



The Local Carers Network

1ST APRIL 2023 – 31ST MARCH 2024

The Local Carers Network

**Charitable incorporated Organisation Number
1155280**



Annual report

1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024

Status

The Local Carers Network is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Charity Registration No. 1155280

Company registration number CE000647

Address

The Welcome Centre

43 Hamilton Street,

Birkenhead,

Merseyside,

CH41 5AA

Contact details

Email: support@tlcnetwork.co.uk

Phone: 0151 647 9584

Trustees

The Trustees who held office during the year were as follows: -

Laura Carman (Chairperson) Appointed 2016
Susan Mahoney (Trustee) Appointed 2015 - September 2024
Louise Reecejones (Secretary) Founder Trustee January 2014
Selena Chisholm Appointed 2019

There has been no change during this period, one change has been made prior to completing this report and so has been included.

Charities Bankers
Barclays Bank,
Liscard branch,
Wallasey

Principal Activity of the Charity

The Local Carers Network (TLC Network) aims to improve the lives of individuals with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their families. We achieve this by:

- Promoting the knowledge and understanding of SEND: This includes raising awareness, providing information, and delivering training to families, professionals, and the wider community.
- Advancing the education and well-being of individuals with SEND: We support their development and inclusion within society through a range of services, including advocacy, support groups, and direct support.
- Supporting families of individuals with SEND: We offer practical and emotional support to families, addressing their needs and improving their quality of life.

Services Offered

The TLC Network provides a comprehensive range of services to support individuals with SEND and their families, including:

- Independent Advocacy: We provide free, independent advocacy support to families navigating complex systems such as education, legal, and social care. This includes representation at tribunals and support during police interviews and court proceedings.
- Family Support: We offer a range of support services, including:

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- Information and guidance: Providing information and advice on SEND-related issues, including accessing support services, understanding legal rights, and navigating educational systems.
 - Support groups: Facilitating peer-to-peer support groups for families to connect, share experiences, and offer mutual support.
 - Direct support: Providing direct support to families, such as assistance with accessing services, completing forms, and resolving practical challenges.
 - Direct Payments Hub: We operate a direct payments hub, assisting families in managing their direct payments and finding suitable carers to meet their individual needs.
 - Deaf Family Support: We provide specialized support to Deaf families, including advocacy, communication support, and raising awareness of the unique challenges faced by Deaf parents and their children.
 - Training and Development: We deliver training programs for families, professionals, and the wider community on various SEND-related topics, including communication skills, advocacy skills, and understanding specific disabilities.

Key Principles

The TLC Network operates based on the following key principles:

- Independence: We are independent of statutory services, ensuring impartial and objective support.
- Collaboration: We work collaboratively with other organizations and professionals to ensure the best possible outcomes for individuals with SEND.
- Empowerment: We empower families to make informed decisions and advocate for their own needs and the needs of their children.
- Inclusion: We promote the inclusion of individuals with SEND in all aspects of community life.
- Respect: We treat all individuals with dignity, respect, and empathy.

“The help and support we have received as a family is professional and has really helped us. Without this support we

would have been in crisis as a family as no other service was able to help us. We are so grateful.” Gillian (Liverpool)

Safeguarding Statement

The Local Carers Network is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children, young people, and vulnerable adults. We recognize our duty of care to ensure that all our activities are conducted in a safe and supportive environment that protects individuals from all forms of abuse and neglect.

We have robust safeguarding policies and procedures in place, which are regularly reviewed and updated in line with best practice and statutory guidance. All staff and volunteers are required to undergo mandatory safeguarding training and adhere to our safeguarding policies at all times.

We are committed to creating a culture of openness and transparency, where concerns can be raised and addressed promptly and appropriately. We work closely with other agencies, including local authorities and the police, to ensure the safety and well-being of all individuals we support



Chair's Report 2023-2024

A Year of Growth and Impact

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am delighted to present the Annual Report for the Local Carers Network (TLC Network) from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024. This year has been one of significant growth and impact, marked by a continued commitment to our mission of empowering individuals with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their families.

Key Achievements

- **Expanded Services:** The launch and successful operation of our Direct Payments Hub has been a major highlight. This innovative service provides vital support to families, enabling them to access tailored care arrangements that meet their unique needs.
- **Enhanced Advocacy:** Our unwavering commitment to advocacy has resulted in a 100% success rate in tribunals, securing positive outcomes for families navigating complex legal and educational challenges.
- **Increased Reach:** We have significantly expanded our reach, supporting a growing number of families across Merseyside and Cheshire.
- **Dedicated Volunteers:** The tireless efforts of our volunteers have been instrumental to our success. Their dedication and compassion have made a profound difference in the lives of countless individuals and families.

Looking Ahead

As we move forward, we remain committed to:

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- Expanding our support services: We will continue to innovate and adapt our services to meet the evolving needs of the SEND community.
 - Strengthening our advocacy: We will continue to advocate tirelessly for the rights and well-being of individuals with SEND.
 - Building strong partnerships: We will collaborate with other organizations and stakeholders to create a more inclusive and supportive community for individuals with SEND.

A Note of Gratitude

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our dedicated staff, volunteers, donors, and supporters. Your unwavering commitment to our mission has made a profound impact on the lives of countless individuals and families.

Looking to the Future

The challenges facing individuals with SEND and their families are complex and multifaceted. However, I am confident that by working together, we can create a brighter future for all. I am honoured to serve as Chair of the TLC Network and look forward to continuing our journey of growth and impact in the years to come.

Call to Action

The TLC Network is always seeking passionate and dedicated individuals to join our team. We are actively recruiting new Trustees and Volunteers. If you are interested in contributing your skills and experience to our mission, please visit our website at www.tlcnetwork.co.uk for more information on how to get involved.

Laura Carman

Chair, The Local Carers Network

Financial Statement

TLC Network April 2023 – March 2024

The Local Carers Network

For the 12 months ended 31 March 2023

Excluding VAT

Cash Summary

The Local Carers Network

For the year ended 31 March 2024

	2023/24
Income	
Contribution Cash Donation	91.15
Fundraising Income	67.72
Grant Received 1	8,000.00
Interest Received	403.57
Client DP account	8,531.60
Miscellaneous Income	200.30
Over 18 Day Provision	25,020.48
Refund Received	166.68
Sensory Sales	384.00
Stock Sales	423.80
Under 18 Direct Payments Provision	3,138.10
Grant received 2	10,145.36
Grant received 3	634.11
Total Income	57,206.87
Less Expenses	
Accrued Income	0.08
Administration Expenses	19,127.00

Audit & Accountancy fees	417.52
Cleaning	85.98
Direct Wages to agency	20,111.14
Electricity	4,780.00
General Expenses	618.95
Insurance	7,653.40
IT Software and Consumables	420.91
DP loss from none payment	1,148.00
Miscellaneous Expense	435.24
Rent	10,000
Volunteer expenses	200.00
Telephone & Internet	1,291.29
Waste Disposal	576.19
Total Expenses	66,865.69
Surplus (Deficit)	10,341.18
Net Cash Movement	10,341.18
Summary	
Opening Balance	31,591.10
Plus Net Cash Movement	10,341.18
Cash Balance	21,932.28

This report is agreed as a true and accurate account by all trustees
And checked as true and accurate by the charity accountant

Signed on behalf of trustees

L. Carman

Dated 31st January 2025