



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

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>

		<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-

		<p>commerce website where pre-loved items can be listed for sale without losing 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>
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		<p>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.</p> <p>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'.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In Q1 of 2021, the charity has recognised an opportunity in exploring the possibility of trading pre-loved items on e-commerce platforms, in</p>
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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>
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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	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		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

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

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

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

