



**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## 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>

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 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>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	<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	
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 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>

		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		

**Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity**

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole 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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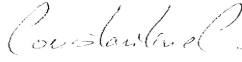


## Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Catalin Constantine

Position (eg Secretary,  
Chair, etc)

Chair

Date

5/01/2025