



Annual Report and Financial Statements: Year Ending 31st March 2024



Contents

Legal and Administrative Information	3
Trustees' Report	4
Our Impact	10
Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Little Miracles	12
Statement of the Financial Activity	13
Balance Sheet	14
Notes to the Financial Statements	15



Legal and Administrative Information

Trustees

Iain Crighton MBE
Timothy Bedward-Jones
Tina Moser-Wager
Emerson Patton
Peter Jackson
Emma Hannon
Matthew Kember

Chief Executive Officer

Michelle King

Registered Charity Number 1160178

Registered Office

Little Miracles @The Spinney
Hartwell Way
Ravensthorpe
Peterborough
PE3 7LE

Independent Examiner

George Hay Partnership LLP
Unit 1b
Focus 4
Fourth Avenue
Hertfordshire
SG6 2TU

Bankers

Barclays Bank
1-3 Church Street
Peterborough
PE1 1XE

Solicitors

Hunt and Coombs Solicitors
35 Thorpe Road
Peterborough
PE3 6AG

Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 March 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the account policies set-out on pages 15 to 17 and comply with the charity's constitution and applicable law.

Vision

Our vision is a world where all families that have children with additional needs, disabilities and life limiting conditions have the support that they need, at the time that they need it. Over the next ten years we will improve the lives of 50,000 children across the UK

Purpose

Our purpose is to help families with disabled children to get the support that they need to live their lives and fulfil their potential

Mission

Little Miracles uses its expertise and knowledge to ensure that families are getting the support they need at the time that they need it. We work in a variety of ways to equip the whole family to take control of their future

We do this by providing:

Support – in order to address families' questions, worries and fears and ensure that they are receiving everything that they are entitled to, both financially and emotionally

Training – to both the parents/carers and the young people so they can develop the essential skills needed to care for their families and achieve their full potential

Activities – where children and young people can build relationships, receive essential respite and enjoy accessible development opportunities

Respite – essential breaks for families in order for them to thrive and grow

Safe-spaces – where families can come, be themselves and receive the support they need in an inclusive, non-judgmental and supportive atmosphere

Trustees' Report continued

Values

Reaching families one by one – we recognise that every family is unique and the life-changing difference we can make to them

Available to all – every family that has a child with additional needs, disabilities and/or life-limiting conditions is welcome and cost is never a barrier

Integrity is the heart of our service – we create a place of trust and safety where people can grow in a secure environment

Never boring – there is always a sense of fun, excitement and adventure in what we do

Beneficial - we benefit all users in a measurable way

Outstanding – we strive to be the best in everything we do

We can do it together – we recognise that no one person can deliver our vision and goals alone but that if we work together as a team alongside our families then miracles can happen

Beliefs

Little Miracles strives to provide effective solutions to meet local need and to campaign for change that will ensure that families with disabled children get the support that they need, when they need it

Activities, achievements and performance

Little Miracles is a charity that exists to provide support to families that have children with additional needs, disabilities and life-limiting conditions. Although we started in Peterborough and continue to deliver services from our purpose-built centre, The Spinney, we are also now delivering services across the whole of the east of England and have expanded to provide services in the following areas:

Peterborough
Holbeach
Spalding
Boston
Bourne
Leicestershire

Ramsey
St Neots
Wisbech
March
Chatteris

Milton Keynes
Ely
Kings Lynn
Stamford
Nottinghamshire

Trustees' Report continued

We have been working hard to strengthen our branches and ensure their sustainability. Whilst it seems like our geographical growth has reduced this year we have successfully opened two new branches (Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire). Nottinghamshire in particular has required a lot of support from the Head Office team due to the number of people they supported in a short space of time. This has meant that we have pushed-back opening a St Ives branch, however consultation has started and we are aiming to open new branches in St Ives, Huntingdon, Cambridge and Downham Market next year. The St Ives and Huntingdonshire branches will be supported by our existing infrastructure in Ramsey and St Neots, and the Downham Market branch by Kings Lynn.

After a number of difficult financial years, we have been able to generate a surplus this year due to the hard work of our Fundraising team. Our Operations Team have also been able to take-on additional contracts in order to fund our activities. We are particularly proud of delivering HAF (Holidays and Food) contracts on behalf of the Department of Education. Whilst this increase in income has allowed us to transfer additional funding into our reserves account, our expenditure has also increased. As a result we have increased our reserves to £200,000 to stay within our Reserves Policy. Ideally, over the next year will look to increase this to £300,000.

We are continuing to see an influx of families who need support, some involving extremely complex cases as the threshold for statutory support has increased. This is not a situation unique to Little Miracles, however our staff and volunteers have been amazing at providing essential support to these families. We have also been providing additional specialist support services to our children with the highest needs and our staff and volunteers are coping well with this. As a result, we are now able to provide some nationwide services, e.g. adult counselling and family support.

We have also implemented a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system this year which will allow us to track our effectiveness and improve the way we support families.

We are very fortunate to have an amazing team and would like to thank everyone for giving their all during these challenging times. We would also make a special mention to our volunteers who have helped us meet demand. They have provided counselling, emotional support and benefits advice, have adapted and delivered sessions to groups and individuals, and helped young people keep-up with their education.

We conduct regular surveys with the families we support. We have found that the main reason that families join Little Miracles is due to a feeling of social isolation (a staggering 66.5%). 70.4% of families are reporting that they have been impacted by the Cost of Living Crisis to the point where it is affecting how they are feeding their families, with 40% of people reporting that this is the most pressing issue they face at the moment. We are working with food banks and some of our branches run their own. We ensure that our activities are cost effective and aim never to allow money to become a barrier to the family getting the support they need. 100% of families reported seeing an improvement to their circumstances due to involvement with Little Miracles. 53.8% reported that they had received significant support but the underlying issues were still present.

Trustees' Report continued

Our support services can be broadly classified into the following categories:



S

Support

- Counselling
- Bereavement care
- Play therapy
- Sensory work
- Family support
- Benefits advice
- Education support
- Emergency essentials including food
- Behaviour support
- Advocacy



T

Training

- For parents
- For young people out of traditional education
- For young adults with additional needs to support them into paid employment
- For professionals working with families who have children with additional needs, disabilities and life-limiting conditions



A

Activities

- Parent and child groups
- After-school clubs
- Sports sessions
- Play schemes
- Youth clubs
- Education and social events



R

Respite

- For a small but growing number of young people on a referral basis



S

Safe Spaces

- Our centres
- Adapted play areas
- Fully-adapted caravan
- Sensory rooms
- Groups and private hire of venues where our young people can have fun and play in a safe way

Trustees' Report continued

Financial Review

Total income received during the year increased to £999,882 from £590,384 in the previous year. This represents an increase of 69% and is comparable to the previous year. This is due to the development of the Fundraising Team as well as being paid on a contract-basis for some of our work. However, the total expenditure during the year amounted to £904,378, an increase from £621,333 in the previous year. This represents increased costs of 45% which is a reduction on the previous years 58%. This is, in part, due to the CRM which automates some administrative tasks. We generated a surplus of £95,504 which we have used to bolster our reserves and is welcome after two years of making a loss. Our budgets this year remain within satisfactory levels.

Reserves policy

The Trustees' policy is to maintain a sufficient level of general reserves to enable the charity to continue in normal existence for three months, followed by an orderly curtailment of activities over the following three months if necessary. It is the aim of the Trustees to review this policy on an annual basis. The Trustees therefore aim to hold up to six months of expenditure as unrestricted funds.

At 31 March 2024 unrestricted funds amounted to £241,089 (2023: £176,541) which provides a base for the charity to move forward with its future plans as set-out above.

Structure, governance and management:

Governing document

Little Miracles is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) under its constitution dated 1 December 2014.

Tax status

As a registered charity, number 1160178, Little Miracles is exempt from corporation tax and income tax on its charitable activities.

Trustees

The Board of Trustees who held office during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were as follows:

- Timothy Bedward-Jones
- Tina Moser-Wager
- Emerson Patton
- Peter Jackson
- Emma Hannon
- Matthew Kember FCA
- Iain Crighton MBE



Trustees' Report continued

Appointment of Trustees

The charity's constitution requires a minimum of three Trustees. Trustees are appointed for a term of three years and are invited to join the board and elected by a resolution of the Trustees.

Public benefit statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Reference and administrative details

The principal addresses and details of professional advisers are included in the information sheet at the front of these accounts.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to financial statements

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales 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 and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on an ongoing concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust Deed. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 30th January 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Iain Crighton MBE
Chair of Trustees

Matthew Kember FCA
Treasurer

Our Impact

After spending time at Little Miracles in 2023...

- **All families who had accessed our family support services reported that they had received significant support**
- **61% of parents saw an improvement in their child's emotional regulation**
- **4 out of 5 families reported benefitting from a Little Miracles regular play session**
- **86% of children reported feeling less isolated after joining Little Miracles**
- **1 in 3 families reported they would not be able to access support without Little Miracles**



Our Impact continued

"It's been life changing for us: and I chose my words carefully!"

"A safe space for my child to be himself, and for me to feel relaxed with no judgement, to meet new people, and experience new places which I wouldn't normally go to"

"Amazing knowing that there's somewhere to meet new people with people who understand the day to day life of caring with a child with a disability"

"They are the sunshine in the darkness. Very good people and very supportive. They are always stand for the needs of people"

"We are able to contact our Family support coordinator through email and meet her in person to have a discussion about my daughter's education, school and recent change in her behaviour. She has always been there for us and supported us during the crucial times by voicing out our concerns to during the meetings with either the local authority or with the school"

"A big thank you to you all for your support help you have given me over the last couple of weeks, from food hampers to gifts and basic everyday stuff. I struggled so hard financially emotionally physically with my family and although I can't fix everything I'm slowly putting little pieces together to give the family of whatever I can do to help them each day. The support I got from little miracles makes it special by having people like you who help me. Thank you so much"

"I love the warm, friendly atmosphere, the smile on the children's faces, the fact that there's no need to make excuses or explain. The staff are all very welcoming"

"So we went on our first day trip out today to Skegness and we can't thank you enough! The boys absolutely loved it! And a massive thank you to everyone who helped out with the boys when it got to overwhelming for them on our first bus while it broke down we cannot wait to go on more outings and a massive thank you to all the organisers too! You guys made us feel so welcome"

"It's impossible to overstate the difference Michelle and her team make to so many people's lives day in and day out and I urge anyone in the area who can to support Little Miracles"

"Little Miracles is my lifeline. Without them I would still be lost and alone"

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Little Miracles

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Little Miracles CIO

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.

Emma Wilsher FCA
George Hay Partnership LLP
Unit 18, Focus Four
Fourth Avenue
Letchworth Garden City
Hertfordshire
SG6 2TU

Date: 30th January 2025

Statement of Financial Activity

for year ending 31st March 2024

Statement of Financial activities

		2024 Unrestricted funds	2024 Restricted funds	2024 Total Funds	2023 Total Funds
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income and endowment from					
Donations and legacies		11,704	-	11,704	104,320
Charitable activities		21,050	408,924	429,974	247,158
Contracts		76,882	-	76,882	-
Government support		193,422	1,800	195,222	130,203
Other trading activities:					
Fundraising and event income		282,642	-	282,642	108,468
Investments:					
bank interest received		3,458	-	3,458	235
Other		-	-	-	-
Total Income and endowments		589,158	410,724	999,882	590,384
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		99,962	-	99,962	65,461
Charitable activities		424,421	379,995	804,416	555,872
Other expenditure		-	-	-	-
Total expenditure	2	524,383	379,995	904,378	621,333
Net income/(Expenditure)		64,775	30,729	95,504	-30,950
Balance brought forward		176,314	60,651	236,965	267,915
Balance carried forward		241,089	91,380	332,469	236,965

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities. The notes on pages 14 to 19 from part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet

as at 31st March 2024

Balance sheet		2024		2023	
	Note	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	5		94,093		59,724
Current assets					
Receivables (Debtors)	6	72,446		44,517	
Cash at bank and in hand		290,802		297,966	
Current Liabilities					
Payables (Creditors: amounts falling due within one year)	7	124,872		165,242	
Net current assets			238,376		177,241
Total assets			332,469		236,965
Funds					
Unrestricted income fund	9	241,089		176,314	
Restricted income funds		91,380		60,651	
Total Funds			332,469		236,965

The notes on pages 14 to 19 form part of these financial statements.

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 30th January 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Iain Crighton
Chair of Trustees

Matthew Kember FCA
Treasurer

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31st March 2024

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Charity information

Little Miracles is a Charity domiciled and incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Little Miracles @the Spinney, Hartwell Way, Ravensthorpe, Peterborough, PE3 7LE.

1.2 Accounting convention

These financial statements are prepared in accordance the Charity Commission Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by provisions of the Charities SORP (FRS 102) – Accounting and Reporting by Charities. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity Commission Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by provisions of the Charities SORP (FRS 102) – Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

1.3 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue tin operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.4 Fixed assets

Depreciation of fixed assets is provided by equal annual instalments, calculated to write off the cost of assets over their estimated useful lives. These are:

Computer equipment	-	2 years
Other equipment	-	10 years

All assets, which have a useful economic life of more than one year, are capitalised at cost.

1.5 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and cash in hand include short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.6 Income

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Incoming resources are categorised as follows:

Donations and legacies comprise gross amounts received by way of legacies, covenants, gifts and donations.

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31st March 2024

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.6 Income (continued)

Charitable activities comprise gross amounts received to provide support, activities, training and places in furtherance of the Charity's objectives. Where conditions are imposed, which have to be fulfilled before the Charity becomes entitled to use the income, the income is deferred and not included in income until the conditions for use have been met.

Other trading activities comprise gross amounts received by way of fundraising events. Income from events is deferred where the income relates to the occurrence of a future event, the cancellation of which would result in a refund of the monies raised.

Income from investments comprises amounts receivable by way of interest and forms part of the unrestricted fund.

1.7 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accrual's basis, inclusive of Vat and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Expenditure on raising funds comprises the costs associated with attracting voluntary income and fundraising events.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Other expenditure comprises those costs which cannot otherwise be attributed to either of the two above activities.

Costs are allocated between expenditure categories on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs, including overheads relating to a particular activity are allocated directly. Support costs are apportioned on an appropriate basis.

1.8 Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either: -

Unrestricted funds: -

These represent funds that can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives, at the discretion of the trustees and without having to take account of any restrictions.

Restricted funds: -

Restricted funds are subject to restrictions on their spending, imposed by the donor.

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31st March 2024

1. Accounting policies

(continued)

1.9 Taxation

Little Miracles is a registered charity and is not liable to United Kingdom income tax or corporation tax on charitable activities.

1.10 Employee benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense, unless those costs are required to be recognised as part of the cost of stock or fixed assets. The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received. Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.11 Financial instruments

Financial assets are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets are classified into specified categories. The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial assets and is determined at the time of recognition.

1.11.1 Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include trade and other receivables and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Other financial assets classified as fair value through the statement of financial activities are measured at fair value.

1.11.2 Other financial assets

Trade debtors, loans and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as 'loans and receivables'. Loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

1.11.3 Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities are initially recognised at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Other financial liabilities classified as fair value through the statement of financial activities are measured at fair value.

1.11.4 Other financial liabilities

Other financial liabilities are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expenses recognised on an effective yield basis.

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31st March 2024

2 Analysis of total expenditure

	2024 Direct £	2024 Support £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Expenditure on raising funds				
Advertising, fund raising and event costs	94,629	5,333	99,962	65,461
	<u>94,629</u>	<u>5,333</u>	<u>99,962</u>	<u>65,461</u>
Expenditure on charitable activities				
Support	390,280	63,487	453,767	373,982
Activities	226,733	2,933	229,666	114,503
Training	-	6,583	6,583	5,590
Places	35,234	79,166	114,400	61,797
	<u>652,247</u>	<u>152,169</u>	<u>804,416</u>	<u>555,872</u>
Total	<u>746,876</u>	<u>157,502</u>	<u>904,378</u>	<u>621,333</u>

	2024	2023
Support costs		
IT software and consumibles	4,164	379
Staff training	8,983	5,590
Repairs and maintenance	22,715	19,150
Marketing cost	601	-
Insurance	8,621	8,322
Printing and stationary	4,955	5,989
Telephone and internet	4,285	763
Legal professional fee	1,360	4,402
Other	68,002	14,886
Light & Power	33,816	8,616
Governance costs		
	<u>157,502</u>	<u>68,097</u>

All support costs have been allocated on the basis of the proportion of direct expenditure.

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31st March 2024

3 Employees	2024	2023
Wages and salaries	451,920	384,018
National Insurance	21,249	16,119
Pension	6,801	4,149
	479,970	404,286

Number of employees

The average number of employees during the year was:	39	35
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No employee received remuneration in excess of £60,000 (2022 : None)

4. Trustees

No Trustee, or persons connected with the Trustees, received and remuneration or were reimbursed any expenses from the charity during the year (2022 : None)

5 Tangible fixed assets

	Other assets £	Computer Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2023	144,721	15,393	160,114
Additions	54,887	1,395	56,282
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 March 2024	199,608	16,788	216,396
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	87,051	13,340	100,391
Charge for the year	19,336	2,576	21,912
Disposal	-	-	-
AT 31 March 2024	106,387	15,916	122,303
Net book value			
At 31 March 2024	93,221	872	94,093
At 31 March 2023	57,670	2,053	59,723

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31st March 2024

6 Debtors	2024	2023
Trade debtors (Account Receivable)	47,008	33,760
Other debtors and prepayments	34,156	19,475
Provisional debt	-8,718	-8,718
	72,446	44,517

7 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2024	2023
Trade creditors (Account Payable)	57,451	181,465
Tax and social security costs(PAYE Payable)	28	0
Accruals and deferred income	67,393	-16,223
	124,872	165,242

Analysis of assets between 8 funds	2024 Unrestricted funds £	2024 Restricted funds £	2024 Total £
Fixed assets	2,737	91,356	94,093
Current assets	363,248	0	363,248
Current liabilities	-64,094	-60,778	-124,872
	301,891	30,578	332,469

9 Restricted income funds	Balance 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31 March 2024
Caravan	8,200	-	4,100	4,100
Advertising (donation in kind)	-	-	-	-
Sensory equipment	38,528	24,000	8,659	53,869
Activities	24	361,724	361,724	24
Support	-	-	-	-
Training	-	-	-	-
Accommodation	7,450	-	1,508	5,942
Canopy	4,303	-	1,324	2,979
Garden house	-	25,000	1,875	23,125
Minibus	-	-	-	-
Freezers and Fridge	2,146	-	805	1,341
	60,651	410,724	379,995	91,380