

# **Chris Westwood Charity for Children with Physical Disabilities.**

## **Update Report - First Quarter 2026**

### **Progress in 2025:**

The Charity completed 73 Grants totalling £95,391.71 during 2025 and completed the year with Reserves increasing slightly to £4,602.46. Over the last 10 years, the Charity has averaged £104,371.70/year in grants, with the total at the end of 2025 reaching £1,400,709 after helping 1,184 cases.

### **Progress in Q1 2026:**

Q1 was always going to prove challenging as the timing of several fundraising events was going to be a little later in the year than in 2025. We did manage to hold a Quiz Night at Stourbridge Lawn Tennis and Squash Club in early January which raised £711.00, and the Gentleman's Captain at Stourbridge Golf Club nominated us as his chosen charity for his two year term of office (he is already a regular supporter of our work), which with other support enabled us to complete 10 grants at a cost of £13,079.01, before we reduced our reserves to a level where we needed to start a Waiting list. That list now has 10 grants we would like to approve, pending funding being available, at a cost of £12,718.12, and these are included at the end of the *Grants Made* List below. With our Gift Aid claim due to be submitted on 6<sup>th</sup> April and the income from several fundraising events expected, we hope shortly to be able to make rapid progress in reducing the Waiting List. There are, however, several grant applications we know are in preparation so funding in Q2 is once again likely to prove challenging.

Some of the pending grants on the Waiting list are "Small" ie less than £1,000.00 and result from our work tending to fall between 50% Small grants and 50% Large Grants (ie over £1,000.00) during a full year's operation. We believe that this shows the importance of the smaller targeted grants to help families, which can be very effective.

### **Fundraising:**

Our regular monthly donors have been a great help to us in providing around 8% of our baseload funding requirement, but unfortunately we periodically see that time catches up with us, and we have sadly lost a couple of our keen supporters. One new person has already joined us this year, which is much appreciated, and any further help that might be available will again continue to develop our baseload income.

If we can achieve our target this year, we would expect to exceed £100,000 in grants, so reaching £1.5 Million granted since we started in November 2003.

Sadly, the need is there, and as we commented last year, we continue to see price rises from suppliers, after 5 years of relatively stable costs up until the end of 2023. These constant increases just make the task harder as we need to raise more funding for the same amount of work as in previous years. We will continue to do our best, and hope that this year is more stable than recently.

## Grants Made in the first Quarter of 2026:

| Age<br>Yrs   | Grant<br>£       | Details   |
|--------------|------------------|---|
| 2.3          | 648.41           | He has a diagnosis of Batters Disease, which is an inherited genetic condition, both degenerative and life limiting. He has already experienced rapid deterioration and can not sit independently without the correct support. A special car seat was requested to enable him to be held securely and comfortably in the correct position when travelling. With the family needing help, we agreed to fully fund the cost, which was discounted as the healthcare professional had selected a supplier with whom we deal regularly.   |
| 6.75         | 3153.00          | He has a diagnosis of Metachromatic Leukodystrophy, which is a progressive degenerative genetic condition and he is now dependent on adult care for all activities. He has a Ppod seat for secure comfortable seating, but required a seating system designed to provide the correct postural support and positioning for feeding and activities at a table. An R82 X-Panda seating system was proposed and we agreed to fully fund.  |
| 14.5         | 1777.90          | She has complex medical problems including cerebral palsy, SYNGAP1 genetic mutation, Periventricular Leukomalacia, Gastro Reflux and with Dysphagia she has had a feeding tube fitted, along with a range of other medical problems. She exhibits with development delay and is non-verbal. We have helped her around 11 years ago with a special trike and which she has now outgrown, so we have been asked to fund a much larger trike with the necessary adaptations of additional support for her knees, ankles and trunk. We agreed to fund the cost after our agreed discount structure.   |
| 6            | 1864.00          | He has a diagnosis of autism, is non-verbal, and has sensory problems. He is a tiptoe walker, has leg braces and is awaiting an operation. With limited mobility he needed a suitable special buggy and an Ergoadaptive Go Stroller was specified as Wheelchair Services did not have anything available that suited his requirements. He s granted an NHS voucher of £550.00 towards the total cost and we agreed to fund the balance.   |
| 9            | 758.00           | She has a diagnosis of significant visual impairment in both eyes, and in addition to using large magnification computer screens, she has been learning Braille. In order to further help her, she needed a Braille machine for home use and we agreed to fund a Perkins Brailier.  |
| 7            | 360.80           | She suffers with severe abdominal and joint pain and could only travel short distances in a car as her car seat was not suitable for her. She was assessed at the local RDAC by Windmill Special Needs and a Cybex Pallas G i-size seat was proposed, which we agreed to fully fund after a cost reduction due to our discount agreement.   |
|              | 2000.00          | He needed a replacement Safe Space bed, modified for his extensive special needs. After some discussion, the family were advised to look at HKD Solutions UrZone as an alternative to a direct replacement, and after a detailed conversation with the MD were very impressed that all their modifications could be accommodated, and a bed could be provided with a 7 year warranty. The young person is autistic, epileptic and has Cowden's Syndrome as well as other medical problems. His mother has significant medical problems and has to act as a full time carer for his needs, particularly during the night. With the family having agreed a final specification with HKD Solutions at £6,955.00, we agreed to co-fund the purchase, within the limits of our available Reserves at the time. |
| 5.8          | 1054.40          | Diagnosis of autism and has a learning disability. Exhibits with no sense of danger and releases himself from his car seat on every trip, usually then causing problems for the driver. A new car seat/harness system was required and he was assessed by Windmill Special Needs at the RDAC (Meriden) and a Voyager car seat with a 5 point harness was proposed. We agreed to help the family and fully fund the purchase cost, reduced by our discount agreement with the supplier.  |
| 3.5          | 753.50           | Severe visual impairment from birth. She is learning Braille and using a Perkins Brailier borrowed from the Worcestershire VI Service. To progress she needed her own Brailier for use at home and we agreed to fully fund a unit supplied through the RNIB.  |
| 4            | 709.00           | He has a brain injury and exhibits with global delay. It is expected that he will need a wheelchair soon to mobilise. He does have a range of special needs equipment already supplied, but would benefit from a lightweight booster seat when away from home. We agreed to fund.   |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>13,079.01</b> |   |
|              |                  | <b>Waiting List</b>   |
| 3.5          | 1560.10          | Diagnosis of cerebral palsy with right side hemiplegia. A Theraplay trike was proposed to help to strengthen his right arm and leg and improve his co-ordination and mobility. We agreed to fund the total purchase cost after allowance for our agreed discount.   |
| 7.5          | 972.50           | Diagnosis of cerebral palsy, and he recently had a Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy to improve his mobility. He can mobilise short distances with the aid of a walker and a Theraplay trike was proposed to help to develop his right side and improve his co-ordination. The Boparan Charity had already approved a grant of £800.00 and we agreed to fund the balance required, after our discount.   |
| 6            | 1802.30          | Diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy. He can walk very short distances but rapidly tires and needs to use a wheelchair. A special exercise trike was proposed to help to develop his leg strength and provide general exercise. With the family needing help, we agreed to fully fund the total cost, reduced by our agreed discount.  |

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|------|---------|--|
| 4.8  | 1476.95 | He has a diagnosis of Autism, and exhibits with no sense of danger. He tries to escape from every possible exit which has required special window locks. When travelling, he releases himself from his car seat and interferes with the driver, so a secure car seat/harness system was required to keep everyone safe. He was assessed at the local RDAC and a Voyager car seat and harness system was specified, which we agreed to fund.; |
| 1.75 | 233.90  | Diagnosis of Wolf Hirschhorn Syndrome and associated medical problems. Wheelchair Services are providing a special buggy for her, but as we find in all the NHS Trusts we deal with, they never fund the additional accessories required – the sun hood and rain cover. We agreed to fund these additional items required.   |
|      | 804.50  | She has a diagnosis of Leber's congenital Amanaosis and we have helped before. She now requires a Perkins Braille for home use, and we agreed to fully fund from the RNIB.   |
| 6.5  | 2112.70 | He has a diagnosis of Spinal Muscular Atrophy and is unable to walk or crawl, needing a wheelchair to move around. His Paediatric Physiotherapy Team proposed a special exercise trike to help to strengthen his legs and core, as he fatigues easily. He was able to use a trike when assessed, and with the family unable to raise the funding, we agreed to fully fund the cost, Ik reduced by our discount agreement with the supplier.  |
| 2    | 453.07  | He has a diagnosis of Chronic lung disease, global delay, microcephaly, trigonocephaly, uses a feeding tube and needs oxygen support. Postural support is very important to help his breathing and he required a suitable car seat to hold him in the correct position. We agreed to fully fund the purchase cost, reduced by our discount agreement with the supplier.  |
| 2.5  | 2154.00 | She has a number of medical problems and difficulty with head control. She needed a fully supportive car seat to hold her securely with a tilt/turn facility, and with another charity funding £1,000.00 towards the total cost, we agreed to fund the balance.  |
| 6    | 1161.60 | Born at 25 weeks and has a diagnosis of cerebral palsy with several medical problems. He uses a standing frame system at school, but having outgrown his frame system at home (which was family funded), he now needs a new larger specific model to help with his therapy. We have helped before and we agreed to fully fund this additional item of equipment.   |

**10 Grants Approved**

**10 Waiting List – awaiting further funding.**

If you would like to contact us regarding this report, please email us at [chriswestwoodcharity@outlook.com](mailto:chriswestwoodcharity@outlook.com).

Thank you to all our supporters for their continued help, and we will do as much as we can to respond as quickly as we can to new applications, hopefully without the need for a Waiting List and a delay in our work.

Chris