



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



Financial Statements year ending 30 April 2022

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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**)
Marie Powell (**Chair**) January 2022 onwards
Lindsay Brewis (**Treasurer**)
Rebecca Francis
Phillip Nicholson

Registered Office: Acorn Business Centre
250 Carmarthen Rd
Cwmbwrla
Swansea
SA1 1HG

Accountant: James Westacott ACA
Unit 5 Crown House
Gorseinon Road
Swansea
SA4 9DX

Bankers: Lloyds TSB
113 High St
Gorseinon
Swansea
SA44BR

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

Peter Lynn & Partners
Langdon Rd
Swansea
SA1 8QY

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

Year Ending 30 April 2022

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 2022

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 and 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, 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 are nominated to the Board via the membership managed by 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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Review of the year 1 May 2021 to 30 April 2022

We are incredibly proud that Local Aid has evolved and adapted to ongoing challenges. Ensuring we provide continued support to our community and meet our charitable objectives.

Local Aid supports children, young people, and families in Swansea and its surrounding areas. Our beneficiary area includes some of the most deprived wards in Wales, where the incidence of ALN/Disability is higher than 20% national average. Indications are that there is a skills shortage of 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. The most vulnerable children are those with additional learning needs and challenging behaviours and who find it most difficult to gain support within the community.

We have made significant gains in recovering from the covid 19 pandemic; however, like most organisations, we have experienced challenges recruiting volunteers for our retail shops. We have returned entirely to face-to-face sessions by the start of the reporting period. In addition, all four of our retail shops have been fully opened. They have been steadily recruiting new volunteers to replace those lost during the pandemic. Covid guidelines, testing and preventative measures have been at the forefront to ensure we can minimise risk to our Staff, volunteers, young people and their families.

Well-being in the workplace has been a particular focus, as it is vital that all volunteers feel they are making a difference and are valued. We have been fully operational for this period. We have also managed a considerable expansion of services.

Local Aid continued to support some of the most vulnerable young people and their families within the Swansea Bay area. During this year, we have successfully gained a new contract funded by the City and County of Swansea's Early Intervention and Prevention programme to increase the Play and Leisure opportunities for children and young people affected by disabilities. This has been an important move for our organisation, enabling significant growth in the total number of families we can provide a service to. These are bespoke packages for children and young people where our Staff can concentrate on person-centred and solutions-focused opportunities. Our support will enable young people to gain new skills, make friends, engage in community-based activities and have fun. We are incredibly grateful for the support of the Swansea Council and the Child and Family Disability Team.

Our Buddies programme provides a short break to families as well as :

- being solution-focused and enabling young people to make progress
- being age appropriate
- using person-centred planning; reflects the interests and needs of individuals

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- ensures the voice of the CYP is heard and acted upon
- promoting well-being, self-confidence, choices and enjoyment
- developing life skills, independence, communication, social interaction
- facilitating access to community amenities
- seeking to address the impact of Covid, build resilience, minimise difficulties with anxieties and lack of trust

We have made changes during this financial year to our shop structure by introducing a new Retail Coordinator post. This development aimed at reviewing our resources to deliver our charity retail shops to stimulate growth and realigning best practices across all aspects of the Charity. As a result of the changes in staffing structures, the Board of Trustees have supported the Staff enormously by setting up two programme boards. One for retail and the other to support the development of the new Buddies service. Trustees have also been concentrating on financial reporting systems and ensuring that risk management processes are up to date.

There has been a strong desire to work in partnerships during 21/22. Multiagency working has been critical during recent challenging times to ensure that we join together to make every penny count. Collaboration with many community partners has ensured that we can signpost to relevant services and enable others to gain a greater awareness of the needs of those we support. Overall this has improved our ability to support more families effectively

We have continued to support the broader community by offering much-needed support to families critically when they have needed it. For example, referrals for Social services, other agencies and charities have enabled us to provide 'community bundles for families in need, distribute warm winter clothing bundles, bedding and soft furnishing, and help our local homeless community.

Our small team of core staff have worked tirelessly throughout the year. Our dedicated army of volunteers has just been incredible, coming in week after week, and giving up their time so willingly. 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 the needs of those in our community and build resilience and well-being.

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Staff Employed During 2021/22

Amanda Lervy, Director of operational services F/t
Linda Wellington, Project Coordinator /retail Coordinator F/t
David Thomas ,Driver / Mentor -F/t
Tom Owen, Driver P/t Nicola Wood, Retail Assistant P/t Ben John ,eBay Assistant P/T
Abigail Albrighton, Cerys Edwards, Domma Raddenbury, Erva Keklik, Katie Stevenson,
Project Leaders P/t Teresa Protheroe, Admin support – P/t

18 Buddies Activity Leaders work at various times throughout the week after school and on Saturdays. All provide direct workers to families throughout the year. Over half of our Staff are trained or working towards NVQ level 3 or equivalent. Three members of our team are qualified teachers, two student teachers, one student social worker and six teaching assistants. In addition, we have two student nurses. Others have degree-level qualifications in childhood studies, business management, and psychology. The length of service with Buddies ranges from 9 years to 1 year. We are fortunate to retain so many of our Staff for long periods, ensuring consistency and quality of service for young people.

Buddies Saturdays – Held at Friends on Young disabled - FOYD every Saturday
Palms up – Held at Foyd (Saturday AM) & Palm Tree House on Friday evening
Diversity – Held at Foyd – Monday evenings
Community Access – Monday and Wednesday – accessing community activities

Annual Report

Projects and activities included:

Buddies programme. This is specialist service was awarded Queen's Award (MBE for Voluntary services) in 2010, providing support to children and young people 8-18 with severe learning disabilities and challenging behaviour. The provision changed in September 2021 to focus on play and leisure opportunities for all ages 12 to 19 with additional learning needs. Buddies is a registered play provision with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW).

Sixty families have been supported during this year, with over 3,500 hours of direct one-to-one support. 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 gives us as a family a break to do the things we can't normally do. This service is a lifesaver to us as a family and allows our daughter to meet other people". Parent

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"My son gets an opportunity to get so many activities and a chance to communicate and interact with many people. Staff is so supportive and friendly. That's why he loves attending Buddies".
Parent

Summer group -Summer of fun. This support was offered to young people who most need our help during the school holidays. Our sessions aim to increase well-being, bringing stability and routine during the long school holiday. Young people with an additional support need always access support due to the complexity of their support needs. Over the six-week holidays, we provided **over 200 hours** of support when families needed it the most.

"Our daughter really enjoyed the sessions and got a lot out of them, as always. It is fantastic that these sessions are available in the summer - the long break from the routine of school can be difficult for our daughter and having these sessions is a great help".
Parent

Diversity. A youth club setting 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, and gain help and support from specialist workers about routines, behaviour management and coping strategies. Over 1,000 hours have been delivered with a range of activities each week, including arts, cooking, sports, trampolining and community visits,

"It gives me the opportunity to spend time with people that are in the same situation as myself, and they understand, and my children get play without being judged".
Parent.

Emerging Needs Project (community support)

More than 20 families have been supported via our charity retail shops. Referred are made by multiagency and Social Services professionals. Families have been able to access financial support for 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.

"Please can I relay my thanks for the hard work and support Linda has given child and family services in Swansea who are supporting a vulnerable family. Linda, thank you so much for all your hard work, and for going above and beyond to ensure the family had what they needed. You really are a shining star. Local Aid must be proud to have you as part of the of the team. Thanks again"
Social Worker

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Reuse and recycle. Approximately 600 tons of goods have been reused and saved from landfills. Approx. 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.

eBay. Following on from the success of being eBay charity of the year 2020, we have continued to grow our eBay shop and resource. Ebay continues to be a great source of income generation for Local Aid. In 2021 we've have had 1256 buyers, of which 30 repeat buyers. 1314 items were sold in 2021/22 and the average sale £13.34. The majority of sales were made by auctions which were up by 14% on the previous year. Our best sellers clothes, shoes and accessories which are 10% on our previous year. Our best month was June, and the lowest was April 2022.

Our highest sale was a vintage Parker Knoll footstool selling for £110.00, followed by a Harry Potter Train set for £91

We have trained and supported an eBay assistant via Jobs Growth Wales, demonstrating entrepreneurship skills throughout a 6-month placement. eBay is a global market, and we hope to continue our growth in eBay.

Volunteering. A Total of 49 volunteers supported our Charity during this period. Six trustees, 11 Buddies volunteers and 32 Charity shop/ Retail volunteers have supported us throughout this year with an estimated volunteering time of 5,500 hours. Suppose we were to put a monetary value to our Charity. It would be an incredible £65,000 of match funding to our organisation.

Training – Staff and volunteer training held a mixture of online & in-person, including:

- Internet safety. Teams and zoom
- Code of conduct
- Communication skills
- Disability Awareness
- Safeguarding/child protection
- Team Teach
- First Aid
- Play Skills
- Autism Awareness
- National Autistic Society Autism training
- Managing challenging behaviour
- Play Therapy

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- Sensory regulation
- Epilepsy Awareness
- British Sign Language
- Effective project management
- Essential policies and procedures
- Trustees training

Partnership

Swansea council. Swansea social services, Interplay, Action for Children.

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

Website details 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>

Special thanks to The family of Mrs B Jewell for her legacy donation

City and county of Swansea, Summer for fun and Families First

Aviva crowd funding Work Wales LTD & Mission Gallery

NEW OFFICE Address from December 2022

FOYD Gordon Moore Centre

300, Carmarthen Rd

Swansea SA58NJ

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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 acts 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.

RESULTS

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

ACCOUNTANT

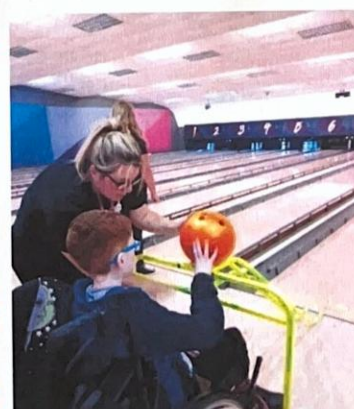
A resolution to James Westacott ACA, as the accountant to provide an independent examination and accounts will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

RESERVES 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: Marie Powell Marie Powell

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CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the
accounts

Section A

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 2022

Charity no
(if any)

1104585

Set out on pages

13 and 14

Responsibilities and basis
of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30 April 2022.

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").

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

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

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: 10 January 2023

Name: James Westacott ACA

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

Chartered Accountant (ICAEW)

Address: 478 Hendrefollan Road, Killay, Swansea, SA2 7NU

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LOCAL AID RETAIL CHARITY OUTLETS - YOUTH ACTIVITIES & VOLUNTEERING PROJECTS
For the year ended 30 April 2022

<u>Income</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>£</u>
<u>Sales</u>	<u>97,613</u>	<u>Staff Costs</u>	
	<u>97,613</u>	Wages	136,934
		Staff travel and training	6,107
<u>Grants</u>		Volunteer training & expenses	5,274
Kick start	4,618	Recruitment	<u>387</u>
Donations, unrestricted	38,885		<u>148,702</u>
Restricted funds Swansea council grants and contract	95,948		
HMRC job retention grant	315	<u>Premises</u>	
Local Authority grant	8,670	Leases & insurance	6,169
	<u>148,436</u>	Rental expenditure	31,000
<u>Other Income</u>		Utilities	7,549
Recycling Income	4,406	Maintenance	<u>1,575</u>
Interest	14		<u>46,293</u>
Subs	886	<u>Beneficiaries Costs</u>	
	<u>5,306</u>	Room hire	1,855
Total Income	<u>251,355</u>	Activities & activity materials	1,910
		Computer and equipment	<u>2,872</u>
			<u>6,637</u>
		<u>Administration & General</u>	
		Telephone and broadband	3,080
		Bank charges	669
		Accountancy	936
		DBS checks	754
		Fees and memberships	496
		Office equipment depreciation	<u>261</u>
			<u>6,196</u>
		<u>Vehicle Tipping & Recycling Costs</u>	
		Vehicle costs	2,740
		Motor vehicle depreciation	3,225
		Waste collection	<u>4,825</u>
			<u>10,790</u>
		Total Expenditure	<u>218,618</u>
Net Surplus	<u>32,737</u>		

These accounts have been prepared based on the records provided to show the organisations position as at 30th April 2022

J. Westacott
James Westacott ACA

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Balance Sheet
As at 30th April 2022

Fixed Assets
Motor vehicle
Office equipment

Current Assets

Local Aid main account
Local Aid savings account
Shops account & cash in hand
Debtors

Net Assets

Current Liabilities
Tax liability

Net Liabilities

Total assets less liabilities

Represented by:

Accumulated fund b/f
Surplus income in the period
Accumulated fund c/f

The bank accounts consist of:
Reserved funds
Restricted funds

£

4,569

783

5,352

85,595

140,116

90,954

10,970

327,635

332,987

1,779

1,779

1,779

331,208

298,471

32,737

331,208

147,500

0

M Powell

Mrs Marie Powell (Chair)

[Signature]
(Secretary)

J. Westacott

James Westacott ACA (Accountant)