

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

## **Update Report - Third Quarter 2021**

### **Background:**

During Q2 we completed 22 grants totalling £30,126.45, and having received a number of queries about submitting future applications, we anticipated a possible further increase in activity in Q3, although this has normally been the quietest period of the year.

### **Progress in Q3 2021:**

Activity usually falls away in July and August and then starts to rapidly increase as we enter September and the children return to school (or start for the first time). At that point equipment shortages and additional needs become clear and we expect a surge in applications.

This year, activity has just increased each quarter, and July and August were busier than we have ever seen before. With activity continuing into September at a steady rate, our fundraising came under heavy pressure. At the end of Q2 we had completed 34 grants totalling £44,183.90 for the year to date, and the surge in activity in Q3 took us to 72 approved grants totalling £84,490.05 for the same period. Having completed £40,306.15 in grants during Q3, we reached a point during the Quarter where reserves were temporarily exhausted, and we had to introduce a short waiting list. As we have received further funding, we have been able to move forwards with only short delays caused by the need to pause, but still not ideal when a rapid response is often required. Currently we have one approved grant on the waiting list (£2,327.00 which will take us to 73 grants) pending additional funding being raised. Our concern is for Q4, as this is usually the busiest period of the year, so we have been making every effort to bring in what funding we can.

We have already raised over £72,000 this year but we have to accept that £100,000 is around the limit we can expect to raise in a "normal" non COVID affected year, let alone the difficulties faced this year. Having already completed approximately £84,500 in grants, we have nearly exhausted the £12,500 reserve that we had at the start of the year. We do have some regular monthly income and we are currently awaiting payment of around £800 in donations. Some of this dates back to a Just Giving fundraising in February, and PayPal have only transferred part of the funds raised so far - sadly they are often very slow. We are also hopeful of some further Charitable Foundation help but that is likely to be towards the end of the year, meaning little short term relief for our cashflow. As we continue to become more widely known there will be more occasions when there will need to be short delays before we have the funds available to help.

### **The Major milestone of £1,000,000 raised and granted since we started in November 2003:**

Having completed grants totalling £919,800 by the end of 2020, we anticipated reaching this milestone by November 2021 ie 18 years since we started. For our first two years of operation, grants were around £500 to £600 in total, then we began to be found, and activity increased very rapidly until we levelled off between £100,000 and £140,000/year, which at present is, in any case, at or above the absolute limit of what we can raise each year. Were the applications for funding help to rise above that, we would be in a more serious waiting list position, hence we do try and minimise any publicity about what we do, to try and limit growth.

Although on the basis of grant approvals (and including the waiting list approvals) we have just about reached the milestone already, we currently have approx £13,000 reserved and “ring fenced” for the grants approved but not yet paid, pending receipt of the proforma invoices from the suppliers. Once we have completed the actual payment of a full £1,000,000 in grants, we will be able to say that we have reached the milestone. So it would appear that after the usual delays in equipment deliveries and subsequent submission of supplier invoices, we should be able to fully complete £1,000,000 raised and granted before the 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Trust Deed.

Regarding what happens then – the milestone is only a number, and once reached we just start again on trying to achieve the second million pounds, which we might hope to reach a little faster than the first. Certainly the need for the help is there and, as always, the challenge is the fundraising.

## **Funding Help in 2021:**

With many of the varied sources of our income likely to be significantly down again this year until all restrictions are lifted and fundraising activity can restart properly, our aim has been to try and concentrate on the 5 key areas we have mentioned previously:

1. Gift Aid - Our annual submission to HMRC, which was made promptly on the 6<sup>th</sup> April, raised £5,471.09, again showing how useful this additional funding is. Where donations are made directly to fundraising webpages, there is often an option to tick the Gift Aid button, which further increases the amount raised, and really does make a difference.
2. Regular Donations - We have now increased to 17 regular monthly donors, which is another very useful and reliable source of income. As already mentioned, we would be very appreciative of any additions to this group. Regular sources of income greatly improve the stability of our cashflow, and we continue to try to increase this further. With the benefit of Gift Aid, where appropriate, we now find that this source contributes approx 9% of our target annual income.
3. One-off Donations - which vary greatly from year to year but are always very welcome.
4. Charitable Foundations – We do receive help from some Charitable Foundations, and we have had multi year agreements with several, (usually for 3 years) although all of these have now completed their cycle, and require a further year’s break before we can then apply again for consideration. However, a number of our regular sources are either closed or concentrating on COVID 19 support at the moment, limiting possibilities for the rest of the year. We shall continue to try and find help as usual, but fundraising later in the year is expected to become critical as demand increases, and will, as usual, be a challenge.
5. Commission Payments – These arise from a percentage commission on purchases made online or in a store, and from recycling. While still small, they are all growing and have useful long term fundraising potential for us. We are registered with Amazon Smile, Give as You Live, Everyclick, Easyfundraising and Recycle4Charity (*used printer ink cartridges*). We have mentioned these before and full details are on the *Donations* page of our website.

## **Changes to our Bank Accounts:**

From the 1<sup>st</sup> November our main Banker (HSBC) is making substantial changes to its accounts and is introducing charges for all charities and small organisations. Sadly, this is becoming common in the Banking sector and raising operating costs for many charities.

At present we benefit from no charges being levied on our Bank Accounts (which are always in credit and we have no overdraft facilities as we do not intend to ever exceed our funding limitations), but there will now be a monthly fee plus other charges on one of our three accounts - the account used as a Current

Account and called a Community Account by HSBC, which will be renamed as a Charitable account. Our other two accounts are classified as Savings accounts and will not, at the moment, be affected. The Charitable Account will then become subject to a monthly fee of £5.00, with additional charges for paying cheques both into and out of the account.

Provided we continue to insist that all grants made must be for purchase from a supplier who will issue a proforma invoice that we then pay by BACS, we will incur no additional fees on payments. Any cheques paid out will incur a charge of 0.40p for each use, and if we go back a few years where we were issuing up to 80+ cheques/year that would have resulted in a noticeable charge. Any cheques paid in will also incur a charge of 40p, although this is, apparently, to be applied to a bulk credit, so any small cheques will now be held until we have a reasonable number to minimise cost.

The charges for cash will be £1.40 per transaction. Collection boxes are already struggling generally due to the widespread reduction in the use of cash, and typically yield less than £10 in small change per box, so this will help to sadly hasten their demise for charities in general. At the moment we have an outlet for our bronze coinage through a local shop (provided it has been counted and bagged into £1.00 units), which will help to avoid charges.

We have always prided ourselves on operating with zero cost and, as a result, although the total fees would be less than £100 in a full year, incidental costs do have a small effect on the reserves. Accordingly, to ensure that all funding raised can be used for the purpose it was donated, the Trustees will cover both the monthly fee and any transaction costs.

We would like to state that we are always very happy to receive any donations by any method that suits our supporters. The Trustees will then find the best way to minimise any costs that might subsequently be incurred. It is very important that any future potential Bank charges do not affect our level of donations in any way.

### Grants Made in Q3 2021:

Age	Grant (£)	Details
7	1522.50	He has a diagnosis of cerebral palsy, can walk using a posture walker and he uses a manual wheelchair. A special exercise trike was proposed to try to help to strengthen his leg muscles and improve his mobility. With the family able to contribute, we agreed to fund the balance required.
4.5	1400.50	She has a diagnosis of cerebral palsy, is unable to mobilise or maintain a sitting position on her own. She had outgrown her car seat and required a new seat that would hold her securely. Due to her needs, the selected seat cost £2,200.50 after discount, and with another charity agreeing to fund £800.00, we agreed to fund the balance required.
13	585.87	She has a diagnosis of right sided choanal atresia and a range of other medical problems. She uses a wheelchair and now she is growing it it is becoming increasingly hard for family members to push the manual chair. The proposal was to fund a wheelchair powerpack unit which would assist when moving the wheelchair. We have helped the family before, were aware of her medical problems and agreed to fully fund.
2.5	1766.00	She has a diagnosis of cerebral palsy, is non mobile and awaiting a wheelchair. She required specialist seating to enable her to maintain a correct sitting position, and a Wombat chair was proposed which could also be fully adjusted for height to provide her general seating needs. With the family able to make a small contribution to the cost, we agreed to fund the balance required.
10	1166.30	She has a diagnosis of cerebral palsy and is not able to walk very far unaided. She has used a special exercise trike for a number of years, which she has now outgrown, and the proposal was to replace that with a larger unit to continue to help her to develop both core and leg muscle strength. With the supplier taking the old trike in part exchange for refurbishment of suitable parts, and the cost further reduced by our discount, we agreed to fund the balance remaining.
11	1451.95	He has a diagnosis of cerebral palsy, can walk short distances, but uses a wheelchair for any significant distance. He has been having intense physiotherapy to improve his walking and balance, and has been using a trike for exercise. Having now outgrown his special trike, a replacement was needed. We agreed to fully fund.
1.5	48.92	Born with Short Bowel Syndrome, has had an operation and is currently incontinent. Family have claimed additional benefits

		but needed a supply of incontinence pads pending funding being received. We agreed to cover a one off bulk purchase to provide short term help.
10	307.00	She has a diagnosis of CHARGE Syndrome and a range of other medical problems, requiring full time care. Approximately 4 years ago the Charity funded a McClaren Special Needs buggy which has been extensively used and now requires replacement. With the family unable to contribute, we agreed to fully fund.
5	1477.45	Cerebral palsy spastic diplegia which affects the lower half of his body. He uses a wheelchair for any distance, so a special exercise trike was proposed to help to develop his leg muscle strength and improve his mobility. We agreed to fully fund.
15	429.00	She has a diagnosis of Leber's Congenital Amaurosis which means that she has very little sight and attends a visually impaired school, where she is progressing well. We have helped her before with computer equipment, but she urgently needs to replace her Apple iPad. This has the necessary apps to allow her to use it extensively for all her studies, and it's loss was causing her great difficulties. Knowing the family and the case, we agreed to fully fund.
4	1589.52	He has a diagnosis of severe cerebral palsy spastic quadriplegia, and learning difficulties. The proposal was to fund a special exercise trike to try to develop his leg muscles and improve his mobility. We agreed to fully fund.
2.5	804.00	She has a diagnosis of cerebral palsy, is non mobile and awaiting a wheelchair. We helped her recently but she also requires a special bath seat to hold her safely and securely, as she is dependent on her parents for all aspects of her care. With the family offering a small contribution, we agreed to fund the balance required.
7	2315.80	He has a diagnosis of Lissencephaly, global development delay, epilepsy, poor coordination and low muscle strength. He has no communication, is fully dependent on adult care and uses a wheelchair buggy. He needed a standing frame for home use as he has been working on intensive daily physiotherapy to improve his leg muscles, his balance and his limited mobility. Without regular use of a standing frame (which he has at school) the improvements made regress. With another charity contributing £800.00, we agreed to fund the balance required.
9	1457.00	He has a diagnosis of Quadriplegic cerebral palsy, has other medical problems and is dependent on a wheelchair for his mobility. The proposal was to fund a special exercise trike to provide more exercise and to help to develop his leg muscles and general strength. With the final cost reduced by our discount agreement, we agreed to fully fund the purchase.
7	1352.60	He has a diagnosis of Dyskinetic cerebral palsy and other medical problems. He can walk but has poor balance and is at risk of falls. The proposal was to fund a special exercise trike to help to build his leg muscle strength and general condition, improve his balance and mobility, and to improve his co-ordination. With the family unable to fund, we agreed to fully fund the trike, the price being reduced by our supplier discount.
4.5	1183.00	She has a diagnosis of Cerebral palsy, is unable to mobilise and can not maintain an independent sitting position. The proposal was to fund the purchase of a gravity chair, which is easy to transport and will hold her in comfort. As present she has no suitable seating system and has to lie on either the floor or a sofa. We helped recently with a special car seat, and knowing the case, we agreed to fully fund.
5.5	437.00	She was born at 27 weeks and has extensive medical problems. These include chronic lung disease and on home oxygen, global development delay, mobility, vision and hearing problems, and dietary complications. She needed a support seating system for home use and a Zoomi chair was proposed which we agreed to fund.
7.5	701.15	He has a diagnosis of West syndrome and severe learning difficulties. He required special support seating to enable him to sit at a table, and a Breezi chair was specified which we agreed to fully fund.
15	509.00	He has a diagnosis of ASD, ADHD, and severe learning disability. He exhibits unpredictable severe behavioural problems, and as part of an ongoing project to make his home safer, a Tough Furniture protection cabinet was specified for the TV. We have already previously helped with protected electrical sockets and other items, and approved the funding for this part of the project.
5.5	1578.60	He has a diagnosis of cerebral palsy spastic diplegia and development delay. He recently became able to stand and is being given a walker to start to develop his mobility. A special exercise trike was also proposed to continue to develop his leg muscle strength and further improve his co-ordination and mobility. With the family not in a position to help with funding, we agreed to fully fund the trike.
9.3	714.49	He has a diagnosis of ASD and has a severe learning disability. He exhibits with severe behavioural problems and has no sense of danger. The proposal was for equipment for his home to make his environment safer, and in view of the family circumstances, we agreed to fully fund.
10	1524.20	He has a diagnosis of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. He is still mobile but struggles with balance and the proposal was to fund a special exercise trike to help his intensive physiotherapy programme to try to strengthen his leg muscles and improve his mobility and balance. We agreed to fully fund.
6.5	1762.95	Diagnosis of a chromosome deletion and presents with seizures, development delay and visual impairment. She also has limited mobility, and with the family funding a new buggy for her, we were asked to help with funding a special trike to develop her leg muscles and improve her general condition and mobility. We agreed to fully fund.
14	1072.50	He has a diagnosis of Dravet Syndrome, development delay, and has mobility problems due to both his balance and the need for leg supports and special shoes. The proposal was to fund a special exercise trike to help to develop his leg muscles and

		improve his co-ordination and mobility. With the family able to make a contribution towards the cost, we agreed to fund the balance required.
8.5	668.34 + 221.40	He has a diagnosis of Autism and ADHD, exhibits with severe learning difficulties and has behavioural problems and a disturbed sleep pattern. He already has some sensory equipment in his room, but the proposal was to provide some further equipment to help to calm and control his behaviour, and assist his sleep pattern. We agreed to fully fund a selected number of items for him.
5	1213.10	Diagnosis of a muscle disorder, global development delay, possible brain damage and exhibits with poor balance, often falling. He receives intensive physiotherapy at Oswestry Hospital. A special exercise trike was proposed to help his muscle development, improve his balance and co-ordination, and improve his mobility. We agreed to fully fund.
23	770.95	He has a diagnosis of cerebral palsy and learning difficulties. With limited mobility he uses a walker, but due to his weight this is a large unit which causes access problems and limits use. After intensive work he is now fitter and can use a miniwalker which improves access and his general mobility. We agreed to fully fund.
7	1025.00	She has a diagnosis of Arthrogyrosis exhibiting as fixed joint deformities limiting her mobility and gross motor skills. She receives physiotherapy, and a special exercise trike was proposed to help to increase exercise, build muscle strength and improve her mobility.
4.5	331.66	He has a diagnosis of Pontocerebellar Hypoplasia and a range of other problems which will be severely life limiting. He requires constant care which is provided by his mother during the day and by specialist carers at night. We funded a car seat some time ago which he has now outgrown, and he required a new seat which we agreed to fully fund.
10	1829.35	She was born prematurely and has a diagnosis of cerebral palsy quadriplegia. She had been using a trike to help to stretch and develop her leg and arm muscles, but had outgrown it. We were asked if we could fund a suitable replacement for her, which we agreed to do.
3	2362.50	She has a diagnosis of Cerebral palsy hemiplegia, hydrocephalus (which required a medical procedure), and visual impairment. She needed a car seat that would provide extensive support, and after a full assessment a Hernik model was proposed, which we agreed to fully fund after allowance for the discount we receive from the supplier.
2.5	169.05	She has a diagnosis of chromosome abnormalities and has severe learning difficulties. Wheelchair Services have supplied a special buggy but do not fund the rain cover or sun hood that are also required. We agreed to fully fund.
5	228.40	She has a diagnosis of cerebral palsy, and with poor core strength she is unable to sit unaided. The proposal was to encourage activity and exercise in the garden and we agreed to fund suitable supportive equipment.
4.5	905.90	Diagnosed with a brain tumour at 14 months and has had multiple surgery. Left with reduced strength in trunk and limbs, and co-ordination problems on one side. Request to help with funding a Theraplay trike to help with his physiotherapy exercises, and improve his strength and co-ordination. With the family having raised a small part of the cost, we agreed to fund the balance.
2	1150.00	Born prematurely, and after complications diagnosed with cerebral palsy. Unable to sit unaided and requires an Xpanda chair. With a small family contribution, the chair was funded by a 50/50 co-fund with another local charity.
6.9	652.18	He has a diagnosis of autism, moderate learning disability, sensory problems and no sense of danger. He needed a secure car seat harness to hold him safely when being transported as he was releasing himself from his car seat and presenting a danger to the driver.
3	1526.00	He had a difficult birth and has a range of problems including global development delay, swallowing problems, is peg fed and has a suspected brain injury. He needs a special seat to both hold him securely and allow him to be moved around the house. We agreed to fully fund.
6.75	510.00	He has a diagnosis of cerebral palsy and uses a manual wheelchair. Request was for several items to improve his comfort and security in the chair when using it for long periods. We agreed to fully fund.
		<b>Waiting List for Approved Grants – proceed when funding available</b>
4	2327.00	Cerebral palsy, and has particular problems with his left side. He exhibits with muscle weakness, problems with mobility, speech and motor skills. He needed a fully supportive special car seat to hold him securely when travelling, and we agreed to fully fund.

## In Conclusion:

Despite the COVID situation we have been busier than usual, but the limitations on fundraising have resulted in a run down of our reserves, hence the need to start a waiting list, which we can hopefully keep

short. Like many other charities, opportunities for fundraising events have been limited, and a number of Charitable Foundations have temporarily changed policy and are only supporting charity work related to COVID.

As previously mentioned, we are hopeful of some further funding assistance before the end of the year (as several Charitable Foundations applied to have helped us before), and in the interim we will do what we can.

We can only hope that our usual sources of income will begin to return to more normal conditions in the near future.

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

We look towards an uncertain and challenging end to the year, and we can only thank our supporters for their help.

Chris Westwood.