

Local Aid Annual Report 2024 to 2025

Empowering Children | Enriching Communities



PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND

Trustees & Governance

Board of Trustees

Corey Edwards (Chair) | Lindsay Brewis (Treasurer) | Victoria Inger (Resigned May 24) | Kay Howell | Rhian Davies (Appointed May 2024)

Trustees are elected annually and bring skills to benefit Local Aid's charitable activities. The Chairperson leads operational management with the management team

Registered Office:

FOYD
300 Carmarthen Rd
Cwmbwrla
Swansea
SA58NJ

Accountant:

James Westacott ACA

478 Hendrefoilan Rd
Killay
Swansea
SA25NU

Bankers:

Lloyds
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



Meet the Team



Name: Corey

Role : Chairperson

Star sign Sagittarius

Length at Local Aid Since July 2022

Expertise/ Skills

Safeguarding, Teaching, Musical theatre, Cooking, Gardening

My Favorite ...

Food - Italian
Band - Black Veil Brides
Musical - Phantom of the Opera
Author - Edgar Allan Poe

Proudest moments/ biggest achievements

Playing the Phantom in the first welsh production of Phantom of the Opera . Getting accepted onto my PhD

Why I Love Local Aid

I love that we are a local charity making a measurable difference to local families. It is the most rewarding thing to see .

Our year at a glance!



Our Mission

Local Aid works collaboratively to support vulnerable children, young people, and adults affected by additional learning needs or disabilities. We raise awareness, increase opportunities for inclusion, and ensure everyone in our community can thrive.

Our Focus

- Provide specialist equipment and services unavailable through statutory sources
- Increase opportunities for Play and Leisure provisions.
- Raise public awareness of young people with special needs

Review of the Year 2024/25

Buddies Programme

- 5,600 hours of one-to-one support for 136 young people with additional learning needs
- Focused on skills development - life skills, problem solving, independence and teamwork as well as having fun, and confidence building. We currently run six groups per week from Friends of Young Disabled and Palm Tree House



“X loves going to group, he looks forward to it all week, he gets to spend time with other young people and do things he wants to do away from us. He loves chatting to staff and has really come out of himself” (parent)

Diversity Youth Club

- Weekly sessions for 3–18-year-olds on the autism spectrum or awaiting diagnosis
- 11 families attended regularly, gaining social, communication, and coping skills

“A safe space for my children to socialise and not be judged. I can meet other parents who understand.” – (Parent)



Flip – Fun learning in practice

- Work experience project for young people aged 15 to 19 who are at risk of school exclusion, not in work or education
- Giving them skills and experiences in the workplace and learning in a non-traditional environment
- Agored Cymru accreditation

“H has gained so much from his 6-week placement, his confidence and attitude to what he can achieve has just been incredible, he has now gone on to set up his own business and is doing extraordinarily well, as well as planning to start college – we are so proud” (Tutor)



Warmer Winter Project

- Provided winter care packages to 40 + families, including warm clothing, emergency items, benefit advice, signposting and referring to other services.
- Local Aid funds this project and adds tremendous additional value to supporting those in most need in our community. It is vital to us to help families in our community.

Our Charity Retail Stores

Morrison, Uplands, Ravenhill & Gorseinon



Reuse & Recycle

- An estimated 600 tons of goods were reused, including 300 tons of clothing
- Four shops provided affordable goods to support families while reducing landfill



Volunteers: The Heart of Local Aid

40 retail volunteers contributed **10,000 hours** (£125,000 value)

Volunteers are the beating heart of Local Aid, and without them, we couldn't survive in these very challenging times. Their dedication to keeping our four charity retail shops open can only be celebrated and commended. We are truly GRATEFUL.



□ Community Reach and Support

Our connection to the community is the foundation of our work, and we take immense pride in being a reliable local resource for those facing hardship. We are dedicated to ensuring that anyone in our community who is struggling—from young parents in need of essentials to local schools seeking resources—knows they can turn to us. This engagement allows us to respond rapidly and personally to the diverse needs right on our doorstep, ensuring our support is always timely.

The arrival of winter often amplifies the difficulties faced by vulnerable individuals and families. We are proud to extend vital support to those most affected, including the homeless and families in crisis, providing essential warmth, clothing, and supplies.

Our network of charity shops serves as far more than just retail outlets; they are vital community hubs. Not only do they generate essential income, but they are also the primary mechanism through which we channel direct aid. We are always happy to help and welcome the opportunity to connect with and serve every person in our local area who needs a little extra support.



We run a thriving eBay store, which allows us to efficiently re-home unique and high-value donated items, ensuring we generate the highest possible return for our mission. It's a key, cost-effective revenue stream that complements our traditional fundraising efforts. We are continuing to run our

eBay store to the standards that saw us as eBay Charity of the year in 2020, and are endlessly surprised by the delight and genuine gratitude our buyers have for our goods that help engage with a worldwide demographic.

Feedback includes

Super quick postage with very secure, nice packaging, the headphones are perfect as described and absolutely worth the value, such nice headphones going towards charity is amazing to know, it's a steal and helps those who need it"



Deco Bimini Art Glasses? 1930s Spirit Glasses Etched With Mermaid Nude Lady Stems



localaidwales (3177)
100% positive Feedback

£160.00 + £3.99 postage
11 bids · Ended left

11:23 Item



Manchester United Black
Away Football Shirt 1993/95
Adult XL Umbro. Football Top



Localaidwales (3463)
99.8% positive Feedback

£103.00 + £3.99 postage
15 bids · Ended

About this item

14:50 Item



LimeSDR Microsystems
with Strong Case Kit
Nanuk 910. See Photos
For Contents....



Localaidwales (3197)
99.8% positive Feedback

£338.00 + £7.00 postage
7 bids · Ended left



Home My eBay Search Inbox Selling

Our Team at a Glance

- **Director of Operational Services** – *Our strategic lead*, guiding vision, quality, and professional standards across all services.
- **Retail Coordinators** – Overseeing daily retail operations and ensuring smooth running, recruitment, and ongoing support to volunteers, day-to-day compliance and maintaining an inclusive, welcoming retail environment
- **Logistics & Retail Support** – *Ensuring everything connects*, coordinating stock movement, supporting retail operations and making deliveries and collections to the community.
- **Retail Assistants** – *Customer-facing support*, helping with sales, stock presentation, training and supporting volunteers
- **Project Leaders**– Coordinating projects, mentoring Activity Leaders, liaising with families and driving high-quality delivery.

- **Admin Support** – *Maintaining systems & compliance, communications, booking, invoices and general running seamlessly.*
- **Activity Leaders**– *Our frontline difference-makers, leading inclusive activities, nurturing confidence, and supporting children and families.*

Staff Qualifications

- Over **50% of staff hold NVQ Level 3 or equivalent.**
- Additional professional qualifications include Degrees / Master's in:
 - Childhood Studies
 - Therapeutic Play
 - Psychology
 - Teacher Training

Training Commitment

- **500+ hours** of combined staff & volunteer training.
- Training delivered through a mix of **online** and **in-person** sessions.
- Key training areas (✓ = core requirement)

Safeguarding & Safety

- ✓ Safeguarding / Child Protection
- ✓ Positive Behaviour Studio III
- ✓ First Aid
- ✓ Health & Safety at Work

- ✓ Autism Awareness
- Disability Awareness

Skills Development

✓ Communication Skills
Play Skills
Internet Safety

- Manual Handling
- Epilepsy Awareness
- Fire Marshal
- Trustee Training

Disability & Inclusion

- Sensory Regulation
- Play Therapy
- British Sign Language (BSL)

Retail Skills

Handling Money & Money Skills
eBay, and Social Enterprise



CHRIS & CLAUDIA

Claudia:

Volunteering and then working at Local Aid was really special to me. Throughout secondary school and university, spending my Saturdays at Buddies was an amazing opportunity to gain work experience, learn new skills, and have fun.

More than anything, Buddies shaped how I think about communication. The kids I worked with had such a range of needs and communication styles, and I learned so much - especially from those who were non-verbal. It changed the way I connect with people and helped me grow in confidence, patience, and empathy.

That experience set me up to keep working in the not-for-profit space. I'm now based in Sydney, working as a social enterprise advisor and supporting small organisations that are making an impact in their communities.

Chris:

I worked at Buddies while I was studying medicine, and it's still one of the most rewarding things I've done. Some of my favourite memories are of taking the kids swimming. It was always such a joy seeing how much fun they had and how excited they were when walking to the leisure centre!

Now, as a medical registrar in Sydney, I care for patients with a wide range of physical and intellectual disabilities, and I use the skills I learned at Buddies every single day. Whether it's communication, patience, or just being a calm and friendly presence when people are feeling scared or vulnerable, that experience gave me so much.

I now diagnose and manage all kinds of general medical issues, from pneumonias to heart attacks, and it's an honour to be there for people during some of the most challenging moments in their lives.

Wishing you and the rest of the team at Local Aid & Buddies all the best!

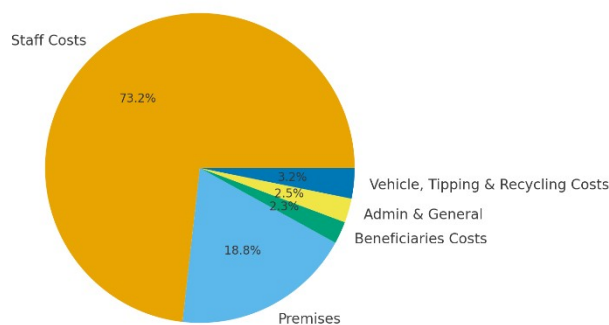
Financial Overview

- 100% of funds allocated to program development and community initiatives are spent in accordance with contracts and agreements.
- Transparent reporting ensures accountability to donors, partners, and the community

Reserves Policy

Six months of operating costs set aside to ensure sustainability in case of funding changes

Where Every £1 Goes



Yearly Income vs Expenditure



Looking Ahead: Our Vision for 2025/6

We will be celebrating an incredible 40 years. of Local Aid and 25 years of our Buddies project!

As we look toward 2025/6, Local Aid is energised and determined to deepen our impact across the community. This year, we are focused on bold, meaningful progress that brings people together and creates opportunities for those who need them most. Our goals include:

- **Championing children, young people, and families living with disability**, ensuring they feel supported, included, and empowered every step of the way.
- **Growing our volunteer family** so we can do even more — reaching further, responding faster, and creating brighter futures through shared passion and teamwork.
- **Building stronger collaborations with local businesses and organisations**, unlocking new resources, ideas, and opportunities that strengthen our long-term sustainability and community reach.
- **Leading the way in environmental responsibility**, reducing our carbon footprint and embracing innovative new recycling initiatives that protect our planet for generations to come.

Together, these goals represent our commitment to creating lasting, positive change.

Partnerships & Support





Thanks to our incredible partners and funders:

- City and County of Swansea
- Pobl
- Principality Community Fund in Wales
- Mission Gallery Swansea
- EE Mobile
- Admiral Group

Thank You

Our staff, volunteers, donors, and community partners power Local Aid's achievements. Your dedication makes a real difference in the lives of children and families in Swansea.

Connect With Us:

- Website: www.localaid.co.uk
- Facebook: [Local Aid Wales](#)
- eBay Shop: [Local Aid eBay](#)

Trustee Declaration

The Trustees confirm that the financial statements give an accurate and fair view and have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act and Charities Act.

Signed: Corey Edwards, Chair





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 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1104585

Set out on pages

11 and 12

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30 April 2025.

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:

8th December 2025

Name:

James Westacott ACA

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

The Institute for Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

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 2025

<u>Income</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>£</u>
<u>Sales</u>	<u>112,983</u>	<u>Staff Costs</u>	
	<u>112,983</u>	Wages	191,931
		Staff travel and training	4,807
		Volunteer training and expenses	4,574
		Recruitment	793
			<u>202,105</u>
<u>Grants</u>		<u>Premises</u>	
Donations, unrestricted	408	Leases and insurance	6,596
Restricted funds Swansea council grants and contract	<u>157,360</u>	Rental expenditure	34,075
	<u>157,768</u>	Utilities	9,379
		Maintenance	836
<u>Other Income</u>		Supplies	<u>925</u>
Recycling income	2,902		<u>51,811</u>
Interest	1,554		
Subs	<u>683</u>		
	<u>5,139</u>	<u>Beneficiaries Costs</u>	
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>275,890</u>	Room hire	2,580
		Activities and activity materials	<u>3,841</u>
			<u>6,421</u>
		<u>Administration & General</u>	
		Telephone and broadband	2,528
		Marketing and web design	359
		Bank charges	684
		Accountancy	955
		Office costs	702
		Music licence	1,037
		Fees and memberships	430
		Office equipment depreciation	<u>261</u>
			<u>6,956</u>
		<u>Vehicle, Tipping & Recycling Costs</u>	
		Fuel	1,401
		Vehicle expenditure	1,025
		Waste collection	<u>6,348</u>
			<u>8,774</u>
		<u>Total Expenditure</u>	<u>276,067</u>
<u>Net Deficit</u>	<u>(177)</u>		

These accounts have been prepared based on the records provided to show the organisations position as at 30th April 2025

J Westacott
James Westacott ACA

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

Balance Sheet

As at 30th April 2025

£

Fixed Assets

Motor vehicle

0

Office equipment

0

0

Current Assets

Local Aid main account

104,459

Local Aid savings account

143,576

Shops account & cash in hand

51,208

Debtors

12,009

311,252

Gross Assets

311,252

Current Liabilities

Tax and pension liability

2,658

2,658

Net Assets

308,594

Represented by:

Accumulated fund b/f

308,771

Deficit in the period

(177)

Accumulated fund c/f

308,594

The bank accounts consist of:

Reserved funds

150,000

Restricted funds

12,500

Mr Corey Edwards (Chair)

(Secretary)

J. Westacott

James Westacott ACA (Accountant)

