 April 2021

Local Aid supports children, young people, and families in Swansea and its surrounding area. The charities beneficiary area includes some of the most deprived wards in Wales, where the incidence of ALN/Disability is 20% higher than the national average. Indications are that there is a skills shortage for people trained and skilled to support children and young people with severe learning disabilities in the community. In addition, the accessibility of community-based provisions is limited. A key cohort of the most vulnerable children are those with significant challenging behaviours and who find it most difficult to gain support within the community.

The Covid 19 global pandemic has undoubtedly made this year a very challenging year for Local Aid community including the families, staff and volunteers as well as our ability to maintain the full range of our charitable activities. We are proud of the resilience shown by the charity in evolving and adapting to ensure we could continue to provide our support to the community we serve and to continue to meet our charitable objectives.

Local Aid continued to provide support to families and young people we were supporting as well as taking new referrals. Providing quality in person care and respite support was made even more difficult by the restrictions and requirements that the pandemic brought. We moved to a predominantly remote service, on-line, on the telephone and through email whilst providing in person care as and when the restrictions allowed.

Buddies staff were creative in their continued support to the young people and their families. Moving care sessions remotely ensured regular contact. A range of activities were undertaken for families. Staff made weekly welfare calls to over 30 families, did shopping when families were isolating and organised food parcels to be delivered. In addition, we provided fun activities for all the family to engage in, including online quizzes, group bingo, story sessions, cookery demonstrations, sign language challenges, art and craft demonstrations, music sessions.

When in person contact was permitted we took our support outdoors. Local Aid provided bespoke sessions for individual Buddies participants in their gardens, in parks, and at the beach. Activities included picnics in the park, outdoor treasure hunts and a trip to folly farm in late Summer.

During August 2020, we supported a limited number of places for young people who were most in need to prevent family breakdown or escalations in behaviours. This was extremely rewarding and helped for the wellbeing of the family as a whole. As the restrictions lifted, further activities and family support sessions resumed indoors for limited numbers from September to December. Unfortunately, January 2021 brought a second lockdown, and we reverted to our remote support.

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None of the Buddies staff were furloughed. They all provided direct workers to families throughout the year. Over half of our staff working in Buddies are trained or working towards NVQ level 3 or equivalent. Two members of our team are qualified teachers, and three staff members are teaching assistants. In addition, we have two student nurses, and Others have qualifications in childhood studies and business management. The length of service with Buddies ranges from 7 years to 3 years. We are fortunate to retain so many of our staff for long periods, ensuring consistency and quality of service for young people.

Our four charity shops closed for more than half of this financial year. We were fortunate to be eligible for support from City and County of Swansea in the form of Covid relief grants. We also used the furlough scheme for some of the lockdown periods when our small team of retail staff were not able to work from home. This ensured we were able to cover the costs of our overheads. Our eBay, the fifth 'virtual' shop, reached new heights during the lockdown period and continued to form a large part of our online charity presence, making our goods accessible to the whole of the UK.

We have continued to work in partnership with many community partners to ensure that we can signpost and refer to relevant services and enable others to gain a greater awareness of the needs of those we support. Multiagency working has been critical in these challenging times to ensure that we join together to make every penny counts and more importantly, to demonstrate that families are not alone. We are incredibly grateful and privileged to work with the community and our funders during the past year.

We continued our charitable work for families in need during the lock down. We provided 'community bundles' for families in need. We made up and distributed warm winter clothing bundles with clothing to fit children and young people as requested by families. The bundles also included art and craft materials, toys, books and activity packs to families to keep children busy.

Our small team of core staff who have worked tirelessly throughout the year. Local Aid would not be Local Aid without our dedicated army of volunteers who have been just incredible. Our retail volunteers have selflessly returned following government guidelines putting the needs of others first by enabling us to reopen and provide low-cost, affordable goods in our community.

Our focus for the next year is to ensure we can continue to best support those in need in our community and build resilience and wellbeing.

Staff Employed During 2020/21

Amanda Lervy – Director of Operational Services Full Time

David Thomas – Driver / Mentor Full Time

Abigail Albrighton – Youth Worker Part Time Elisa Price – Youth Worker Part Time

Linda Wellington – Project Co-ordinator Full Time Danielle Herbert - Tutor Part Time

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10 Buddies Activity Leaders - working on Saturdays only at Buddies.

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Annual Report

Projects and activities included:

Buddies

A specialist service, awarded Queen's Award (MBE for Voluntary services) in 2010, providing support to children and young people 8-18 who have severe learning disabilities and challenging behaviour. We have provided **almost 2,000 hours of support to nearly 14 families** this year in a blend of online and in person sessions. As a result, young people have benefited from have been making connections with others, engaging in activities, reducing isolation and feelings, building resilience and developing life, social, and communication skills. Buddies is a registered play provision with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW).

"Our weekly phone calls have been really helpful, just to know we are not alone. Staff have been so supportive, offering to do our shopping and delivering art. crafts pack"

Parent

"We have loved the family challenges and sharing our games with other families. This has been a lifeline we have looked forward to seeing everyone come together in a fun video."

Parent

Summer group.

This support was offered to young people identified as in the most need of our help and support during the school holidays as we emerged out of the first lockdown. Our sessions aimed to increase wellbeing and bring stability and go some way to mitigate the additional challenges the young people and their families faced during the period. Most families were unable to access support due to the complexity of their support needs. Over the six-week holidays, we provided **over 200 hours** of support when

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families needed it the most. Staff followed government guidelines and safety delivered a wide range of activities.

"Thank you to everyone. We are so grateful as a family for even a small amount of support. It has helped us to start introducing the idea of going back to school and trying to get J not to be so frightened of the virus." Parent

"This has been amazing; it has been lovely to have some sort of routine and normality" Parent

Diversity

A youth club for young people aged 3 to 18 who are on the Autistic Spectrum or on the pathway awaiting diagnosis. Diversity provides opportunities for young people to develop social skills, improve communication, make friends and be themselves. At our weekly session, parents can meet and support each other, share ideas, gain help and support from specialist workers about routines, behaviour management and other coping strategies. This year we have supported families again with a mix of online and in-person sessions. Over 1,000 hours have been provided through group zoom sessions for parents, individual support sessions, park and outdoor sessions and a brief return to the indoor session for one hour at a time.

"I love our Monday night zoom session and really appreciate being able to talk to other grown-ups about issues that are relevant to me and not being judged as having bad parenting skills." Parent

Winter community clothing bundles

Social and community workers, we able to request items of clothing whilst all shops were closed **80 winter clothing bundles** to the community distributing over 600 items of clothing free of charge to families who needed them. We also provide more than 52 crafts and activity packs.

Emerging Needs Project (community support)

More than 20 families have been supported via our charity shops which supports the needs of families. Referred by multiagency and Social Services professionals, they have been able to access financial support toward specialist equipment. We have provided clothing, beds, bedding, winter care packages, furniture, and educational and developmental toys. This has been available for families facing extreme hardship or exceptional circumstances.

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Reuse and Recycle – July to December 2020

Approximately 600 tons of goods have been reused and saved from landfills. Three hundred tons of clothing and textiles alone. Low-cost affordable goods have been sold at our four shops that provide an essential resource in communities during times of hardship. Furniture, toys, books, shoes and an array of household items, glass, cardboard and paper have been reused, helping to reduce our local landfill significantly.

Volunteering

A Total of **91** volunteers supported our Charity during this period. Seven trustees, and 84 Charity shop volunteers have supported us throughout this year with an estimated volunteering time of 7,500 hours. If we were to put a monetary value to our Charity, it would be an incredible £75,000 of match funding to our organisation.

Training – Staff and volunteer training held primarily online include:

- Internet safety. Teams and zoom
- Code and conduct online
- Communication skills
- Disability Awareness
- Safeguarding
- First Aid
- Play Skills
- Autism Awareness
- Managing challenging behaviour
- British Sign Language

Partnerships

City and County of Swansea - Social Services Department, Interplay, Action for Children. Tesco Community Fund, Warburtons.

We are incredibly grateful for all the support of our Staff, Volunteers, Families, Funders, Supporters and Customers. **Thank you for your continued support**

Website www.localaid.co.uk

Video available of the eBay project

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2KLECK7zEXg&feature=youtu.be>

Follow us on Facebook, Local Aid Wales <https://www.facebook.com/localaidwales>

eBay shop <https://www.ebay.co.uk/str/localaidwales>

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Responsibilities of the Trustees

Charitable and Company Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity at the end of the year and of the incoming and outgoing resources for the year then ended.

In preparing those financial statements, trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently, making judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent. The Trustees must also prepare financial statements on an ongoing concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charitable Company will continue its activities.

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

Risk Policy

The Trustees carried out a risk analysis as part of the Business Plan, which will be reviewed annually. This analysis has identified the main risk to the Charity to be the reduction or withdrawal of funding and failure to secure adequate monies. Any reductions of funding will lead to the loss of staff and additional statutory redundancy costs unless new sources of income are found. To mitigate this risk, the Trustees are actively looking for alternative sources and seeking to build reserves to 6 months running costs.

Result

The results for this year and the charities financial performance at year-end are shown in the attached financial statement.

Accountant

A resolution to appoint James Westacott ACA, as the accountant to provide an independent examination and accounts will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

Reserve Policy

The Trustees recognise the need to build up the Charity's reserves to meet current and future obligations, including redundancy costs, which may arise in the event of a fall in funding. The level of reserves required for this purpose has been set as six months operating costs.

Signed by order of the Trustees: _____ Pauline Lewis

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Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the Trustees/ Members of : Local Aid for Children and Community Special Needs (Local Aid)
On accounts for the year ended :30 April 2021
Charity No: 1104585
Set out on pages 13 to 14

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30 April 2021.

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Responsibilities
and basis of
report

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's
statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities 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 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and 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.

Signed:

J. Westacott

Date: 22 February 2022

Name:

James Westacott ACA

Relevant
professional
qualification(s) or
body (if any):

Chartered Accountant (ICAEW)

Address:

478 Hendrefoilan Road, Killay, Swansea, SA2 7NU

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LOCAL AID- YOUTH ACTIVITIES & VOLUNTEERING PROJECTS
For the year ended 30 April 2021

<u>Income</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>£</u>
<u>Sales</u>		<u>Staff Costs</u>	
	45,833	Wages	98,287
	<u>45,833</u>	Staff travel and training	2,637
<u>Grants</u>		Volunteer training & expenses	2,557
Covid business relief	48,000		<u>103,481</u>
Donations, unrestricted	5,683	<u>Premises</u>	
Grant restricted funds	54,525	Leases & insurance	5,860
HMRC job retention grant	12,895	Rental expenditure	31,000
	<u>121,103</u>	Utilities	5,738
<u>Other Income</u>		Maintenance	2,082
Recycling Income	1,998		<u>44,680</u>
Interest	32	<u>Beneficiaries Costs</u>	
Refund	69	Room hire	720
	<u>2,099</u>	Activities & activity materials	986
Total Income	<u>169,035</u>	Computer and equipment	1,851
			<u>3,557</u>
		<u>Administration & General</u>	
		Telephone and broadband	3,060
		Bank charges	376
		Accountancy	1,417
		DBS checks	52
		Fees and memberships	525
		Office equipment depreciation	685
			<u>6,115</u>
		<u>Vehicle Tipping & Recycling Costs</u>	
		Vehicle costs	932
		Motor vehicle depreciation	3,225
		Waste collection	6,695
			<u>10,852</u>
Net Surplus	<u>350</u>	Total Expenditure	<u>168,685</u>

These accounts have been prepared based on the records provided to show the organisations position as at 30th April 2021

J. Westacott

James Westacott ACA

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Balance Sheet

As at 30th April 2021

£

Fixed Assets

Motor vehicle	7,794
Office equipment	1,044
	<u>8,838</u>

Current Assets

Local Aid main account	55,917
Local Aid savings account	140,102
Shops account & cash in hand	91,314
Debtors	2,300
	<u>289,633</u>

Net Assets

298,471

Represented by:

Accumulated fund b/f	298,121
Surplus income in the period	350
Accumulated fund c/f	<u>298,471</u>

The bank accounts consist of:

Reserved funds	150,000
Restricted funds	2,500

Pauline Lewis (Chair)

(Secretary)

J. Westacott

James Westacott ACA (Accountant)