



Trustees' Report and Accounts unaudited For the year ended 31 December 2024

Little Stars Baby Bank
Registered Charity No. 1191130
www.littlestarscharity.org




Little Stars Baby Bank
Financial statements for the period ended 31 December 2024
Reference and administration details

Charity registration number	1191130
Registered office address	Little Stars C/O Aico Maesbury Road Oswestry SY10 8NR
Accountants	TCA (Shrewsbury) LLP Third Floor 21 St Mary's Street Shrewsbury Shropshire SY1 1ED
Bankers	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ HSBC 127 High Street Hounslow Middlesex TW3 1QP
Trustees	I Groves - (appointed 27 th March 2025) Chair C Williams – Vice Chair S Bates - Secretary A Beeston (appointed 12th June 2024) – Treasurer J Seabright (appointed 7th December 2024) E Shaw (appointed 28 th March 2025) A Garmston (Resigned 11 th August 2025) D Kortas (Resigned 20 th March 2025)





Table of **CONTENTS**

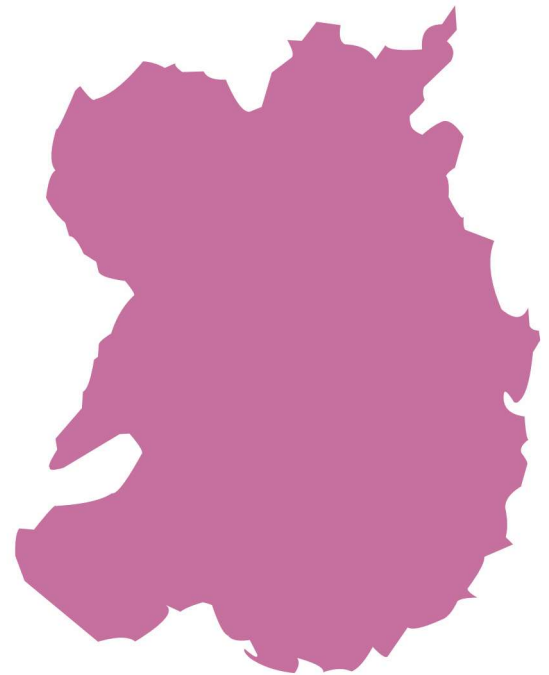
- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 01 | Trustees' report |
| 16 | Independent examiners
report |
| 17 | Receipts and payments
account |
| 18 | Statement of funds |
- 
- 

Trustees' Annual Report

The Trustees of Little Stars Baby Bank are pleased to present their report and the financial statements for the period ended 31 December 2024.

OUR VISION *and* MISSION

Little Star's vision is to ensure babies and children across Shropshire have access to the essentials they need at every stage of childhood. Our mission is to alleviate the emotional stress and financial pressures many families face in a county where over 26,000 children are living in poverty, and 70% of those children are from working families. We believe that every family, no matter how complex their situation, should be shown kindness and support at the time they need it most.



Statement of Public Benefit

Our service benefits children of families who, for various reasons, do not have access to the basic essentials that every child deserves. We deliver bundles to various referral partners around the county of Shropshire. In delivering our services we further benefit the public, as follows:

Families: Providing essentials has a significant impact on the family, the service helps keeps babies and young children clothed, clean and safe. This not only helps to remove financial pressure, but also alleviate the emotional stress by providing the basic provisions.

Wider community: The local community are able to donate their pre-loved baby items which not only helps the family who are receiving those items but it also reduces landfill waste and helps the environmental impact.

Referral partners: Professionals now have a service within the county they can use after a visit to a family they know need the basics.



Due to the kind support of fundraisers and donors, Little Stars is able to contribute and supplement the bundles with brand new equipment needed that cannot be donated as pre-loved. Voluntary income enables Little Stars to continue the work and develop the service. In defining our charitable programme, we have regard for the Charity Commissions general guidance on public benefit.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a Charitable Incorporation Organisation ("CIO") which was registered with the Charity Commission on 3rd September 2020 and is governed by a constitution as a Foundation CIO.

Methods used to recruit and appoint new trustees

New Trustees are recruited openly in line with Little Stars Baby Bank's Trustee Recruitment Policy. Trustees receive a full induction to the charity and a set of key documents, to enable them to gain the required information to fulfil their role.

An annual skills analysis ensures the Trustees offer a suitable range of knowledge and skills to support the charity. Where a skills gap is identified we aim to seek Trustees to bridge this gap.

The Board will aim to adhere to the principles of the Charity Governance Code for Small Charities. This is an ongoing process, and we are working towards fulfilling all aspects of the code.



Objectives

The general aims and objectives of Little Stars are to support families living and working within Shropshire by:

- Working alongside various organisations to provide relief of financial hardship for families who cannot afford the essential baby/children items needed.
- Provide quality items which not only helps the family receiving them but also the environment impact.
- Giving help to pregnant women with essentials needed after giving birth.

Activities

Our Bundles

We provide essential items for every stage of childhood as our service encompasses a baby bank, tots to teen support, and a school uniform bank. We take pre-loved items generously donated by the community and compile unique bundles, which are supplemented with new equipment and basic hygiene products that are then gifted to the families referred to us. Our recently launched shop provides an opportunity for older children and pregnant ladies to browse and select their own clothing that they have been referred to us for. This fosters greater independence and provides them a dignified and personalised shopping experience.



Our Partnerships

Since 2020 we have built strong partnerships with those working with the most vulnerable in our county, this has led to a deeper understanding of our county and the needs of local communities.

Our support extends beyond poverty alleviation, reaching children fleeing domestic abuse, those removed from their homes due to neglect, and newly arrived refugees. As we understand that not everyone would like to ask for help when they need it, our Community hub work offers parents and carers the opportunity to discreetly receive our support through access to essential toiletries for themselves and their children, free of charge.

Achievements and Performance

During 2024 we **helped 1333 children** be provided with the childhood essentials they needed.

57 pregnant women with the toiletries they all deserve after giving birth as well as maternity wear.

246 adults with essential toiletries.

Our core services have experienced significant increase in demand year-on-year:

- 2021-2022: 59% increase
- 2022-2023: 93% increase
- 2023-2024: 176% increase (the largest increase)

This demonstrates a consistent upward trend and indicates the significant need for our charity.

Our community hub work has been vital within the areas we support as offers parents and carers the opportunity to discreetly receive our support through access to essential toiletries for themselves and their children, free of charge. We have also used these hubs for School Uniform pop up events.

This year thanks to National Lottery Cost of Living funding we were able to create a new role within the Little Stars team for a Marketing and Fundraising Co-Ordinator. Chantal joined the Little Stars team in January 2024 and over the course of the year was able to increase our social followers, create a newsletter keeping our supporters informed and communicate regularly the work of our Charity. This has proven a vital role for the growth of Little Stars, as our supporters increased from the public to corporate support, which has helped the visibility of the important work we do.





The opening of Little Stars Shop. A place that not only offers affordable clothing options but also serves as a vital hub for the community. With a focus on sustainability and community support, the store sells excess stock that we cannot utilise for our core services, ensuring that these items find new homes while contributing to our mission. The shop **fulfils three goals.**

Firstly, offers a welcoming space for those who have been referred to us and giving them the opportunity to browse and choose the clothing themselves. This fosters greater independence and provides them a dignified and personalised shopping experience.

Secondly, it allows us to find new homes for wonderful items that wouldn't fit into our standard bundles, this gives families and pregnant women seeking good quality, affordable clothing for their children and themselves a fantastic option.



Lastly, every purchase directly supports Little Stars' mission, creating a vital revenue stream ensuring we can continue providing essential items to families in need of our support across Shropshire. This wouldn't have been possible without the incredible support of The Darwin centre team.

Kevin Lockwood, Centre Manager of The Darwin, said, *"Since I met the team at Little Stars through my involvement in the Shrewsbury Business Chamber, the end goal has always been to try and help them secure a presence and shop within The Darwin. This new store will be an important resource for our community to find affordable and nearly new items for themselves and family, while raising funds for an incredible cause."*

Funding from the National Lottery enabled us to employ a shop manager and we welcomed Mel to the team in November 2024. Mel has already been making a positive impact since starting her role.



Our Corporate Partnerships

Aico's continued support of the charity was recognised at the Better Society Awards 2024 winning the award for Partnership with a local charity. This moment recognised how important relationships between Corporates and Charity's are and how it can help the Charity grow.



Start Tech are a valued corporate supporter. They not only provide us with our cyber security package and assist us with all our IT needs, they also raise our profile, come to our events and even have a Tuck Shop where all money is donated to Little Stars.



Liquid Fleet raised £5000 for Little Stars by hosting a raffle with some incredible prizes and attended ClubFest to help raise awareness of the charity.



Claremont Social Tap: In September Claremont Social Tap donated £2000 to Little Stars from their community funds.

Corporate Volunteers - We have had more corporate volunteers providing support and helping us sort all the wonderful donations we receive. Over the year they gave us 168 hours of time, thank you to WSP, Aico, Start Tech, Marches Academy Trust and Practice Plan.



Our School Partnerships

St Winefrides Our partnership with St. Winefride's School had a brilliant first year. It began with an Easter collection of essential baby items, pre-loved clothing, and toys, then they joined in our first-ever Wear Stars 4 Little Stars day. The Headteacher and some of the parents also supported us by attending our Halloween Ball, and in December the school participated with a Reverse Advent Calendar to support our Santa's Little Stars campaign. We're looking forward to continuing and growing this partnership in the year ahead.



Birchfield Children at Birchfield School raised £60 for Little Stars by hosting a festive Hot Chocolate Stand. The pupils chose to support a children's charity, showing inspiring kindness and community spirit at just 4 and 5 years old.

Katie's Kids Nursery

Katie's Kids Nursery supported Little Stars at both Easter and Christmas, donating Easter eggs and treat bags, and later raising an incredible £265 through their Christmas party fundraising. The funds helped us purchase essential items like highchairs, stair gates, developmental toys, and blankets—already making a real difference for families across Shropshire.

West Felton

West Felton CE School and Nursery held a raffle during the Make Music Day in June and donated £80 to Little Stars.



2024 Fundraisers

Musical Bingo, our signature event saw new faces welcomed to our fundraiser enjoying an unforgettable evening of spontaneous a cappella performances and lots of fun and laughter. All of this fun raised an incredible **£1384.70**.



International Womens Day Regular supporter of the charity Finn, held a walk on International womens day to raise money for Little Stars. This is the third year Finn has raised money, we couldn't be more grateful for her support.



2024 Fundraisers

The Crafternoon Club ran a wonderful Easter Bunny Hunt in Bridgnorth and raised an amazing £200.26 for Little Stars. Their creative efforts and generous support made a real difference, and we were delighted to meet with them to say thank you in person.



Our first-ever **"Wear Stars 4 Little Stars"** fundraiser took place on the 28th June. We created this event as a unique and fun way to bring awareness to our cause while raising funds to help us continue our vital work supporting children and families across Shropshire.

People donned themed clothing and accessories and for the first event we raised **£357**



2024 Fundraisers

Halloween Ball our inaugural ball sponsored by **Aico** and **Start Tech**

The evening featured a delicious three-course meal with a Halloween twist! Entertainment was at the heart of the night, with a live band and DJ keeping the dance floor buzzing. Our talented tarot and palm readers added a mystical touch, staying busy all evening with guests eager to hear their fortunes. It was a fantastic blend of fun and mystery, with something for everyone to enjoy.



The evening raised the profile for Little Stars and raised £6000.

Santa's Little Stars 2024

The Darwin Centre once again supported us with having donation drop off points within the centre during all of November but this year we were able to host our Christmas Hub in the Centre which made it extra special.



The volunteers came out in force and over two days we had volunteers from WSP, Shrewsbury Colleges Group, Aico, Lanyon Bowdler, TCA, PWC, and BT. Between them they gave 222 hours of volunteer time and wrapped over 2000 gifts.

The gifts were generously donated by the general public during November but also on the day when they saw what we were doing and went and brought gifts to donate. We also had multiple companies donate, huge thank you to Croud, PipeKit, Komplex Group, Samuel Wood, Aico, Severnfields medical practice, MOT McDonalds, Primark and Practice Plan.

We also received generous donations from two local businesses in December, Different Dog, which donated £140.94 and Unicorn Fire and Safety which donated £262 towards our Christmas Campaign.



We supported 584 children and each of them received multiple gifts each.

Theatre Severn once again supported us and we were able to be at the end of three pantomime shows to collect money for Little Stars, the public were extremely generous and we raised £635 across the three shows.



Our Impact

We work closely with our referral partners to gather feedback and case studies so that we can understand the impact our work. It also helps us to identify areas where we can make changes and improve the services we offer.

“The overall impact this could have had on the mental health of that family would have been detriment to their wellbeing and that of the child at that time. The importance of organisation's such as Little Stars means the difference between someone developing heightened anxiety and depression regarding their financial situation, to seeing a light at the end of the tunnel and being able to ensure their infant is provided for in the most financially challenging of times.” Perinatal Nurse



“The case involved police removing four children under 7 from their home as a matter of urgency. There was very little in the home in the way of belongings or clothes for the children so they had nothing with them, and you were able to provide not only clothes, nappies and toiletries for all of them, but also little gifts that I know they all loved to receive!

To be able to phone you up in this crisis, and have the items delivered to us in less than 4 hours was amazing, and I know that all of the team who have worked with this family today are so appreciative of the hard work you must have gone to in order to provide such personalised packages for these children. Please know that it has made a difference to these children during a time of crisis for them.” Social Worker

‘WITHOUT THE SERVICE THE MOST AT-RISK MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY WOULD BE LEFT WITHOUT THE MOST BASIC ITEMS NEEDED TO ENSURE THEIR CHILDREN ARE CLOTHED AND HAVE APPROPRIATE ITEMS TO ENSURE THEY ARE SAFE AND CAN THRIVE.’ SOCIAL WORKER, SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL.

Acknowledgments

Little Stars have been delighted with the support of so many wonderful families, individuals, and organisations.

Thank you to the families and individuals who donate their pre-loved baby and children clothing for Little Stars to pass onto other families in need of a helping hand.

Thank you to all the individuals who have donated money to Little Stars and to Morrisons customers who buy the pick-up packs that keep us stocked up with nappies, wipes and toiletries.

Our Funders

At the beginning of the year we received a generous grant of **£4,000 from the Axis Foundation** to strengthen our Community Hubs Project. This funding is specifically allocated to ensure a year's supply of essential baby items like nappies, wipes, and toiletries. Reflecting on the year, this funding was critical for those supplies after we saw a decrease in donations of the essential items over the course of the year, this funding ensured we could still supply families with the basic essentials.

Millichope Foundation continue their yearly support and it was wonderful to invite Val to the newly opened shop, showing them the growth of the charity and what their support means to us at Little Stars.

Tesco Community Grant – Stronger Starts campaign

Little Stars extends sincere appreciation to Tesco and their customers for their support. The £1000 played a crucial role in our mission to provide essential support to families in need.

We were awarded a **£5,000 grant from The Haberdashers' Company**, which helped us support families in Telford and Wrekin and Albrighton. This funding really helped us as we have seen an increase in support needed and use of our service within that part of the county.

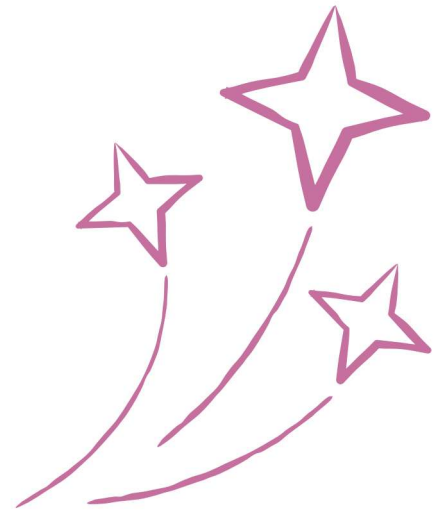
A **£500 grant from the Neighbourly Spring Fund 2024**, was a joint initiative with Aldi aimed at providing emergency support to families in need. This timely funding we were able to direct towards our baby bank and community hub services, as we were dealing with a surge in requests for assistance.

We were delighted to have been awarded a **£2,000 grant from the Albert Hunt Trust**.

Future plans

As we look toward the new financial year our focus will be:

- Continue our core service and support as many children as possible in need of childhood essentials.
- Develop our fundraising strategy to have a calendar of events, which we will build on year on year.
- Develop our corporate partners and introduce our new corporate pack. This includes in-kind support services.
- Attend more events to promote our work and to gain more support for our cause.
- Grow the Trustee board for our next stage of growth and building a sustainable charity for years to come.
- We are committed to continuing the growth of our Community Shop, building on our first year's experience and deep understanding of where we can improve. Improving accessibility for families with varying schedules which will make it easier for referral agencies to arrange appointments providing more opportunity for older children and pregnant ladies to browse and select their own clothing that they have been referred to us for .
- Continue to build our volunteer base, with opportunities for stock sorters and shop helpers.



Financial review and reserves policy

The Charity has had another successful year, generating income of £86,995. Expenditure for the year was £91,886, leaving £64,002 in monetary funds carried forward. £30,828 of this is restricted funding, as set out on page 18.

The trustees agree to hold free reserves in the region of **£26,000**. This is to ensure that there is sufficient funds to cover the running costs of the charity for 3 months. Trustees have taken possible risks into account and considered the loss of gifted storage space.

The Trustees agree to continuously monitor this as the charity grows and develops to ensure the amount held in reserves mirrors the level of activity.

The free reserves of the Charity at the year end, calculated as unrestricted funds less fixed assets and designated funds, were £29,672.



Basis of Accounting

The accounts of the charity have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis in accordance with charity regulations.

This report was approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by Ian Groves.

Signed by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Groves', written over a white background.

Ian Groves – Chair Trustee
25 September 2025

Little Stars Baby Bank
Independent Examiners Report for the year ended 31 December 2024

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 17 to 18.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiners Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act')

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's statement

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

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

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

C. L. Moelwyn-Williams

Mrs C L Moelwyn-Williams BSc FCA

TCA (Shrewsbury) LLP
Third Floor
21 St Mary's Street
Shrewsbury
Shropshire
SY1 1ED

Date - *2nd October 2025*

Little Stars Baby Bank
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024
Receipts and payments account

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Grants	2,700	47,920	50,620	43,657
Donations and fundraising income	21,386	-	21,386	29,539
Sale of Van	-	-	-	1,481
Bank Interest received	140	-	140	63
Halloween ball income	9,720	-	9,720	-
Shop Sales income	5,129	-	5,129	-
Total Receipts	39,075	47,920	86,995	74,740
Payments				
<i>Charitable activities</i>				
Purchases for service users	1,380	5,664	7,044	2,992
<i>Costs of fundraising</i>				
Fundraising events and promotion	970	-	970	1,794
Halloween Ball	7,300	-	7,300	-
<i>Support costs</i>				
Wages and Salaries	22,589	42,831	65,420	40,721
Employers National Insurance	-	-	-	894
Employers Pension Contributions	1,626	49	1,675	884
Accountancy	1,992	-	1,992	618
Consultancy	90	-	90	4,965
Insurance	166	428	594	460
Marketing	854	-	854	1,206
Office admin (inc'g telephone)	474	-	474	61
Bank charges	80	18	98	78
Rent and storage costs	-	-	-	1,838
IT costs & Website	1,629	-	1,629	8,866
Vehicle costs	1,023	-	1,023	1,113
Training	339	-	339	528
Sundry	291	-	291	244
Shop Expenditure	-	2,093	2,093	-
Total Payments	40,803	51,083	91,886	67,262
Net (Payments)/Receipts - unrestricted funds	(1,728)	(3,163)	(4,891)	7,478
Cash and bank balances brought forward	34,902	33,991	68,893	61,415
Cash and bank balances carried forward	33,174	30,828	64,002	68,893

Little Stars Baby Bank
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024
Statement of funds

	2024 £	2023 £
Monetary assets		
Current account	58,364	68,818
HSBC account	5,568	-
Paypal account	70	75
	<u>64,002</u>	<u>68,893</u>

Funds	Balance at 1st January 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31st December 2024
Unrestricted Funds	34,902	35,417	(40,647)	-	29,672
Designated Funds Santa's Little Stars	-	3,658	(156)	-	3,502
Restricted Funds					
Shop	-	22,000	(2,691)	-	19,309
Other restricted fund - Baby Bank Service	5,043	7,100	(3,188)	-	8,955
Salaries Fund	6,517	-	(6,517)	-	-
The National Lottery Community Fund	18,431	13,820	(32,251)	-	-
Community Hubs	4,000	1,000	(2,436)	-	2,564
Garfield Weston	-	4,000	(4,000)	-	-
	<u>33,991</u>	<u>47,920</u>	<u>(51,083)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,828</u>
	<u>68,893</u>	<u>86,995</u>	<u>(91,886)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>64,002</u>

The Designated Fund Santa's Little Stars is for our Christmas campaign. In this campaign, people donate money instead of buying a gift, and we use those funds to purchase gifts for children when our donations fall short.

The Other restricted fund relates to restricted funding provided by The Postcode Lottery, Tesco and The National Lottery to be used for the baby bank service.

The Salaries Fund relates to restricted funding provided by The Postcode Lottery, Tesco and The National Lottery to be used for wages and salaries.

The National Lottery Community Fund relates to project work until the end of March 2024. This includes salaries, overheads and volunteer costs.

Community Hubs Fund -This fund relates to our community hubs project, where we are out in communities, helping families with the essential nappies, wipes and toiletries for children and adults, which they can access whilst they are having support from family practitioners and the Early Help teams.

The Shop fund relates to funding for a Shop Manager role for 12 months and Shop project.

The Garfield Weston funds were restricted to cover our core costs. These funds were used specifically to pay for two part-time salaries and to purchase new items that are used to supplement our pre-loved bundles.