

Financial Statements year ending 30 April 2024

CONTENTS

Members of the Board of Trustees and professional advisors

Trustees Annual Report

Accountants' Report

Statement of Financial Activities

Balance Sheet

Notes to the financial statements

Schedule to Profit & Loss Account

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

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

THE TRUSTEES

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

Corey Edwards (**Chair**)
Lindsay Brewis (**Treasurer**)
Victoria Inger
Kay Howell
Alison Mathias – Resigned July 2024

Registered Office: FOYD
300 Carmarthen Rd
Cwmbwrla
Swansea
SA58NJ

Accountant: James Westacott ACA
478 Hendrefoilan Rd
Killay
Swansea
SA25NU

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

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

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

Year Ending 30 April 2024

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 2024

LEGAL STATUS

The Charity is a limited company, registration number 4734267, 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 who must travel to out-of-county specialist children's hospitals and centres.
- (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 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.

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

Review of the year 1 May 2023 to 30 April 2024

Local Aid continued to support some of the most vulnerable young people and their families within the Swansea Bay area. We have a local government funded by the City and County of Swansea's Early Intervention and Prevention programme to increase the Play and Leisure opportunities for Children and People affected by disabilities. This is our Buddies Programme and is a significant part of our work. We offer 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 from Swansea Council Commissioning Team and the Child and Family Disability Team.

Multiagency working has been essential to ensure we can make every penny count. Collaboration with 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 families more effectively.

Empowering Children and Enriching Communities

We are thrilled to present Local Aid's Annual Report for 2024. This year has been a testament to the unwavering commitment and dedication of our Staff and volunteers, who have been the backbone of our organisation in supporting children and individuals with special needs in our community.

Our core team has worked tirelessly throughout the year, equally remarkable has been the contribution of our incredible volunteers, who have consistently given their time and energy week after week. Our retail volunteers have not only met but exceeded expectations, ensuring that our shops remain profitable and that additional funds are available for charity. Beyond financial success, they've also fulfilled an essential role in the community, providing low-cost, affordable goods to those who need them most.

Impact Highlights

Empowering through Volunteering - Local Aid owes its success to the incredible dedication of our volunteers. This year, their efforts have been monumental in achieving our mission.

Retail: Over the year, 45 volunteers contributed 12,000 hours to help operate our five charity retail outlets, providing an estimated value of £125,000.

Project Volunteering: 56 active volunteers dedicated 700 hours across various initiatives, including Buddies, Diversity, the Foyd Gardening Project, and the Warmer Winter project, contributing an estimated value of £7,294.

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

Community Support Record of Added Value

We are incredibly humbled to have been able to support our community. We have been able to donate items to families in need, both new and pre-loved, and we estimate that the donation will be worth £7,400 in notional monetary value. Items included household starter packs, children's clothing, warm clothes, animal shelter essentials, and more.

Our Buddies project has added a momentous £23,000 value in additional funding for activities and support offered to families in addition to the contract awarded by the City and County of Swansea.

Young People's Development: 103 young people have experienced personal growth and skill enhancement through play, leisure opportunities/ young club provisions. Staff and volunteers have tailored support to individuals with additional learning needs, fostering independence and inclusivity within the community.

Praising Volunteer Contributions

Volunteer Spotlights

Outstanding Dedication: We commend

- Paul Turner from Morriston excels in researching goods for eBay and better shop prices and is an all-around versatile volunteer helping with logistics and in all our shops, volunteering on average 4/5 days per week
- Sharon Ebenezer for creating over 70 beautiful sensory toys and volunteering for four years at Gorseinon. Sharon has recently stepped back from her role in the shops but continues to create fabulous toys for their buddies' children.
- Lisa Smith in Ravenhill for her amazing, themed window displays and regular raffles, which raise funds throughout the year.

- **Young volunteer:** Well done to our Gold Duke of Edinburgh award Volunteer, Cian Evans, who has contributed over 50 hours to date.
- **Community/ Parent Advocacy:** Sarah and Dawn's commitment to raising awareness about special needs issues helps us reach a wider audience, foster understanding and acceptance, and ensure other parents have the knowledge and support needed to help them through the minefield of education and parenting a child with additional learning needs.

Long Service Recognitions

- Sue Thomas –Ravenhill 2009

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

- Lisa Smith- Ravenhill 2009
- Maria Rosser - Morriston 2012
- Lindsay Brewis – Trustee 2012
- Chris Hopkins -Gorseinon 2018.
- Carly Morriston- 2018

Financial Overview: Thanks to our donors and sponsors' generosity, we allocated 100% of our funds to program development and community initiatives.

Transparent Allocation: Detailed breakdowns of expenditures have been provided to ensure transparency and accountability.

Outlook

Looking ahead, Local Aid is committed to furthering our impact within the community.

We aim to:

- Expand our volunteer base to reach more young people and families.
- Strengthen partnerships with local businesses and organisations to enhance our outreach and sustainability.
- Reduce carbon footprint and environmental impact by finding new and innovative ways to recycle
-

New for 2024 – watch this space.

We have launched a new project funded by the Principality Community Matter Fund. Our FLIP project (Fun Learning in Practice) Aims to provide sessions and support for young people who have an additional learning need (ALN) and are disengaged from school or at risk of exclusion. Our Flip tutors will guide young people aged 14 to 19 to gain work experience and a recognised qualification to boost confidence and well-being. Project staff are in the post and ready to GO.

Staff Employed During 2023/24

Amanda Lervy, Director of Operational Services F/t

Linda Wellington Retail Coordinator F/t

Nicola Wood Retail Assistant P/t

Micheal Inger Logistic and Retail Support F/t

Donna Raddenbury, Katie Stevenson / Rhian Dole/ Cath Sullivan 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. One is a senior residential worker, two team members are qualified teachers, six are teaching

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

assistants, and another is a social communication champion. In addition, others have degrees and master's-level qualifications in childhood studies, therapeutic play, and psychology. The length of service with Buddies ranges from 6 years to 1 year.

Projects for 23/24 in brief

Buddies programme. This specialist service was awarded the Queen's Award (MBE for Voluntary Service) in 2010, focusing on play and leisure opportunities for all young people aged 12 to 19 with additional learning needs. 103 families have been supported this year with over 4,900 hours of direct one-to-one support. As a result, young people have benefited from making connections with others, engaging in activities, reducing isolation and feelings, building resilience, and developing life, social, and communication.

"I was really pleased by how well the staff adapted to X's diabetes diagnosis. He goes and is well looked after. It means the world to us. They know X can call or message anytime to make his time with them easier. I'd like to say a big thank you, "Parent."

Diversity A youth club for young people aged 3 to 18 who are on the Autistic Spectrum or 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 from specialist workers about routines, behaviour management and other coping strategies. This year, 26 families attended regularly.

"This is a safe space for my children to socialise and not be judged or targeted. I enjoy meeting up with other parents, sharing experiences, and sometimes having a moan; it is nice to know we can just turn up and be among people who understand what we are going through. "

Group session details

Buddies Saturdays – Held at Friends on Young Disabled - FOYD

Palms up – Held at Palm Tree House – Wednesday & Friday evening

Diversity – Held at FOYD – Monday Evenings

Community Access – Monday and Wednesday – accessing community

Warmer Winter project (families of ALN)

In Winter 2023/24, we continued supporting an amazing initiative funded by The National Grid Community Matters. This has been the second winter we have been able to provide winter care packages to families just before Christmas. The packages include

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

warm clothing bundles, emergency items such as bedding, benefit advice and signposting, a warm space, free food, and a laundry voucher scheme to help families with children with ALN cut down on the cost of laundry during the fuel crisis. Over 150 families benefited in total from this project.

Reuse and recycle

Approximately 600 tons of goods have been reused and saved from landfills, including approximately 300 tons of clothing and textiles alone. Our four shops sell low-cost, affordable goods, which provide an essential resource in communities during times of hardship. Furniture, toys, books, shoes, and an array of household items, such as glass, cardboard, and paper, have been reused, helping to reduce our local landfill significantly.

Staff and volunteer training and progression

We are passionate and committed to developing staff and volunteers in all areas of our charity to ensure we can best support those around us with the knowledge and expertise needed to thrive. Staff and volunteers have banked over 500 hours of training.

Training – Staff and volunteer training held a mixture of online & in person to include:

- Internet safety
- 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
- Sensory regulation
- Epilepsy Awareness
- British Sign Language
- Effective project management
- Essential policies and procedures
- Trustees training
- Manual handling
- Fire Marshal
- Safety and induction at work
- Handling money & Money skills
- eBay and social Enterprise

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

Partnership

Swansea Council. Swansea Social Services, Interplay, Action for Children. Swansea Council for Voluntary Services and Swansea NAS. Swansea local Health board, Swansea cares centre, Swansea parent carer forum, Ysgol Pen-y-Bryn, Admiral , EE mobile network, Swansea probation service.

Acknowledgements

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our volunteers whose unwavering support and dedication have been the driving force behind our accomplishments. We also thank our donors, partners, and the community for their ongoing trust and support in our mission. In closing, as we reflect on the past year's achievements, we are energised and inspired to continue our journey toward a more inclusive and supportive community for all.

Special Thanks to the Grant and contract funding that has enabled us to do such amazing fulfilling work

City and County of Swansea

National Grid – Community Matter Fund

Mission Gallery Swansea

EE mobile

Website details www.localaid.co.uk

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

eBay shop

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

Video available of the eBay project
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2KLECK7zEXg&feature=youtu.be>

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

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 charity's state of affairs at the end of the year and of the incoming and outgoing resources for the year ended.

In preparing those financial statements, trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently, making reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates. 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 the charity's financial position with reasonable accuracy at all times and enabling them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the charity's acts and hence for taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect 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 risks to the Charity as the reduction or withdrawal of funding and failure to secure adequate monies. Any reductions in 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 for six months running costs.

RESULTS

The attached financial statement shows the charity's financial performance at year-end and this year's results.

ACCOUNTANT

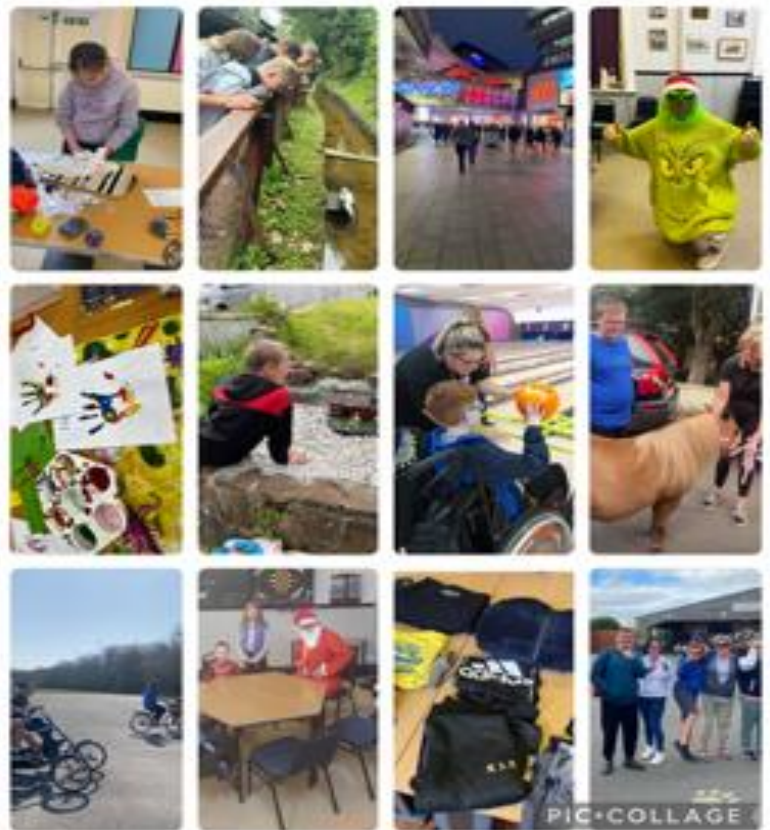
A resolution to appoint James Westacott ACA, as the accountant to provide an independent examination and accounts will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

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 of operating costs.

Signed by order of the Trustees: _____ Corey Edwards

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



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



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 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1104585

Set out on pages

12 and 13

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30 April 2024.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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: 16th December 2024

Name: James Westacott ACA

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

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

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

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

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

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

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

LOCAL AID RETAIL CHARITY OUTLETS - YOUTH ACTIVITIES & VOLUNTEERING PROJECTS
For the year ended 30th April 2024

<u>Income</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>£</u>
Sales	126,659	Staff Costs	
	<u>126,659</u>	Wages	168,702
		Staff travel and training	3,253
		Volunteer training & expenses	5,031
		Recruitment	536
			<u>177,522</u>
Grants		Premises	
Donations, unrestricted	3,767	Leases & insurance	5,035
Restricted funds Swansea council grants and contract	107,617	Rental expenditure	33,630
Grants for business improvement	9,800	Utilities	11,057
	<u>121,184</u>	Maintenance	14,683
		Supplies	1,290
			<u>65,695</u>
Other Income		Beneficiaries Costs	
Recycling Income	9,483	Room hire	2,590
Interest	1,553	Activities & activity materials	5,790
Subs	817		<u>8,380</u>
	<u>11,853</u>		
Total Income	<u>259,696</u>	Administration & General	
		Telephone and broadband	3,489
		Marketing and web design	2,830
		Bank charges	728
		Accountancy	873
		DBS checks	285
		Music licence	957
		Fees and memberships	216
		Office equipment depreciation	261
			<u>9,639</u>
		Vehicle, Tipping & Recycling Costs	
		Fuel	1,289
		Vehicle expenditure	2,177
		Motor vehicle depreciation	1,344
		Waste collection	4,721
			<u>9,531</u>
		Total Expenditure	<u>270,767</u>
Net Deficit	<u>(11,071)</u>		

These accounts have been prepared based on the records provided to show the organisations position as at 30th April 2024

J Westacott
James Westacott ACA

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

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

Balance Sheet

As at 30th April 2024

£

Fixed Assets

Motor vehicle	0
Office equipment	261
	<u>261</u>

Current Assets

Local Aid main account	65,037
Local Aid savings account	142,022
Shops account & cash in hand	93,445
Debtors	10,720
	<u>311,224</u>

Gross Assets

311,485

Current Liabilities

Tax and pension liability	2,714
	<u>2,714</u>

Net Assets

308,771

Represented by:

Accumulated fund b/f	319,842
Deficit in the period	(11,071)
Accumulated fund c/f	<u>308,771</u>

The bank accounts consist of:

Reserved funds	147,500
Restricted funds	0

Mr Corey Edwards (Chair)

(Secretary)

J. Westacott

James Westacott ACA (Accountant)