

Chris Westwood Charity
For Children with Physical Disabilities



Bridle Path off Bromwich Lane, Pedmore

Progress Report as at 31st December 2020

What Do We Do?

Background

The Charity was founded on the 19th November 2003, specifically to help children and young people with physical disabilities, in Stourbridge and the surrounding areas, which for practical reasons we defined as being within a 50 mile radius of Stourbridge. The Charity Commission registered number is 1101230. The stated aim is: *“The provision of financial assistance, at the discretion of the Trustees, to provide the relief of physically handicapped children. This includes improvement to the quality of life by the provision of financial or other assistance, or any other purpose the Trustees deem to be in accordance with the stated aim”*.

How we can help

We can provide the funding, or balance of funding, required for the purchase of mobility/sensory/vision equipment when the NHS Trusts/Families are unable to provide support. We aim to respond within 24 to 48 hours as we consider a rapid response is essential when children have degenerative or life limiting conditions. We operate with zero administration costs so that every penny donated goes to help those the donor intended to support. Typically we fund:

- Special exercise equipment, special exercise tricycles, walkers, and standing frames, to assist in regaining and maintaining mobility
- Wheelchairs, special mobility chairs, special car seats and safety harnesses, special seating, special beds, support and lifting equipment, vision equipment and sensory room equipment, to improve the quality of life.

How we assess Grant Applications

Following an initial approach, we request the submission of a detailed grant application. In order to assess the position, we typically require the following:

- Background and reason for the request
- Supporting information from a suitable professional person detailing the medical position and the advantages of the proposed equipment purchase
- A detailed quotation, following assessment by the supplier’s competent person
- Details of any funding already raised, any other sources of funding, and a brief description of the financial position of the family

Provided that we are assured that our help will be for those in real need, the application is in accordance with our grant criteria, and we have the funding available, it will be considered for approval. Grants are funded either by a cheque or online payment to the supplier, to ensure that the funds are only used for the intended purpose. All remaining order and delivery arrangements are then left to the applicant, so that we are not involved in any administration costs.



www.chriswestwoodcharity.co.uk

Progress in 2020

A Year of major disruption caused by the COVID 19 Pandemic:

The year started with significant activity in Q1, then almost completely stopped for a short period as the first Lockdown was introduced. After a few weeks, activity picked up again as some NHS staff worked from home, often completing applications using assessments carried out earlier. A little later we saw an increasing number of new assessments and subsequent applications as new ways of working to minimise COVID risk were developed.

By Q4, concerns over a second wave required further restrictions, and the introduction of tiered lockdowns. Despite this, activity was particularly high (as is usual for the final Quarter), so that by the year end we had completed 76 grants totalling £83,253.19, albeit at the expense of having to use part of the reserves carried forward from 2019.

At the end of October we reached another milestone of £900,000 granted with zero administration costs since we started, completing the year at £919,801 and possibly within reach of our next major target of £1 million raised and granted by the end of 2021.

Fundraising Events and Collections:

Trying to raise over £100,000/year does present a real challenge, but the need is clearly there, and we greatly welcome any and all donations. During 2020 we managed to raise £76,664.43, despite the pandemic problems, so we start 2021 with a smaller reserve brought forward, and that large challenge once again.

Fundraising was a major problem in 2020 as many groups who support us were unable to meet so all of those regular collections which are vital to us were lost. Events were also minimal due to the need to be COVID secure, and this particularly affected a number of small events and collections as Christmas approached, so our income figure was significantly down on what had been anticipated.

As always, our supporters were a great help, and through their efforts, and some support from Charitable Foundations, we once again managed to make it through the year, complete the work that we wished to do and leave a small reserve to start 2021.

Our policy is to always use all funds donated for the purpose intended, hence we aim to operate with zero costs, and we do not try to maintain any specific reserve figure. If help is requested, approved and we have the funds, we always aim to respond as quickly as possible.

We can only hope that fundraising becomes a little easier in 2021, and that we might then be able to reach £1 million raised and granted (at no cost) at some point before year end.



Some Examples of Equipment Funded (1)

Special Exercise Trikes – including parental control by rear wheel steering and hand propelled. *(These are usually proposed to try to build leg and trunk strength, improve co-ordination and help mobility).*



Each trike is assessed by the supplier for the specific user, with additional fittings tailored to the special needs of the child. In the two photos at the top of the page the trikes have been built with a parental control bar at the back, to assist with steering and overall control.

Some Examples of Equipment Funded (2)

Special Car Seats – (for safe transport)

This is a Hernik IPAI NXT Car Seat which costs approx £2,500.00 before our discount, provides a very high level of support. Seats typically range from around £600.00 to £2,500.00.



Special Support Seating - *Covers a wide range of seating systems to hold a child safely and securely in comfort with the correct postural support. This system provides head control as well as body support.*



Contributions to Larger Projects for Special Schools – *in this case for special playground equipment where 90% of the children are wheelchair users.*



Details of a few more of the Grants Made in 2020

Age (Yrs)	Grant (£)	Details
3.75	647.18	She has a diagnosis of Smiths Magenis Syndrome, and presents with delayed speech, language, and motor skills, challenging behaviour and a sleep disorder. She escapes from her car seat and presents a hazard when being transported. A new secure and comfortable car seat was required for her, which we agreed to fully fund.
14.5	1,258.00	Leber's Congenital Amaurosis, other sight problems, and registered blind. We have helped before, but she urgently required further computer equipment for her school work. Family prepared to contribute but supplier would only take payment from a Charity if total amount paid. Family co-funded (£558.00) and the Charity then added the balance of £700.00 and paid the full purchase cost.
5	1,292.45	She has a diagnosis of a very rare genetic condition – Bosch Boonstra Schaaf Optic Atrophy Syndrome, which exhibits as a range of medical problems, vision impairment, and development delay. She has weak muscle tone and poor balance, and uses a wheelchair for any distance movement. The proposal was to fund a special exercise trike to help to develop her muscles and coordination, to improve her general mobility.
10	685.19	He has a diagnosis of Charcot – Marie Tooth Syndrome, resulting in weakness in his limbs, and also exhibits development delay and mobility problems. He has a wheelchair which he struggles to push, and uses a walker when possible. The request was for a second walker for home use to enable him to gain maximum exercise benefit as transport of his walker from school presented problems due to its size. We agreed to fully fund.
6	1,548.70	She has a diagnosis of Cri Du Chat Syndrome, which exhibits with global development delay, mobility problems (she is not independently mobile), motor skills, feeding problems, and weak muscles. The proposal was to fund a special exercise trike to try to improve her general health, muscle strength, coordination and mobility, and we agreed to fund the full discounted cost.
8 & 2	1,840.00	Both have a diagnosis of WOREE Syndrome which is a severe form of epilepsy characterized by absence of language development, lack of ability to walk, early onset drug resistant seizures, sight problems and a prognosis of a high likelihood of premature death. They already have a lot of specialised equipment at home including a fixed ceiling track hoist in the bedroom. However, as they grow, there are increasing needs for hoist assistance all over the house, and funding for a foldable, easy to move, portable hoist was requested, which we agreed to fully fund.

The Organisation

We continue to run the organisation with four Trustees, who cover all the work necessary, and contribute any minor incidental expenses incurred, so that the Charity can operate with zero administration costs.

We are all in regular Email, Telephone and Zoom contact, which, as a small group, enables us to give a fast response to grant application requests that are in accordance with our grant criteria. We hold two formal meetings a year, where we complete a full six monthly review of the organisation, and we quickly assemble for any additional meetings, as necessary.

It is our intention to continue to operate with a fast response, and with zero administration costs to both meet the needs of those who apply to us for help, and the expectations for funding use of those who so kindly support us.

The Trustees:



Chris Westwood MBE – Chairman (*and also a Trustee of the Anthony and Gwendoline Wylde Memorial Charity.*)

Dr Janine Barnes MBE – Medical Adviser

Graham Wood – Treasurer

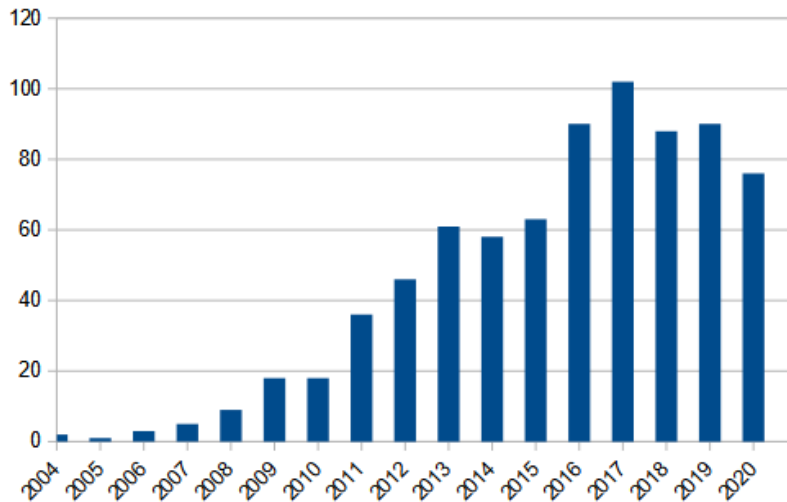
Lewis Barnes – Trustee (*and also Chair of the Somerville Foundation from January 2020*)



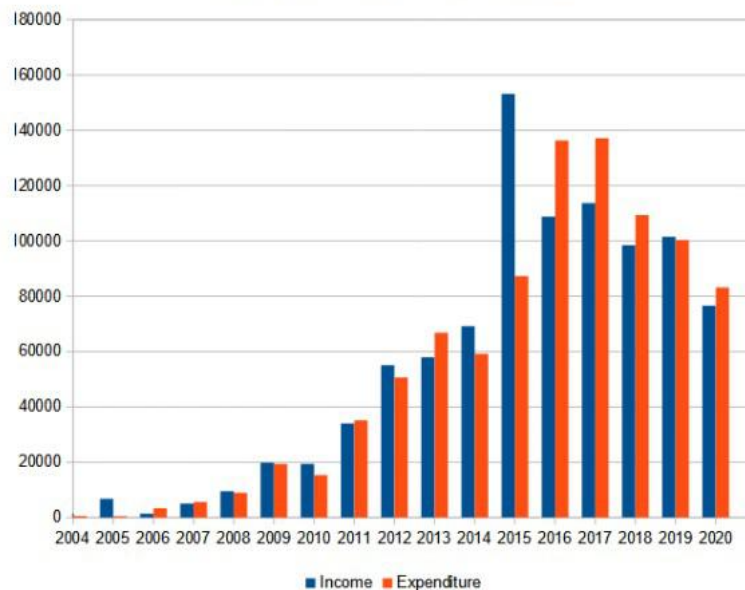
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Funds Raised and Grants Made to Dec 31st 2020

Number of Grants Made each Year



Annual Income (£) vs Grants Made (£)



A year where progress was shaped by the impact of the COVID 19 Pandemic. A busy start, then a quiet spell during the first part of the first lockdown, followed by a recovery as COVID safe methods were found to carry out equipment assessments. Funding was also greatly affected as few events could be held, and many collections were not possible, which made funding the year a real challenge.

Our Accounts

Reserves held as a Cash Balance and brought forward at 31.12.19: £19,177.31

Income:

Fundraising Events 8,101.67

Donation Income

Personal Donations – Direct 8,271.00

Online Donations via Everyclick 50.00

Standing Orders 4,983.00

Collection Boxes (All Sources) 326.00

Company Donations 1,930.00

Grants from Charitable Foundations 46,520.00 62,080.00

Legacies and Collections

Funeral Collections 150.00

Other Income

Gift Aid: (April 2017 to April 2018 – claimed directly from HMRC) 4,831.14

Interest on Bank Balances 17.71

Collections, Purchase Commissions, & Other Income 567.91

Sale of Donated Items 358.00

Co-Fund payment from another local charity 558.00 6,332.76

Total Income: £76,664.43

Expenditure:

Grants made during 2020 76 in Total 83,253.19

Other expenditure/costs/overheads nil

Total Expenditure: £83,253.19

Excess of Expenditure over Income -6,588.76

Leaving a Reserve Cash Balance to be Carried Forward at 31.12.20 of: £12,588.55

The Extent of Grant Help Requested

Over the years we have analysed the grants that we make, and we find that there is a consistent pattern. The size of grant that we make does vary, but mindful of the need to spread our limited funds as widely as possible, we try to:

- Firstly, we look for any fundraising that might have occurred, which would reduce the total amount needed from the Charity for the purchase to proceed.
- Secondly, whether or not we can claim VAT Exemption (which is applicable in most cases on completion of the relevant paperwork) and is a very useful cost saving. This is the reason we ask for medical details of the applicant so that we can check if the application is exempt.
- Thirdly, although we take no part in specifying the supplier, where equipment is purchased regularly, we look to both negotiate discounts, and improve those discounts when/if there are further increases in business.
- Finally, we fund the balance then required to proceed, which is often the full cost of purchase, but for very large requests, we try to help with co-funding with other charities to spread our limited funds further.

We monitor the size of the grants made, and we classify them as either “Small” - less than £1,000, or “Large” for those over £1,000.

The results over the years tend to be fairly consistent with a similar percentage of “Small” grants which shows that small sums (typically around £500 on average) directed to exactly where they are needed, do have a significant effect in helping a family in many cases.

Year	No. of Small Grants	Total Cost of Small Grants (£)	No. of Grants overall	Total Granted (£)	Av. Size of all Grants Made (£)	% Small Grant Expenditure of Total Granted	% Number of Small Grants compared to all Grants made
2017	52	28,550	102	137,187	1,345	20.8	51.0
2018	44	24,406	88	109,438	1,244	22.3	50.0
2019	49	26,160	90	100,428	1,116	26.0	54.4
2020	41	21,582	76	83,253	1,095	25.9	53.9

As can be seen from the figures above, on average just over 50% of the total grants made each year are for less than £1,000, and this activity typically consumes around 25% of our expenditure, showing the importance of “Small” targeted grants to help a family. Typically also, the average grant size, of all the grants made in a year, has been relatively consistent, just falling back a little as the percentage of “Small” grants has increased.



Why is our charitable funding needed?

While the NHS and other Government organisations will provide a number of items of equipment for disabled children, with the inevitable funding constraints there are restrictions on the extent of help available, and with seemingly ever increasing demands on the system, the rules regarding what will be supplied are constantly tightening. The resultant unfunded need leads to requests for help, either directly from families, or via relevant professionals such as the Paediatric/Occupational Therapists working in the Children with Special Needs Departments of the local NHS Trusts, and from the Special Schools where constant tightening of budgets has led to increasing requests for help.

Typically, the equipment funded falls into these general categories:

- **Exercise:** Specifically to develop the necessary muscles and coordination to either improve independence in daily activities, or to slow a deterioration in current mobility. Typical equipment funded includes special exercise trikes, walkers, standing frames etc.
- **Special Seating:** For school or home use, to provide the correct postural support, and enable a child to fully participate in activities in either location.
- **Comfort:** Many of the cases helped involve severe mobility problems, often wheelchair bound, with the need to periodically change position, provide the correct postural support, and relieve pressure points. Equipment funded includes special comfortable support chairs, Acheeva beds, and special support seating systems.
- **Health and safety:** Special car seats to provide the support a child may need, and to hold them securely, as certain children would otherwise release themselves from their car seat and endanger driver safety. Also, any form of equipment specifically to hold a child safely and provide the correct postural support, as well as hoists and equipment to help with daily living needs.
- **Sensory:** We receive a number of requests for equipment to help to calm and control a range of behavioural problems, and provide quiet and safe areas.
- **Sleep:** Requests usually involve equipment specifically to hold a child in the correct position to avoid hip dislocations, and all types of special beds eg. profile beds, high sided cot beds and safety sleepers to provide the correct environment for sleep.
- **Vision:** All types of vision equipment to help registered blind children achieve their potential when the Vision Impairment Service is unable to obtain the necessary funding for the equipment required. We receive a number of requests from the Dudley Vision Impairment Service for a wide range of computer based equipment.

How Donations can be made to us

In addition to donations by cash or cheque, may we suggest consideration of the following:

1. Standing Orders

Any amount from £2/month upwards is of great value to us, and a Standing Order Mandate can either be completed online from your Bank account (our Bank account details are below), or a paper copy of the required Bank Mandate is available on the [Forms](#) page of our website, and has also been reproduced at the end of this brochure. If you complete a paper copy of the Standing Order Mandate, could you please send this directly to your Bank, so that we never see any of your Bank details.

2. Online Donations to our Bank Account

Our nominated Bank Account details for One-Off online or regular donations direct to us are:

HSBC Bank, Sort Code **40-43-17**
Account Number **72275813**

Could you please use your name as the payment reference, so that we can track the payments into our account, and claim Gift Aid, where appropriate (please could you complete a Gift Aid form if you have not already done so, it enables us to claim 25p for every £1 donated).

3. Online Donations: Everyclick/ Give as You Live/ Amazon Smile/ Easyfundraising

Everyclick:

There is an [Everyclick Donation](#) button on the [Donations](#) page of the Chris Westwood Charity website, allowing individual donations to be made online, and access can also be gained to our Everyclick webpage via www.everyclick.com/chriswestwoodcharity/info.

(Anyone kindly wishing to set up a sponsorship page is encouraged to use the Everyclick facility, as we are registered with them, and there are no charges for a new sponsorship page).

Give as You Live:

You can also raise funds through [Give as You live](#) for any charity you wish to nominate, at no extra cost. Please see the [Give as You Live](#) webpage on our website for details of contributions that can be gained at no cost by using either a **Store card**, or making **online purchases**. Access to the Give as You Live website is by: <https://giveasyoulive.com>

Amazon Smile:

The Charity is also registered on [Amazon Smile](#) so that we can be nominated to receive your commission payments from purchases made using **Amazon**. Once you have registered your



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How Donations can be made to us (2)

Amazon Smile (continued):

chosen charity (which you can change at any time) 0.5% of the purchase cost is donated by Amazon to the Charity chosen, at no cost to the purchaser.

Please use www.smile.amazon.co.uk register your charity choice and then once done, just enter Amazon via this link and shop in the normal way. You can change your charity choice at any time.

Easyfundraising:

We are also registered with this shopping commission website, which is a competitor of *Give as You Live*, and where you can again select a charity to receive a commission payment on your purchase, at no additional cost to you. You can login to the website, and join at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>

Depending on the retailer, there are various percentages and from time to time, additional bonus donations offered.

4. Recycle4Charity

This website: <https://recycle4charity.co.uk> collects and recycles used printer ink cartridges, and provided you have registered and nominated your chosen charity, the charity (hopefully us) then receives at least £1.00 for each printer ink cartridge returned, which is on their acceptance list (this requires cartridges where a printed circuit board is visible on the side the cartridge plugs into the printer). The full acceptance list is available on the Recycle4Charity website.

Freepost return labels for your chosen charity can be downloaded after registration.

5. Gift Aid

You can increase the effectiveness of your donation by completion of a Gift Aid declaration form, (copy available at the end of this brochure).

If the third option box on the form is ticked, that will then cover all donations past, present and future. Provided you are a UK tax payer, the Charity will receive an additional 25p for every £1 donated, which we claim annually from HMRC.

Please return any completed forms directly to The Chris Westwood Charity (address on the form).



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Gift Aid Declaration

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The Chris Westwood Charity for Children with Physical Disabilities.

Please Treat

- The enclosed gift of £_____ as a Gift Aid Donation; OR
- All gifts of money that I make today, and in the future, as Gift Aid Donations; OR
- All gifts of money that I have made in the past 4 years, and all future gifts of money that I make from the date of this declaration, as Gift Aid Donations.

✓ Please tick the appropriate box above.

In order for us to claim Gift Aid, you must be paying an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the Charity will claim from HMRC on your Gift Aid donation. Currently, we are able to claim 25p for every £1 of eligible donations.

Donor's Details

Title _____ Full Name _____

Home Address _____

Postcode _____ Date _____

Signature _____

Please notify the Charity if you:

1. Wish to cancel this declaration
2. Change any of the Donor details
3. No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

Please send the completed form to: FAO Chris Westwood, Chris Westwood Charity for Children with Physical Disabilities, PO Box 7131, STOURBRIDGE, DY8 9FP.

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

To the Manager	
Name of Bank	
Address	
Post Code	

Please pay: **HSBC Bank, 114 High Street, Stourbridge, West Midlands. DY8 1DZ**

For the credit of: **Chris Westwood Charity for Children with Physical Disability**
Sort Code: **40-43-17**
Account Number: **72275813**

The sum of: (in words) _____ Pounds (£) _____
On the _____ (day) _____ (month) _____ (year)
And thereafter every month until further notice, and debit my account accordingly.

Name of account holder to be debited:
Account Number:
Sort Code:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

When completed, will you please pass this form directly to your Bank.


If you are a UK tax payer, and pay an amount of Income Tax, and/or Capital Gains Tax, at least equal to the tax that can be claimed on your donation, you can increase the value of your gift by using Gift Aid. This enables the Charity to reclaim the tax, which currently increases the value of your gift by 25p for every £1 donated.

*If you would like to help, will you please complete a Gift Aid form, and return it to:
The Chris Westwood Charity for Children with Physical Disabilities, PO Box 7131,
STOURBRIDGE, DY8 9FP*

The Charity would like to thank Holmdale Print & Mail who kindly printed and supplied this booklet at no cost to the Charity. Their gift is greatly appreciated.

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If you would like to contact us:

**For the attention of Chris Westwood,
Chris Westwood Charity for Children with Physical Disabilities,
PO Box 7131,
STOURBRIDGE,
DY8 9FP**

***Email:* chriswestwoodcharity@gmail.com**

***Tel:* 07968 008098**



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