



ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025

Little Edi Foundation

Charity No. 1169242





A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR – TESS GRIGGS

Foreword: A Year of Growing Together

As we look back on the past twelve months and look ahead, I am struck by a single, powerful truth: a child's potential should never be defined by the weight of the challenges they carry.

This year, we have seen that weight grow heavier for many. With the rising cost of living, families in our community have faced impossible choices between heating their homes and feeding their children. At the Little Edi Foundation, we refused to let those families walk that path alone.

Because of your unwavering support, we have transformed our space into a true sanctuary.

This year, we:

- **Strengthened our local impact** by expanding our food bank to offer more choice, including fresh and frozen food, ensuring no child goes to school hungry
- **Provided essential dignity** through everyday practicalities, from school uniforms and stationery to a free-to-use laundry facility for families in need.
- **Created moments of pure joy**, taking children on trips to the seaside, the zoo, and the pantomime—reminding them that they deserve to dream and play, regardless of their circumstances.

We are more than just a charity; we are a community forged through "unbreakable relationships" with local schools, businesses, and volunteers. Our recent recognition as an award-winning non-profit in 2025 is not just a trophy on a shelf; it is a testament to the collective heartbeat of everyone who believes that every child in Essex deserves an equal start.

We aim for "even better and bigger things". We do this not for the reports or the statistics, but for the child who puts on a new school uniform and feels like they finally belong.

Thank you for being the reason we can say "yes" when a family needs us most. We truly cannot do what we do without you.

With deepest gratitude,

T. Griggs



About Us

About the Little Edi Foundation

Founded in 2016, the Little Edi Foundation is an Essex based non-profit where children and young people are at the heart of our organisation. Our objective is to help children and young people have equal access to education and learning development, enabling them to reach their full potential.

The Little Edi Foundation responds to community needs across Essex, prioritising supporting families who are most vulnerable. Referred families receive a home visit from one of our team who assess their financial and emotional support needs. As can be seen from this report, support is delivered via a number of ways, including food boxes, support groups, courses, and trips. In addition, we have a Youth Forum, which provides volunteering opportunities for young people, including those who are disengaged, which enables them to learn key skills and build their confidence.



Our New Centre

At the end of 2024, it became apparent to everyone that The Hub was no longer working for us a charity, as our space was just too small. Whilst it offered some shared outside space, meeting rooms and a kitchen we could hire, our dedicated space was so full of food and other items that packing boxes was logistically difficult and hosting people was tricky. We therefore started a search for a new space.

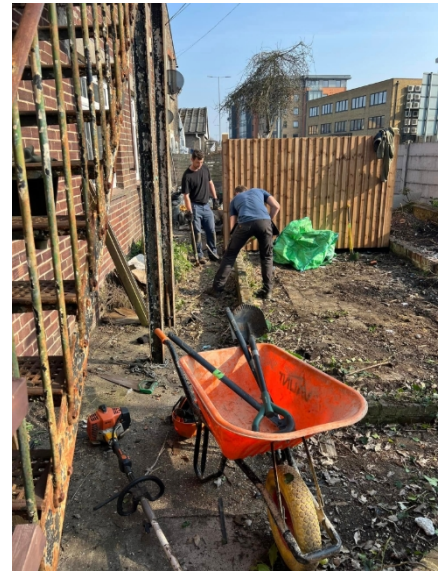
In addition to having more storage space, we were keen to find somewhere we could offer a safe place, a food bank, courses, a garden, a washing machine and ironing board, a clothing room, a library for children and parents, rooms to use for a variety of activities and a space to have a drink with staff who are ready to listen.

We are delighted to confirm we found a new space in Chelmsford city centre and took possession in February 2025.

Although we knew the space we found could offer all these things, it was a former office so needed a lot of work to make it the welcoming place we envisaged. We put a plea out on Facebook for help and were overwhelmed by the support we received from individual and local businesses.

There are too many jobs to mention, but to name a few we had helpers painting, putting new electrical sockets in, building furniture, installing a kitchen and white goods, building racks, and clearing the garden.

We have called our new premises the 'Little Edi Centre' and at the time of this report, we had just had a fantastic open day when we invited the Deputy Mayor, local MP, and our supporters to come and take a look. We very much look forward to developing the space and welcoming many families to the Centre.





Fundraising

This year we secured grants and/or donations to fund our work, including from the following organisations:

- Chelmsford Ladies Circle
- Chelmsford Lions Club
- Co-op
- Direct Commercial Limited (local family-run business that sponsors activities including of the summer and autumn schemes, van hire, and school uniform)
- Essex County Council
- John Lewis Charitable Fund
- Just Giving
- MATES FC
- Morrisons
- Riverside Chelmsford Ice Skating Club
- St Mary's Lodge in Braintree

We have also received support and donations from local individuals, schools, churches, and businesses, for which we are very grateful.

A particular highlight in the year was to watch 18 people run (or waddle!) the Maldon mud race to raise funds. Everyone said it was the hardest challenge they had ever done and they finished extremely muddy!



Thanks to the U9 Magpies at Galleywood FC for running a marathon to raise funds.





To raise funds, 10 intrepid Chelmsford City FC fans undertook an arduous 250-mile hike from the top of The Great Orme, Llandudno to Chippenham for the final away game of the season. Some of our children also enjoyed a complimentary trip to watch Chelmsford City FC at the stadium in Melbourne.

We have been invited on several occasions to Morrisons (Regiment Way and Beaulieu in Chelmsford) to talk to customers about food poverty and raise awareness of the work our charity does. We were overwhelmed by the amount of pre-packed bags of essential food items customers bought.



New City Voices sung all afternoon in Higher Chelmer Shopping Centre to raise funds, and it was lovely to see the local community enjoying the event.

From October 2024, members of three local Co-op supermarkets and one local Co-op funeral home could donate to our charity when they made purchases.

In January 2025, we found out we had been chosen as charity of the year for Barratt Homes Eastern Division, and we look forward to spending time with their team over the next year.



Community Projects

Poverty continues to have a profound impact on the children and young people in our communities across Essex and as they are at the heart of the organisation, our Community Projects aim to improve their health, social, and mental well-being. We recognise we need to support them as a group of families rather than just individuals, to give them a sense of community.

To respond to community members urgently in need of our support we have been:

- Conducting home visits to talk to the parents so we can fully understand that support they need.
- Regularly supplying and distributing fresh and dry food parcels and hygiene packs (and providing emergency supplies where needed).
- Helping families with their utility bills to ensure they have heating and electricity.
- Providing school uniform including garments with school logos, Clark's school shoes, school bags and supplies for children returning to school.
- Providing support at Christmas time including providing presents, parties, and delivering turkey hampers full of everything necessary to make a Christmas dinner and some extras.
- Organising "community based" projects to bring them all together as families.

Coffee Mornings

We have continued to hold our coffee mornings once a month in a local church hall. This event remains an important part of our projects, as it gives us a chance to engage with our families and children. We are able to listen to them and give support, advice, and guidance.

Before the event, we order fresh fruit and vegetables so every family in the project can take some home with them. Families also have the opportunity to browse the donated clothes, books, food, and toiletries, and children are occupied by the art and craft activities set up around tables.

Where possible, we try and hold a coffee morning during school half terms as we know they are expensive and so we offer a free morning for parents to talk to one another and a chance for children to play in a safe environment.

After School club

Our after-school club continued to be very popular. We invited the most vulnerable children in our project to come to a local church hall every Wednesday during term time from 4:30pm-6pm. The children enjoyed a wide range of activities, such as crafts, petting animals, playing games, and a picnic in the garden. They were also offered a healthy dinner during each session. A couple of highlights included time aboard the Little Legs Bus, which has ball pools, slides, cargo nets and squeeze through rollers and a trip to a local bowling alley.



Baby and Toddler Group

Due to the success of our baby and toddler group, we continued to hold sessions every Wednesday in a local church hall and invite children in our project aged 0-4 years old to attend. Refreshments are always provided with a range of activities to stimulate the children.

Fun Day Out

In January, we took a group of children to Marsh Farm who thoroughly enjoyed learning about the animals and spending time in the playground. Members of our Youth Forum came and made sure the children had a great day out.



Easter

Over 80 children enjoyed hunting for eggs around a local church garden while their parents relaxed with a hot drink provided by members of the Youth Forum. A staggering 197 eggs were kindly donated by two local supermarkets and one organisation.

Colouring competitions and decorating Easter baskets kept all the children busy for the morning.



Summer Scheme

This year we had 3 fantastic days out with the children in our project.

Those children aged between 4 and 8 years old were taken, together with members of our Youth Forum, Volunteers, and our Project Leaders, by coach to Colchester Zoo. Here the children enjoyed a fun day looking at the animals and enjoying the activities. Every child enjoyed a picnic and a drink, as their family had been given a supermarket voucher to buy the items.

The second day out was to Walton on the Naze. Two coaches of excited children and their families enjoyed picnics, a play in the park, and then time on the beach. Children loved splashing in the sea, collecting shells, and building sandcastles. Again, we gave every family of a child going on the trip a supermarket voucher so they could buy lunch and a drink.

Our last day out was to a local park where families could enjoy a picnic whilst members of the Youth Forum and volunteers kept the children entertained with games.



October half term

The children had two wonderful days at a local school where they enjoyed a range of activities including learning about exotic animals, art and crafts, cake decorating with spooky colouring, a scavenger hunt with their own microscopic pots, a Halloween party with an entertainer, bubble machine and games. This was all done with their face painted by some of our volunteers.

Members of the Youth Forum attended to “buddy up” to a younger child and offer them support throughout the day.

All children received a party bag to take home containing a colouring book and pens.



Harvest Festival

We had a fantastic response to our Harvest Festival appeal and received donations from many individuals, local schools, and organisations.



As a charity we understand that winter - and especially Christmas time - can be a challenging time of year for our families, both financially and emotionally. We try to take away as much of this burden as we can.

Below are several initiatives we ran over the winter period:

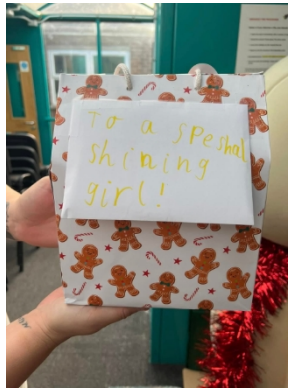
Reverse advent calendar

Due to the success of the reverse advent calendars in previous years, we decided to ask our supporters for these again. They were delivered to our families and meant they could have a few luxuries as well as some staple items for the Christmas period.



Pyjamas and coats

Families at a local school were invited to take a label from one of the gift trees and buy pyjamas for a child in our project. Families also donated coats, which were laid out at one of the coffee mornings, so that each child within the project had a coat to see them through the cold months.



Christmas Lunch

Thanks to the help of volunteers and the Youth Forum, each family received the ingredients to make the perfect Christmas lunch: turkey, potatoes, carrots, parsnips, Brussels sprouts, gravy, stuffing, and a dessert. They also received some Christmas treats, advent calendars, biscuits, chocolates, and crackers.



Every family also received a Christmas hamper thanks to the generosity of our helpers.

Presents



Thanks to kind donations from our Amazon wish list, individuals, local businesses, and schools, the young children in our project were given a present and a box containing toys, art and crafts, and toiletries. The older children received a voucher and a bag of goodies.

Christmas party

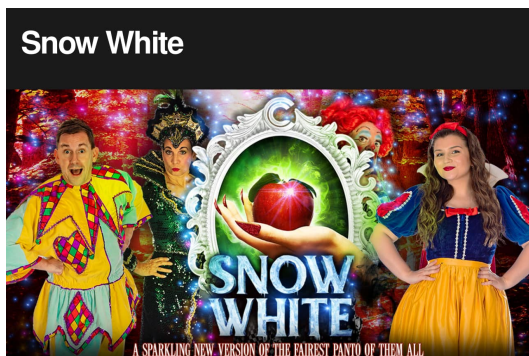


The children had a wonderful Christmas party organised by the Youth Forum. They enjoyed games and food and had a visit from Father Christmas and his Elf who gave them each a selection box and a present.

Help with utility bills

As we have seen in previous years, energy bills continue to be of great concern to the families on our project. We therefore gave each family a contribution to their bills, so they were able to keep their heating on during the coldest time of year.

Pantomime



We took 32 very excited children to see Snow White at the local theatre. Everyone had a great time and were treated to a bag of treats, a drink and a glow wand to wave.



As the price of uniform and school supplies continued to be very expensive and many of our families cannot afford such items, we maintained our school uniform project. Each child received a new pair of school shoes and items of branded school uniform. In addition, we have provided school equipment where needed.

These items are really important to the children, as it makes them feel the same as their peers and helps them to reach their full potential.





Our organisational objective is to help children and young people, enabling them to reach their full potential. One of the ways we achieve this is to provide volunteering opportunities for local young people, including those who have become disengaged, aged 13 – 18, which enables them to learn key skills and builds their confidence to take on new challenges.

Some of the Youth Forum activities:

- Helped to set up coffee mornings and run the activities.
- Looked after a child during our summer scheme.
- Looked after a child during our October half term scheme.
- Helped to fill, label, and deliver Christmas boxes to the families.
- Organised and ran the Easter and Christmas parties for the children.

Meet The Trustees



Tess Griggs

Sarah Bonamy



Sheryl Perry



The Trustees

The Little Edi Foundation trustees are a team of unpaid volunteers - their time and knowledge come at no expense to the charity - all the donations and funds raised go straight to the charity.

They take responsibility for using the resources efficiently, achieving measurable results and being accountable to the supporters, partners, people, and most of all, the children, with whom the charity works.

Principal address:	585 Galleywood Road Chelmsford CM2 8BS
Type of governing document:	Constitution adopted 19 th September 2016 and amended on 27 th June 2022.
How the charity is constituted:	CIO - Foundation
How trustees are appointed:	Trustees are appointed in trustee meetings.
Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves (full policy available upon request):	The charity has a reserve of £10,000 for reasons such as to fund any unforeseen expenditure, unforeseen day-to-day operational costs, and short-term deficits.
Details of any funds materially in deficit:	None.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature:

Full name: Tess Griggs

Position: Chair

Date: 29 January 2026 2026



Balance Sheet

Little Edi Foundation

As at 31 March 2025

Cash Basis

31 MAR 2025

Fixed Assets

Tangible Assets

Computer Equipment	349.00
Total Tangible Assets	349.00

Total Fixed Assets	349.00
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Current Assets

Cash at bank and in hand

200 CLUB	7,855.68
Little Edi Account 1	28,518.01
Total Cash at bank and in hand	36,373.69

Prepayments	3,250.00
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Total Current Assets	39,623.69
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Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

Accounts Payable	(300.00)
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Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(300.00)
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Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	39,923.69
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Total Assets less Current Liabilities	40,272.69
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Net Assets	40,272.69
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Capital and Reserves

Current Year Earnings	3,939.78
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Retained Earnings	36,332.91
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Total Capital and Reserves	40,272.69
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Profit and Loss

Little Edi Foundation

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Cash Basis

2025

Gross Profit	-
Administrative Costs	
Amazon purchases	941.68
Charity subscriptions	546.45
Clothing	841.25
Entertainment-100% business	830.96
Food Purchased	9,882.90
General Expenses	12,047.23
Insurance	615.58
IT Software and Consumables	269.17
Light, Power, Heating	4.41
Motor Vehicle Expenses	4,157.09
Printing & Stationery	75.89
Project Help	12,876.14
Project/activity taxis	4,407.92
Rent	5,432.50
Repairs & Maintenance	670.32
Rounding	3.45
Telephone & Internet	415.19
Travel - National	410.00
Utilities Help	830.00
VAT	78.00
Wages	15,216.90
Total Administrative Costs	70,553.03
Operating Profit	(70,553.03)
Other Income	
Charitable and Political Donations	74,492.81
Total Other Income	74,492.81
Profit on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation	3,939.78
Profit after Taxation	3,939.78



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
The Little Edi Foundation

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 March 2025 (5 April 2025)

**Charity no
(if any)** 1169242

Set out on pages

1 & 2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2025.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

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:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 

Date: 25/01/26

Name: Vicky Coffman

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

FCCA

Address:

Viewpoint Accountants Ltd
Saxon House, 27 Duke St
Chelmsford, CM1 1HT

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight 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.