

LITERACY AID UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1181990

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2019-02-12

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Flat D
Wright Phillips House
136 St. Norbert Road
London
SE4 2FG

Phone 07821135592

Email hello@literacyaiduk.co.uk

Website www.literacyaiduk.co.uk

Activities

Objects: THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION THROUGH THE FREE PROVISION OF LITERATURE, EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES AND EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT TO THOSE IN NEED.

Activities: Ensure sustainable access to high-quality educational resources for all. Foster positive reading habits and attitudes towards global education. Equip under-resourced communities, schools, and libraries with excellent educational resources. Empower individuals to attain their chosen place in society and contribute to a more equitable and inclusive community. Transform vacant spaces into libraries.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Economic/community Development/employment, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Ireland
- Isle Of Man
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

| Period end | Income | Expenditure | Assets | Employees |
|------------|---------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| 2025-03-31 | | £0 | £0 | - |
| 2024-03-31 | | £0 | £0 | - |
| 2023-03-31 | | £0 | £0 | - |
| 2022-03-31 | £10,000 | £9,993 | | - |
| 2021-03-31 | £10,000 | £9,953 | | - |

Trustees

| Name | Role | Appointed |
|----------------------------|-------|------------|
| Catalin Constantine | Chair | 2019-02-12 |
| Dan Donell Makaveli | | 2019-02-12 |
| Walatta Israel Trew | | 2019-02-12 |

LITERACY AID UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1181990

Accounts

Trustees' Annual Report

Literacy Aid UK (CIO)

Reporting period: 01/04/2024 to 31/03/2025

Objectives and Activities

The charitable purpose of Literacy Aid UK is to promote literacy, education, creativity, and cultural access, particularly for individuals and communities facing social, economic, or educational disadvantage. The charity seeks to reduce inequality by improving access to books, learning resources, creative opportunities, and supportive spaces that encourage personal growth, confidence, and lifelong learning.

During the reporting period, the charity continued to work towards its charitable objectives through preparatory activity, partnership development, and the coordination of in-kind donations. The focus during the year was on building the foundations needed to support sustainable charitable delivery, rather than large-scale funded programmes.

Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that they have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The charity's purposes remain wholly for the public benefit, and its activities are intended to increase access to education, literacy, and cultural opportunity, particularly for those who face barriers to participation.

Achievements and Performance

During the reporting period, the charity made significant progress in strengthening its operational capacity and external partnerships to support charitable delivery. This included establishing access to office and storage facilities to support the collection, sorting, and coordination of donated books and educational resources. The charity now has access to facilities supporting activity in Sunderland, Newcastle, and London.

The charity also established a partnership with the Big Yellow Storage Foundation, which provides storage support in London. This partnership has enabled the charity to safely store, manage, and redistribute donated books at greater scale, helping to prevent large quantities of usable books from being sent to landfill and increasing the charity's ability to redirect resources to communities in need.

Alongside this, the charity developed and strengthened partnerships with a growing number of schools, publishers, and libraries across the North East and London. Through these relationships, the charity received substantial in-kind donations of books and educational resources that would otherwise have been discarded.

As a result of this partnership work, the total number of books salvaged for redistribution increased to approximately 120,000 books.

During the period, the charity also directly redistributed approximately 3,000 books in Sunderland and London to families in need, community book hubs, and under-resourced youth clubs to help establish book corners and improve access to reading materials for children and young people who may otherwise have limited access to books.

Feedback received during the period indicated that donated books supported early engagement with reading and learning, particularly for children and young people without regular access to books at home. Trustees were informed that the availability of free, high-quality books encouraged greater confidence and interest in reading within community environments.

All activity during the reporting period was delivered on a pro bono basis by trustees and volunteers. The charity did not receive grant funding, fundraising income, or financial donations during the period, and activity was supported entirely through voluntary contributions of time and in-kind donations of books and educational

resources.

Financial Review

The charity had no income or expenditure during the reporting period. As a result, there was no financial activity to report and no reserves were held at the year end.

Structure, Governance and Management

Literacy Aid UK is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by its constitution. The charity is managed by its trustees, who are responsible for setting the strategic direction, overseeing governance, and ensuring compliance with legal and regulatory requirements.

Reference and Administrative Details

Principal correspondence address:

Flat D, Wright Phillips House, 136 St. Norbert Road, London, SE4 2FG

Additional operational address:

27 Norfolk Street, Sunderland, SR1 1EE

Trustees during the reporting period

Catalin Constantine (Chair)

Walatta Israel Trew

Dan Makaveli

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved this Trustees' Annual Report.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

Name: Catalin Constantine

Role: Chair

Date: 7 January 2026



Accounts for the period

Literacy Aid UK (CIO)

Reporting period: 01/04/2024 to 31/03/2025

Charity number: 1181990

Statement of Receipts and Payments

Receipts: £0

Payments: £0

Net movement in funds: £0

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Cash at bank and in hand at 31 March 2025: £0

Total assets: £0

Total liabilities: £0

Net assets: £0

Notes to the accounts

These accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis. The charity had no income or expenditure during the reporting period.

Trustees

The trustees during the reporting period were:
Catalin Constantine (Chair)
Walatta Israel Trew
Dan Makaveli

Approval

The trustees approve these accounts and confirm that they are responsible for their preparation and accuracy.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

Name: Catalin Constantine

Role: Chair

Date: 7 January 2026



LITERACY AID UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1181990

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1/03/2023 Period start date To 31/03/2024 Period end date

Charity name: Literacy Aid UK

Charity registration number: 1181990

Objectives and Activities

| | SORP reference | |
|---|----------------|---|
| Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document | Para 1.17 | <p>The charity provides literacy, cultural, creative, and holistic activities for vulnerable individuals, empowering them through education, creativity, and personal growth. In addition to these initiatives, the charity donates essential items such as tech equipment, literacy resources, and other educational materials to those who may not otherwise have the means to afford them, ensuring equal opportunities for learning and development.</p> <p>In recent years, the charity has received an increasing number of requests for support with the publication and commercialisation of both fiction and non-fiction books. Recognising this growing need, the charity has taken steps to expand its services, implementing programs designed specifically to assist aspiring writers, artists, and creators. These initiatives aim to provide guidance, resources, and practical support to individuals who might never otherwise see their projects brought to life or shared with a wider audience.</p> <p>Whether it's helping with manuscript development, navigating the publishing process, or understanding the commercial side of creative work, the charity is committed to nurturing talent and providing opportunities for individuals from all backgrounds to have their voices heard and their creative visions realised.</p> <p>The charity has also begun reaching out to local government bodies to explore potential partnerships. These partnerships aim to repurpose vacant / underutilised commercial spaces by transforming them into libraries, creative hubs, and other cultural and educational spaces tailored to serve local communities.</p> <p>By advocating for the use of these underutilised spaces, the charity seeks to create vibrant, inclusive environments where individuals can access books, engage in creative projects, and participate in cultural and educational activities. These spaces are envisioned as safe, welcoming places that foster community connection, encourage lifelong learning, and inspire creativity. Through these efforts, the charity hopes to provide valuable resources and opportunities for personal and collective growth, particularly in areas where such facilities are most needed.</p> |

| | | |
|---|---------------------------|---|
| <p>Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.</p> | <p>Para 1.17 and 1.19</p> | <p>The charity provides universal and sustainable access to high-quality educational materials. This includes donating books, technology, and other learning resources to underprivileged individuals, schools, and libraries, particularly in communities that lack adequate support.</p> <p>By fostering a love for reading, the charity encourages a broader understanding of global cultures and perspectives. Projects such as Shared Reading create spaces where individuals can engage with inclusive and diverse literature, enhancing empathy and cultural awareness.</p> <p>The charity supports underserved schools, libraries, and regions with excellent global reading resources, offering tools that are often unavailable in these communities. This extends to international efforts.</p> <p>Responding to the growing demand from individuals seeking support in the publication and commercialisation of their work, the charity has started offering direct assistance to aspiring writers and artists. This includes helping authors, both fiction and non-fiction, navigate the publishing process, offering mentorship, resources, and workshops to turn their creative projects into viable, marketable products. Through these efforts, individuals who would otherwise struggle to get their work published are given the tools and support to make their literary dreams a reality.</p> <p>As part of its ongoing efforts to benefit local communities, the charity is actively working with government bodies to negotiate partnerships that allow vacant commercial spaces to be repurposed for cultural, educational, and creative activities. These spaces are transformed into libraries, creative hubs, and community centres that offer a wide range of services to residents. By turning unused spaces into vibrant community assets, the charity creates opportunities for learning, creativity, and social connection.</p> |
| <p>Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit</p> | <p>Para 1.18</p> | <p>The trustees had had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.</p> |

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

| | SORP reference | |
|---|------------------|--|
| <p>Policy on grant making</p> | <p>Para 1.38</p> | |
| <p>Policy on social investment including program related investment</p> | <p>Para 1.38</p> | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|---|
| Contribution made by volunteers | Para 1.38 | Volunteers are essential to the charity's success, contributing in various impactful ways. They assist with running key initiatives like Shared Reading Circles and with the publishing support for aspiring writers. They also regularly engage with trustees to provide feedback on programs and suggest improvements. For example, those helping with the publishing of manuscripts offer insights on how to refine the process, ensuring it better serves aspiring writers. This ongoing feedback helps the charity's initiatives stay relevant and effective. |
| Other | | The charity has officially launched a branch in London and is now on the lookout for the perfect spot to set up its headquarters. This expansion comes from recognising the lack of support in London for the kind of support and services that have made such a difference in Sunderland and nearby areas. By extending our reach, we aim to provide aspiring writers and creative artists in London with the same opportunities we've offered in Sunderland and the surrounding areas. This includes guidance on publishing, mentorship programs, and workshops to help creatives turn their ideas into reality. Beyond that, we'll be bringing our community-focused initiatives, like Shared Reading Circles and access to inclusive libraries. It's an exciting step toward reaching more people and making an even bigger difference. |

Achievements and Performance

| | SORP reference | |
|---|----------------|---|
| Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole. | Para 1.20 | <p>By teaming up with other charities and social enterprises, Literacy Aid UK gives its beneficiaries access to a wider range of services they might not get otherwise. For example, working with organisations that focus on mental health or job training means people can get the specific help they need, like counselling or career support, alongside what Literacy Aid UK already offers. This kind of collaboration makes it easier for beneficiaries to overcome challenges and work toward their goals. On a bigger scale, these partnerships make a difference for society too. They bring organisations together to tackle issues like unemployment and education gaps, creating stronger communities and more effective support systems for everyone.</p> <p>Supporting aspiring writers and artists through the publishing process can be life-changing for the beneficiaries. It gives them the tools and confidence to share their work, opening opportunities for recognition, financial independence, and personal fulfilment. By providing mentorship, resources, and workshops, the charity helps individuals develop skills, navigate complex publishing systems, and transform their creative visions into tangible achievements. For society, this support amplifies diverse voices, enriching cultural landscapes with stories and art from underrepresented perspectives. It fosters creativity, promotes inclusivity, and inspires others to pursue their passions. Additionally, successful artists and writers often contribute to the economy and community through their work, creating a ripple effect of cultural and economic benefits.</p> <p>Pursuing initiatives that provide long-term support helps beneficiaries build the stability and confidence they need to integrate into society and achieve their goals. Whether it's offering vocational training, mental health resources, or educational opportunities, these efforts empower individuals to overcome barriers, gain independence, and work toward fulfilling careers or personal aspirations. For society, these endeavours create a more inclusive and equitable environment. By equipping individuals with the tools to succeed, the charity reduces social inequalities and</p> |

| | | |
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| | | promotes economic growth. This not only benefits the individuals directly involved but also strengthens communities, fosters social cohesion, and contributes to a more supportive and productive society overall. |
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

| | | |
|--|-----------|--|
| Achievements against objectives set | Para 1.41 | |
| Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set | Para 1.41 | |
| Investment performance against objectives | Para 1.41 | |
| Other | | |

Financial Review

| | | |
|--|-----------|--|
| Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period | Para 1.21 | 0 |
| Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held | Para 1.22 | The charity holds £7.50 in reserves. |
| Amount of reserves held | Para 1.22 | £7.50 |
| Reasons for holding zero reserves | Para 1.22 | The charity has operated without any grants, external funding, or donations. All contributions from trustees and volunteers have been entirely pro bono. |
| Details of fund materially in deficit | Para 1.24 | |
| Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern | Para 1.23 | |

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

| | | |
|---|-----------|--|
| The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising) | Para 1.47 | |
| Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted | Para 1.46 | |
| A description of the principal risks facing the charity | Para 1.46 | |
| Other | | |

Structure, Governance and Management

| | | |
|---|-----------|--|
| Description of charity's trusts: | | |
| Type of governing document | Para 1.25 | Memorandum and Articles of Association |
| How is the charity constituted? | Para 1.25 | CIO |
| Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees | Para 1.25 | The charity is recruiting trustees via its partners. It is only the chair that identifies suitable candidates and informs the rest of the trustees at the board meetings. New trustees receive an induction and information pack. The trustees are actively engaged with the charity's strategic direction and policy. They discuss and approve a strategic plan every year. |

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

| | | |
|---|-----------|--|
| Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees | Para 1.51 | |
| The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works | Para 1.51 | |
| Relationship with any related parties | Para 1.51 | |
| Other | | |

Reference and Administrative details

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Charity name | Literacy Aid UK CIO |
| Other name the charity uses | N/A |
| Registered charity number | 1181990 |
| Charity's principal address | 27 Norfolk Street, SR1 1EE, Sunderland |
| | |

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

| | Trustee name | Office (if any) | Dates acted if not for whole year | Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any) |
|----|---------------------|------------------------|--|--|
| 1 | Catalin Constantine | | | Catalin Constantine |
| 2 | Walatta Israel Trew | | | |
| 3 | Dan Makaveli | | | |
| 4 | Sarah Robson | | | |
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Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

| Director name | | |
|----------------------|--|--|
| N/A | | |
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| | | |

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

| Trustee name | Dates acted if not for whole year | |
|---------------------|--|--|
| N/A | | |
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Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

| | |
|---|-----|
| Description of the assets held in this capacity | N/A |
| Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects | N/A |
| Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets | N/A |

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

| Type of adviser | Name | Address |
|-----------------|------|---------|
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Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information

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Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Catalin Constantine

Full name(s)

Catalin Constantine

Position (eg Secretary,
Chair, etc)

Chair

Date

5/01/2025

LITERACY AID UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1181990

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1/04/2022 Period start date To 31/03/2023 Period end date

Charity name: Literacy Aid UK

Charity registration number: 1181990

Objectives and Activities

| | SORP reference | |
|--|--------------------|--|
| Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document | Para 1.17 | <p>The charity facilitates literacy, cultural, art and holistic activities to vulnerable people, as well as re-commerce training to those who wish to distance themselves from traditional employment and become self-employed.</p> <p>The charity donates books, computers and other educational resources, as well as household and hygiene items to those who otherwise would not afford them.</p> <p>The charity facilitates re-commerce and circular economy training, advice and guidance to organisations, charities, educational institutions that aspire to cut down on business and trade waste and become carbon neutral.</p> |
| Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts. | Para 1.17 and 1.19 | <p>Ensure universal, sustainable access to high-quality educational resources for all.</p> <p>Foster positive reading habits and attitudes towards global education.</p> <p>Equip under-resourced communities, schools, and libraries with excellent global reading resources.</p> <p>Reduce waste by redirecting gently used items away from landfills and</p> |

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| | | <p>encouraging their circulation until the end of their lifespan.</p> <p>Promote a circular economy mindset within the business world and communities.</p> <p>Empower individuals to attain their chosen place in society and contribute to a more equitable and inclusive community.</p> <p>The charity continues to deliver activities in the benefit of the community as mentioned in its governing document.</p> <p>The charity continues to support people into employment via long-term educational support, pre-employment training and IAG with progression routes.</p> |
| Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit | Para 1.18 | The trustees had had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. |

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

| | SORP reference | |
|--|----------------|---|
| Policy on grant making | Para 1.38 | |
| Policy on social investment including program related investment | Para 1.38 | |
| Contribution made by volunteers | Para 1.38 | Volunteers have been crucial contributors to the charity's range of activities. They have participated in meetings with trustees to provide updates on their work and offer insights into the needs of stakeholders, helping to refine and enhance the charity's initiatives as needed. |
| Other | | |

Achievements and Performance

| | SORP reference | |
|---|----------------|---|
| Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole. | Para 1.20 | <p>Conducted training courses titled "Shared Reading and Reminiscence for Wellbeing."</p> <p>Rescued numerous pre-loved items from being discarded in landfills and distributed them to underserved communities, catering to the needs of those in distress.</p> <p>Assisted individuals in securing employment or establishing their own businesses.</p> <p>Engaged in partnerships with other charities and social enterprises to ensure comprehensive access to enhanced services and support for all beneficiaries.</p> <p>Expanded our collaborations with more companies to facilitate their transition towards a more circular economy and their endeavour to achieve carbon neutrality in the foreseeable future.</p> <p>Pursued other endeavours aimed at providing enduring support to individuals striving to integrate into society and fulfil their aspirations.</p> |

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

| | | |
|--|-----------|--|
| Achievements against objectives set | Para 1.41 | |
| Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set | Para 1.41 | |
| Investment performance against objectives | Para 1.41 | |

| | | |
|-------|--|--|
| | | |
| Other | | |

Financial Review

| | | |
|--|-----------|--|
| Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period | Para 1.21 | 0 |
| Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held | Para 1.22 | The charity holds £7.50 in reserves. |
| Amount of reserves held | Para 1.22 | £7.50 |
| Reasons for holding zero reserves | Para 1.22 | N/A |
| Details of fund materially in deficit | Para 1.24 | The charity holds no funds. |
| Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern | Para 1.23 | The charity has not identified any uncertainties/concerns. |

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

| | | |
|---|-----------|--|
| The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising) | Para 1.47 | |
| Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted | Para 1.46 | |
| A description of the principal risks facing the charity | Para 1.46 | |
| Other | | |

Structure, Governance and Management

| | | |
|---|-----------|---|
| Description of charity's trusts: | | |
| Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter) | Para 1.25 | Memorandum and Articles of Association |
| How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO) | Para 1.25 | CIO |
| Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees | Para 1.25 | The charity is recruiting trustees via its partners. It is only the chair that identifies suitable candidates and informs the rest of the trustees at the board meetings. New trustees receive an induction and information pack and spend time in the office in Sunderland. The trustees are actively engaged with the charity's strategic direction and policy. They discuss and approve a strategic plan every year. |

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

| | | |
|---|-----------|--|
| Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees | Para 1.51 | |
| The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works | Para 1.51 | |
| Relationship with any related parties | Para 1.51 | |
| Other | | |

Reference and Administrative details

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Charity name | Literacy Aid UK CIO |
| Other name the charity uses | N/A |
| Registered charity number | 1181990 |

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Charity's principal address | 27 Norfolk Street, Sunderland, SR1 1EE |
| | |

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

| | Trustee name | Office (if any) | Dates acted if not for whole year | Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any) |
|----|---------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Catalin Constantine | 27 Norfolk Street, SR1 1EE, Sunderland | | Catalin Constantine |
| 2 | Walatta Israel Trew | | | |
| 3 | Dan Makaveli | 27 Norfolk Street, SR1 1EE, Sunderland | | |
| 4 | Sarah Robson | | | |
| 5 | Alexandra Collinson | | | |
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Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

| Director name | | |
|---------------|--|--|
| N/A | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

| Trustee name | Dates acted if not for whole year | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| N/A | | |
| | | |
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| | | |

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

| | |
|---|-----|
| Description of the assets held in this capacity | N/A |
| Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects | N/A |
| Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets | N/A |

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

| Type of adviser | Name | Address |
|-----------------|------|---------|
| | | |
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Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information

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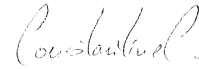
Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Catalin Constantine



Full name(s)

Catalin Constantine

Position (eg Secretary,
Chair, etc)

Chair

Date

22/01/2024

LITERACY AID UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1181990

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1/04/2021 **Period start date** **To** 31/03/2022 **Period end date**

Charity name: Literacy Aid UK

Charity registration number: 1181990

Objectives and Activities

| | SORP reference | |
|--|--------------------|--|
| Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document | Para 1.17 | <p>The charity facilitates literacy, cultural, art and holistic activities to vulnerable people, as well as re-commerce training to those who wish to distance themselves from traditional employment and become self-employed.</p> <p>The charity donates books, computers and other educational resources, as well as household and hygiene items to those who otherwise would not afford them.</p> <p>The charity facilitates re-commerce and circular economy training, advice and guidance to organisations, charities, educational institutions that aspire to cut down on business and trade waste and become carbon neutral.</p> |
| Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts. | Para 1.17 and 1.19 | <p>The charity continues to divert from waste and recycling centres all pre-loved items and donate them to those who need them.</p> <p>The charity continues to deliver activities in the benefit of the community as mentioned in its governing document.</p> <p>The charity continues to support people into employment via long-term educational support, pre-employment training and IAG with progression routes.</p> |
| Statement confirming | Para 1.18 | |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit | | The trustees had had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. |
|---|--|---|

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

| | SORP reference | |
|--|----------------|--|
| Policy on grant making | Para 1.38 | |
| Policy on social investment including program related investment | Para 1.38 | |
| Contribution made by volunteers | Para 1.38 | Volunteers have played an instrumental role within the charity's activities spectrum. They have attended meetings with trustees to report on their delivery and give feedback on stakeholders' needs and how the charity's activities can be improved accordingly. |
| Other | | |

Achievements and Performance

| | SORP reference | |
|--|----------------|--|
|--|----------------|--|

| | | |
|--|------------------|---|
| <p>Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.</p> | <p>Para 1.20</p> | <p>In the last financial year, the charity has delivered the following activities/projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - delivered a 'Shared Reading and Reminiscence for Wellbeing' training course. - saved thousands of pre-loved items from landfill and donated them in overlooked communities to those in need. - supported people into employment/self-employment - collaborated with other charities and social enterprises to make sure all beneficiaries can benefit from improved services/support. - developed partnerships with a number of companies to help them transition to a more circular economy and become carbon neutral in the near future. <p>Other activities in the benefit of people who need long-term support to attain their chosen place in society.</p> |
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

| | | |
|---|------------------|--|
| <p>Achievements against objectives set</p> | <p>Para 1.41</p> | |
| <p>Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set</p> | <p>Para 1.41</p> | |
| <p>Investment performance against objectives</p> | <p>Para 1.41</p> | |

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| Other | | |
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Financial Review

| | | |
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| Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period | Para 1.21 | The charity has received a £10,000 grant to deliver a training programme. |
| Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held | Para 1.22 | The charity holds £7.50 in reserves. |
| Amount of reserves held | Para 1.22 | £7.50 |
| Reasons for holding zero reserves | Para 1.22 | N/A |
| Details of fund materially in deficit | Para 1.24 | The charity holds no funds. |
| Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern | Para 1.23 | The charity has not identified any uncertainties/concerns. |

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

| | | |
|---|-----------|--|
| The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising) | Para 1.47 | |
| Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted | Para 1.46 | |
| A description of the principal risks facing the charity | Para 1.46 | |
| Other | | |

Structure, Governance and Management

| | | |
|---|-----------|--|
| Description of charity's trusts: | | |
| Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter) | Para 1.25 | Memorandum and Articles of Association |
| How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO) | Para 1.25 | CIO |
| Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees | Para 1.25 | The charity is recruiting trustees via its partners. It is only the chair that identifies suitable candidates and informs the rest of the trustees at the board meetings. New trustees receive an induction and information pack and spend time in the offices in Sunderland. The trustees are actively engaged with the charity's strategic direction and policy. They discuss and approve a strategic plan every year. |

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

| | | |
|---|-----------|--|
| Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees | Para 1.51 | |
| The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works | Para 1.51 | |
| Relationship with any related parties | Para 1.51 | |
| Other | | |

Reference and Administrative details

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Charity name | Literacy Aid UK CIO |
| Other name the charity | N/A |

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| uses | |
| Registered charity number | 1181990 |
| Charity's principal address | 27 Norfolk Street, Sunderland, SR1 1EE |
| | |

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

| | Trustee name | Office (if any) | Dates acted if not for whole year | Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any) |
|----|---------------------|--|--|--|
| 1 | Catalin Constantine | 27 Norfolk Street, SR1 1EE, Sunderland | | Catalin Constantine |
| 2 | Walatta Israel Trew | | | |
| 3 | Dan Makaveli | 27 Norfolk Street, SR1 1EE, Sunderland | | |
| 4 | Sarah Robson | | | |
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Corporate trustees - names of the directors at the date the report was approved

| Director name | | |
|----------------------|--|--|
| N/A | | |
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Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

| Trustee name | Dates acted if not for whole | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| | | |

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

| | |
|---|-----|
| Description of the assets held in this capacity | N/A |
| Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects | N/A |
| Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets | N/A |

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

| Type of adviser | Name | Address |
|-----------------|------|---------|
| | | |
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Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information

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Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Catalin Constantine

Full name(s)

Catalin Constantine

**Position (eg
Secretary, Chair, etc)**

Chair

Date

23/01/2023

LITERACY AID UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1181990

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1/04/2020 **Period start date** **To** 31/03/2021 **Period end date**

Charity name: Literacy Aid UK

Charity registration number: 1181990

Objectives and Activities

| | SORP reference | |
|--|--------------------|---|
| Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document | Para 1.17 | <p>The charity facilitates literacy, cultural, art therapy and holistic activities to people impacted by low literacy, loneliness, domestic abuse, poor mental health, prolonged unemployment, emotional distress, chronic illnesses, physical disabilities, learning difficulties.</p> <p>In 2021, we have implemented an innovative re-commerce trading model within the charity. The profit generated will be invested in the community, to provide vocational skills, and foster the spirit of entrepreneurship amongst those furthest from the labour market.</p> |
| Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts. | Para 1.17 and 1.19 | <p>Diverted over 350,000 pre-loved items from landfill and helped Tyne and Wear area to reduce its carbon emissions</p> <p>Delivered in person and via Royal Mail, over 1,000 books to avid readers who, for a number of reasons (agoraphobia, social anxiety, mobility issues), could not leave their homes. These home deliveries have been followed up by telephone calls with the aim to conduct friendly, deep conversations between volunteers and stakeholders. This activity has grown considerably since last year, which is to show that more people appreciate this free service.</p> <p>Facilitated 178 'Shared Reading/Poetry' online group sessions to people in Tyne and Wear impacted by loneliness and isolation; trained and transitioned 12 of them to 'Shared Reading/Poetry'</p> |

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| | | <p>volunteer facilitators.</p> <p>Facilitated 134 literacy workshops for employment, CV and Resume writing, grammar and punctuation, to low literacy users. The literacy workshops have taken place in person and online with people from Tyne and Wear, and London.</p> <p>Facilitated 12 'Expressive Writing' workshops as a therapeutic intervention to people who have been impacted by traumatic experiences, people struggling with addictions and parents who have experienced the loss of a child. The expressive writing workshops have taken place in person and online with people from Tyne and Wear, and London.</p> <p>The charity has supported 13 people with multiple barriers into sustainable employment through interview skills, communication skills, negotiation skills, social media for professional development.</p> <p>The trustees have designed, and will implement in 2022, a new long-term project within the charity, called Growing Libraries in Developing Countries. It aims at building small libraries in developing countries, equip them with books, train librarians to deliver efficient literacy support to stakeholders in their area.</p> |
| Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit | Para 1.18 | The trustees had had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. |

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

| | SORP reference | |
|--|----------------|--|
| Policy on grant making | Para 1.38 | |
| Policy on social investment including program related investment | Para 1.38 | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|---|
| | | |
| Contribution made by volunteers | Para 1.38 | Volunteers have played an instrumental role within the charity's activities spectrum. They have attended meetings with trustees to report on their delivery and give feedback on stakeholders' needs and how the charity's activities can be improved accordingly. They have also distributed leaflets, engaged with community members for survey purposes, delivered a range of activities for the public benefit as per charity's services, and made home visits to isolated older people to keep them company and supply them with different educational resources, food and water, and other requested items. |
| Other | | |

Achievements and Performance

| | SORP reference | |
|---|----------------|--|
| Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole. | Para 1.20 | 2020/2021 was the time of exploring new pursuits as people worldwide were asked to stay indoors — and selling pre-owned goods proved to be one of the outlets many turned to. Along the way, and as selling pre-owned items continues to gain popularity, organisations have recognized the major economic opportunity recommerce brings — alongside the added benefits of building a more sustainable future. The charity's saving of pre-loved items from going to waste has made a difference in Tyne and Wear area's carbon emissions reduction, it provided people decluttering their homes with an eco-friendly and sustainable alternative to that of landfill, and helped those in financial difficulties to have access to free, good quality household items and educational resources. Some of the pre-loved items will be listed on e-commerce platforms to sell for profit, at the beginning of 2022. The entire profit is to be further invested in the community. We are in the process of securing funding to start our own e- |

commerce website where pre-loved items can be listed for sale without loosing any insertion or sales fees as per Amazon, OnBuy or eBay platforms. This project will most likely create new green, sustainable and flexible jobs for people in and around Tyne and Wear area.

The free service of home delivery of good quality books, as well as those posted via Royal Mail, has grown considerably since last year. We have reached over 600 isolated people with over 1,000 books delivered, and weekly phone-calls to help them socialise outside their immediate circle. Volunteers and trustees have noticed an incredible popularity and request for this service. Beneficiaries have stated that this type of weekly contact with the charity makes them feel more connected to others and gives them a sense of purpose, and feel that they matter.

The 'Shared Reading' support groups proved successful not only because of the number of people it managed to reach, but also due to the collective bonding that took place between them. Many have stated that their engagement with the project's content, tutors, volunteers and other participants has improved their mental health considerably, and their social relationships have also become more diverse, therefore, their perception of other people and events has expanded, and now they feel they have the ability to perceive things better, more fully. Over 80% of people have reported that as a result of their engagement with the group and project's content, has increased their self-confidence and self-esteem, and their social connections have improved considerably. The newly trained volunteers have been very active in starting shared reading support groups throughout Tyne and Wear.

The literacy workshops facilitated in person, via Zoom and telephone, helped over 200 people in Tyne and Wear, and London, to develop CV/Resume writing skills, communication skills, interview

preparation skills, and other literacy related skills. These beneficiaries have stated that they feel they are more in control of their personal development and professional journeys as a result of having developed the above skills, and have also developed a love for reading with their children for pleasure. Some parents stated that this activity helped them develop a stronger bond with their children.

This year we have also moved forward with our 'Expressive Writing' workshops, and have facilitated different group sessions to a number of 36 adults struggling with an array of addictions, survivors of traumatic experiences, and parents impacted by the loss of a child. These workshops lasted for three months, with three sessions per week. At the end of it, people have stated that taking part in the project was an emotionally trying experience, and it helped them to deal with past traumas, build resilience, and has also positively impacted their connections with family members. Most of these participants surveyed at three months after taking part in these workshops, stated that they have developed a daily routine of writing about their feelings, which makes them feel happier and less negative than they felt before writing. This practice, in their words, has 'brilliant positive psychological and emotional effects'.

This year the charity has supported 13 people with multiple barriers into employment. These beneficiaries have been referred to us through partner organisations, and during a period of four months, they have received support with online job hunting, digital skills, communication skills, social media for professional development. All of them have managed to clear their debt shortly after employment start date, they stopped claiming Universal Credit, and are now able to support financially their extended family members.

In Q1 of 2021, the charity has recognised an opportunity in exploring the possibility of trading pre-loved items on e-commerce platforms, in

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| | | <p>order to bring about profit that is to be re-invested in overlooked communities. Volunteers have started an inventory process of most profitable items, using Amazon and eBay as guideline for potential value. Online selling platforms, such as Amazon, eBay, OnBuy have been considered as possible e-commerce platforms for trading, however, only eBay has been selected for future trading activities. The trustees are currently in the process of securing funding to build the charity's own e-commerce website. Both eBay and the charity's own e-commerce website have the potential to create green and sustainable jobs, and help the planet by diverting millions of items from landfill, every year.</p> |
|--|--|--|

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

| | | |
|--|-----------|--|
| Achievements against objectives set | Para 1.41 | |
| Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set | Para 1.41 | |
| Investment performance against objectives | Para 1.41 | |
| Other | | |

Financial Review

| | | |
|--|-----------|--|
| Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period | Para 1.21 | The charity has been awarded a discretionary grant fund of £10,000. The charity has not started trading for income. |
| Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held | Para 1.22 | The charity does not have holding reserves. |
| Amount of reserves held | Para 1.22 | No reserves. |
| Reasons for holding zero reserves | Para 1.22 | The charity has decided to spend the entirety of the discretionary grant in the benefit of the community and its volunteers. |
| Details of fund materially in deficit | Para 1.24 | The charity holds no funds. |
| Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern | Para 1.23 | The charity has not identified any uncertainties/concerns. |

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

| | | |
|---|-----------|--|
| The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising) | Para 1.47 | |
| Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted | Para 1.46 | |
| A description of the principal risks facing the charity | Para 1.46 | |
| Other | | |

Structure, Governance and Management

| | | |
|---|-----------|--|
| Description of charity's trusts: | | |
| Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter) | Para 1.25 | Memorandum and Articles of Association |
| How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO) | Para 1.25 | CIO |
| Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees | Para 1.25 | The charity is recruiting trustees via its partners. It is only the chair that identifies suitable candidates and informs the rest of the trustees at the board meetings. New trustees receive an induction and information pack and spend time in the offices in Sunderland. The trustees are actively engaged with the charity's strategic direction and policy. They discuss and approve a strategic plan every year. |

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

| | | |
|---|-----------|--|
| Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees | Para 1.51 | |
| The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works | Para 1.51 | |
| Relationship with any related parties | Para 1.51 | |
| Other | | |

Reference and Administrative details

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Charity name | Literacy Aid UK CIO |
| Other name the charity | N/A |

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| uses | |
| Registered charity number | 1181990 |
| Charity's principal address | 27 Norfolk Street, Sunderland, SR1 1EE |
| | |

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

| | Trustee name | Office (if any) | Dates acted if not for whole year | Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any) |
|----|---------------------|--|--|--|
| 1 | Catalin Constantine | 27 Norfolk Street, SR1 1EE, Sunderland | | Catalin Constantine |
| 2 | Walatta Israel Trew | | | |
| 3 | Dan Makaveli | 27 Norfolk Street, SR1 1EE, Sunderland | | |
| 4 | Sarah Robson | | | |
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Corporate trustees - names of the directors at the date the report was approved

| Director name | | |
|----------------------|--|--|
| N/A | | |
| | | |
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Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

| Trustee name | Dates acted if not for whole | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| | | |

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

| | |
|---|-----|
| Description of the assets held in this capacity | N/A |
| Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects | N/A |
| Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets | N/A |

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

| Type of adviser | Name | Address |
|-----------------|------|---------|
| | | |
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Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information

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Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Catalin Constantine

Full name(s)

Catalin Constantine

**Position (eg
Secretary, Chair, etc)**

Chair

Date

30/12/2021

