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and Donated by a Supporter

Chris Westwood Charity **For Children with Physical Disabilities**



Our Mascot Keira enjoying an early evening walk

Progress Report as at 31st December 2025

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 aim to 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 try 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, standing frames, to assist in regaining and maintaining mobility, and support and lifting equipment.
- Wheelchairs, special mobility chairs, special car seats and safety harnesses, special seating, special needs buggies, special beds, sensory room equipment to improve the quality of life, and vision equipment to assist those with deteriorating eye conditions.

How we assess Grant Applications

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 relevant healthcare professional detailing the medical condition and the anticipated benefits of the proposed expenditure
- A detailed quotation, following assessment by the supplier’s relevant competent person
- Details of any funding already raised, any other sources of funding, and a very brief description of the family background – eg. rented accommodation, single parent, one parent acting as a full time carer etc., or Group requirement if helping a Special School.

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. We aim to respond within 24 to 48 hours as long as all the required information has been supplied. Grants are funded by online payment directly to the supplier, to ensure that the Charity retains control of the use of the funds at all times. 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 2025

Another challenging year, as we expected. Several Foundations that had been supporting us with funding completed their agreed three year programmes in 2024, so we knew that 2025 would present further funding challenges generating the income we would need.

During the year, we have been fortunate enough to secure a 5 year funding programme with the GIL Charitable Trust who have previously helped us from time to time, and we greatly appreciate their support both earlier and with their new programme. We were able to put their new funding to immediate use, helping eight cases. As usual, other organisations also helped during the year, including the significant grant we receive from the Robert McAlpine Foundation, which is very much appreciated, help from other Foundations, coupled with several fundraising events and particular help from a group of young Rotarians at Wollescote Primary School, together with the support from our regular donors, other periodic donations, and collections. We managed to raise £95,635.94 during the year. With 73 applications that we approved, totalling £95,391.71, we ended the year with Reserves of £4,602.46.

At times, with demand high we had to start short Waiting Lists, but thankfully we were able to clear each list in no more than a few weeks. In total, since we started (22 years ago) we have raised and granted £1.4 Million and helped 1,182 cases, all without any administration cost.

At times we have needed to co-fund some applications with other charities due to the level of our Reserves, with the primary aim of trying to ensure as rapid a response as possible. We managed to negotiate a discount agreement with another supplier we are regularly asked to fund purchases from, which helps us to make further cost savings. We estimate that our negotiated discounts save the Charity around £3,500.00 during a typical year. The worrying trend in recent years, of recent rises in equipment costs, caused no doubt by cost pressures on manufacturing, is concerning as it makes our work more difficult, and meaning that we have to raise yet more funds to complete the same level of work as in previous years. Thankfully this year, with a little more discount, we have only seen the average grant cost rise slightly, but it is still over 25% higher than in 2022, for a similar 50/50 spread of grant size (measured by us as “small” up to £1,000.00 and “large” above £1,000.00).

As we mentioned last year, we originally defined our operational area as within a 50 mile radius of Stourbridge in the West Midlands, which actually covers 7,850 square miles, compared to the entire Midlands area which extends to just over 11,000 square miles. While we would have liked to help cases further away, the unmet demand within our defined area is so great that the challenge continues to increase because of our ever increasing contact list, as we continue to be recommended or “found” after Internet searches.

The same challenges continue as always, and we shall endeavour to meet them in the best way we can. So a big thank you to our supporters, without whom we would not be able to continue our work. We can only ask for any help in encouraging others to also contribute to the work we do. In the end we can only achieve what we can within the funding available, so every donation however large or small is of great value to us.



Examples of Equipment Funded

Many young people with mobility problems have difficulty with balance and leg strength. Cycling helps to strengthen their leg muscles and improve co-ordination, and tricycles remove the problems with balance and provide a stable base for the additional support often required. We have had many reports back where regular use has enabled the young person to greatly increase their mobility.

We also receive a number of requests for special seating systems to provide the correct postural support, and which can easily be adjusted for height and position. This then enables them to participate in group activities both at home and at their special schools.

The decision on the equipment to be specified is made by the relevant Healthcare Professional following assessments by the supplier's expert. The Charity acts solely as a funding facilitator, responding to the expert opinion provided and takes no part in selection of the equipment supplier.

Two typical cases are shown below:



"A": Theraplay Special Trike



"B": Special Seating System

Young Person "A": She is 10 years old and has a diagnosis of quadriplegic cerebral palsy and other medical problems including Spina Bifida. A trike was proposed to help to develop her muscles and improve her mobility, co-ordination, and reduce her reliance on a self-propelled wheelchair. With suitable adaptations for her particular requirements, she was able to gain some independence, and with the family having already received a partial grant from another charity we contributed the balance of £990.40 required for the purchase (which was an amount reduced by our discount agreement with the supplier).

Young Person "B": He is 4 years old, also with a diagnosis of quadriplegic cerebral palsy, and presents with ataxia which affects his ability to control muscle movement, balance and speech. He needed a special secure and supportive seating system to allow him to develop the use of his hands at his nursery. A Smirthwaite Strato Chair was assessed for him and found to provide the support and adjustment required. We agreed to fund the cost of £1,611.00.

Details of a few of the Grants Made in 2025

Age (Yrs)	Grant (£)	Details
7	1526.80	He has a diagnosis of a rare genetic condition LMNA Muscular Dystrophy, which is lifelong and degenerative. The proposal from his Physiotherapy team was to fund a special exercise trike to help to exercise his leg muscles and improve co-ordination. Degeneration and muscle wasting will occur but exercise will help him to retain some mobility for as long as possible.
5	1658.20	He has a diagnosis of Megdel Syndrome which is a rare inherited gene disorder, affecting the brain. His physiotherapist proposed a special exercise trike to improve his mobility and walking and with the Charity discount agreement with the supplier chosen by the Paediatric Physiotherapist, the final cost was reduced in addition to VAT exemption. We agreed to fund the cost.
8	2252.20	She has a diagnosis of Aicardi Syndrome, a rare genetic condition which generally affects females. She exhibits with global delay, periodic seizures, is non mobile, peg fed, and is fully dependent on her adult carers. A Ppod bean seat was requested to help to hold her securely and in more comfort, and we agreed to fully fund.
7	354.22	He has a diagnosis of ADNP Syndrome and is non-verbal. He exhibits with development delay, seizures and autism. Having grown, he was able to escape from his seat belt system when travelling, and with no sense of danger due to his condition, he presented a danger to the driver. After assessment at the RDAC (Regional Driving Assessment Centre) a 7 point Dutch harness was proposed, which would ensure that he could be safely and comfortably transported in his special car seat.
9	1370.30	He has a diagnosis of Charcot Marie Tooth Disease, which is an inherited genetic degenerative condition. It affects the nerves in the hands and feet, causing muscle weakness, severe pain and mobility problems. He has been using a manual wheelchair which needed to be pushed by his mother as the chairs supplied by Wheelchair Services were too heavy for him to propel. However, his mother has the same condition which has deteriorated, and she is now having to use a lightweight wheelchair, so is unable to push him. He was assessed for a lightweight wheelchair which he could manage, which cost £5,370.40, and with partial funding from another charity and from the family, we agreed to fund the balance required for the purchase.
3	195.00	He has a diagnosis of SOTOS Syndrome, and exhibits with development delay, is unable, as yet, to walk and has scoliosis. A new special buggy has been supplied by Wheelchair Services, but, as usual, no sun hood or rain cover was supplied limiting its use. We agreed to fund the additional equipment.
8	1675.30	He has a diagnosis of Di George Syndrome and other medical problems. A special exercise trike was proposed to help to develop his leg muscles, core strength and co-ordination. With our supplier discount the cost reduced to £1,675.30, and we agreed to fully fund.

Quiz Night at Stourbridge Tennis Club.



On the 18th January a Quiz Night in aid of the Charity was held at Stourbridge Lawn Tennis and Squash Club. The event was sold out with 90 competitors, and 13 teams, with a maximum of 8 players in each, were entered.

The event turned out to be a closely fought contest, with four teams in a play-off for third place.

A total of £711.50 was raised which was a very useful addition to the funds at the start of a usually busy Q1.

Hugh Matthew acted as Question Master, and proved to be an excellent and well prepared host for the event. The funds were also helped by a raffle, with a number of prizes having been donated.

We can only thank everyone involved in the organisation of the event, and we hope to repeat it in 2026, with a planned date of 10th January.



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The Organisation

As a small management group, we are able to continue to provide a fast response to application requests, which we consider to be particularly important, as time is a key factor in cases involving either degenerative or life limiting conditions.

We formed the Charity in November 2003 with three Trustees, and in 2007 we were joined by Dr Janine Barnes. Having sadly lost Martyn Morgan in December 2015, we appointed Lewis Barnes as our new Trustee on 02.04.16.

On 17.11.25 Graham Wood, one of our Founding Trustees, retired after 22 years' service. He has acted as Treasurer throughout that time and as a long standing friend of the Founder, his advice, and oversight of our work was greatly valued. We wish him well and the Trustee group sends their thanks for his contribution. Lewis Barnes will now take over as Treasurer, and we shall again run for a period with three Trustees.

Our Business model is based on acting solely as a funding facilitator, responding to the expert opinion of a Healthcare Professional and the Supplier's expert who will have carried out a detailed assessment of the exact specification and cost of the equipment required. If a grant is subsequently approved, the Charity pays the supplier directly by BACS transfer to ensure that control of the funds is maintained throughout the process.

The Charity continues to operate with no administration costs. We have no employees, and all of the work is done by the Trustees, who also cover any minor incidental expenses incurred.

The Trustees:



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

Dr Janine Barnes MBE – Medical Adviser

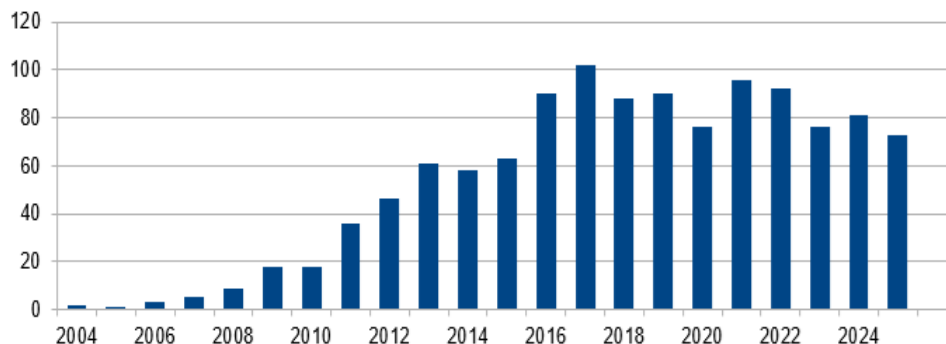
Lewis Barnes – Treasurer (*and also a Trustee of the Somerville Heart Foundation*)



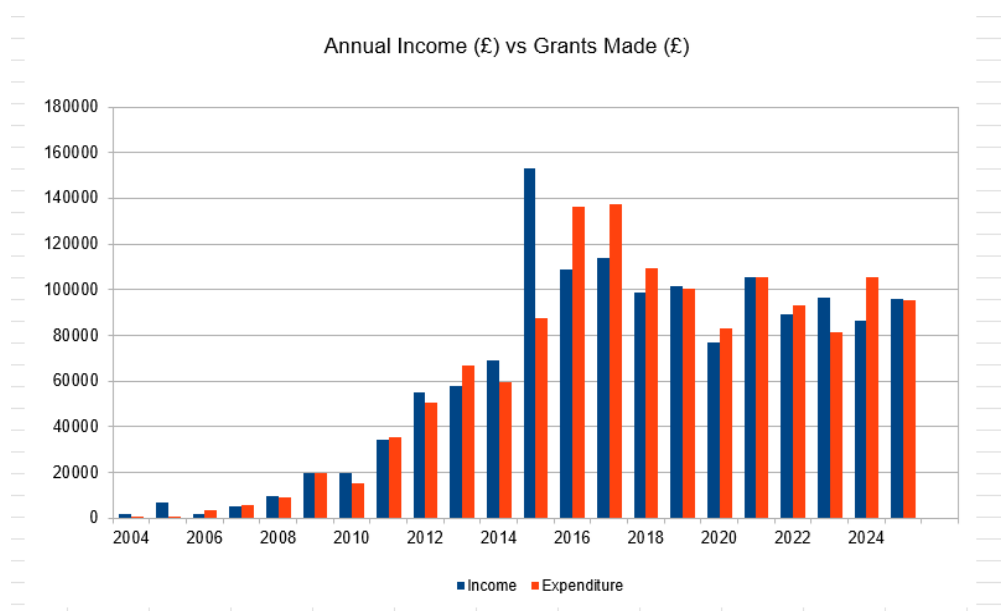
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Funds Raised and Grants Made to Dec 31st 2025

Number of Grants Made each Year



Annual Income (£) vs Grants Made (£)



With sudden surges in applications at various times during the year, it occasionally became necessary to start waiting lists, rather than give our usual 24 to 48 hour response service, as our Reserves were temporarily exceeded. Thankfully we were able to raise sufficient funding to reduce waiting time to only a few weeks on each occasion. By co-funding some of the very large applications with other local charities, we have been able to just about keep up with applications, but the need for help and the cost of equipment both continue to rise, which increases the challenge we face. We have now completed nearly 1200 cases since we started in November 2003, and granted. £1.4 million (with no admin costs) during that time.

Accounts 2025

Reserves held as a Cash Balance and brought forward at 31.12.24:		£4,354.23
Income:		
Fundraising Events		3,587.35
Donation Income		
<i>Personal Donations – Direct</i>	12,775.20	
<i>Online Donations via PayPal/Everyclick</i>	20.00	
<i>Regular Donor Standing Orders</i>	7,126.00	
<i>Collection Boxes (All Sources)</i>	109.20	
<i>Company Donations</i>	100.00	
<i>Grants from Charitable Foundations</i>	66,375.00	86,505.40
Legacies and Funeral Collections		
<i>Legacies – Nil received in 2025</i>	0.00	
<i>Funeral Collections</i>	0.00	0.00
Other Income		
<i>Gift Aid: (Claimed directly from HMRC)</i>	4,921.93	
<i>Interest on Bank Balances</i>	200.65	
<i>Purchase Commissions & Other Income</i>	10.00	
<i>Sale of Donated Items (Xmas Cards)</i>	407.00	
<i>Extraordinary Income</i>	7.61	5,547.19
Total Income:		95,639.94
Expenditure:		
Grants made during 2025: 73 in Total		95,391.71
Other expenditure/costs/overheads		nil
Total Expenditure:		95,391.71
Excess of Income over Expenditure		248.23
Leaving a Reserve Cash Balance to be Carried Forward at 31.12.25 of:		£4,602.46

How the Charity operates at Zero Cost

Our Business model is designed to enable the Charity to maximise the use of all the funding raised. The guiding principle is to operate the Charity at zero administration cost, which we have succeeded in doing since we started 22 years ago. While the process was briefly described on The Organisation page, the full details are as follows:

We started by looking at what we actually needed to do and concluded that:

- We could operate with no employed or volunteer staff by not getting involved in work that we did not really need to do.
- External services the Charity needed could be obtained free of charge from supporters if we asked eg. Printing, Accountancy (Independent Examination of the figures we report each year), use of a free website (Weebly) maintained by the Founder.
- We act only as a funding facilitator, responding to applications supported by two experts – the Healthcare Professional and Supplier’s expert, so we need no Trustee insurance.

To achieve these objectives we:

- Require all applications to be accompanied by a report from a relevant Healthcare Professional and a detailed quotation from the supplier’s expert after an assessment.
- This ensures that we are supplying the correct equipment for the specific application and that we do not require any Trustee insurance as we are acting solely as a funding facilitator responding to the expert recommendations.
- We request details of any fundraising that might have already occurred which would reduce the total amount needed from the Charity for the purchase to proceed.
- We determine whether or not we can claim VAT Exemption (which is applicable in most cases) 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 applicants condition is exempt.
- Although we take no part in specifying the supplier, where equipment is purchased regularly from a specific supplier, we look to both negotiate discounts and improve those discounts when/if there are further increases in business, which helps to further reduce equipment costs and spread our funding further.
- If we agree to support an application, we pledge the funding for the application and request the applicant to place the order and arrange delivery, leaving the Charity to just pay the supplier directly. This eliminates the need for staff to do work that can be done by the applicant.
- We fund payment by BACS transfer directly to the supplier, thus retaining full control of the funds to be used for the purchase at all times. With large grant applications we try to help with co-funding with other charities to spread our limited funds further.

This Business Model ensures we retain full control of the use of our funds and maximises any possible purchase cost savings. Any small operating expenditure remaining typically consists only of the Bank charges that our Bank (HSBC) places on charity account for cheque use (a further incentive to minimise the use – currently zero), costs for the website domain names (usually around £19/yr) and a small cost for any paper, envelopes, stamps and printer ink cartridges – around £50 in total in a year, and covered by the Trustee group. So no costs are charged to the Charity, leaving all funding raised to be used for grants.



Why is our charitable funding needed?

While the NHS and other Government organisations will provide a number of items of equipment for young people with disabilities, 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 Healthcare 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 also led to increasing requests for help. 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, and standing frames
- **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. We also fund additional wheelchairs (often portable), powerpacks for manual wheelchairs and special buggies to enable children to be taken out safely, as well as the required buggy accessories (eg rain cover) as we find that while an NHS Trust may fund a buggy, they rarely funds the accessories that are needed for regular use.
- **Health and safety:** Special car seats to provide the support a child may need, and special harnesses to hold them securely, preventing release from their car seat and endangering driver safety. Also including hoists, postural support equipment and items to help with daily living needs.
- **Sensory:** We receive requests for equipment to help to calm and control a range of challenging behavioural problems, and provide quiet and safe areas, as well as helping young people with other sensory needs. This can also include help with funding trips to suitable Care Farm environments to help young people to develop useful skills.
- **Sleep:** Requests involving equipment specifically to hold a child in the correct position to avoid hip dislocations, 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 young people, and those with rapidly deteriorating sight, achieve their potential when the Vision Impairment Services are unable to provide the necessary funding required. We receive requests from the Dudley, Worcester and other Vision Impairment Services 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 to us by **Direct Debit** are:

HSBC Bank, Sort Code **40-43-17**

Account Number **72275813**

Account Name: **The Chris Westwood Charity for Children with Physical Disabilities**

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 via the PayPal Giving Fund

Donations can be made by Debit/Credit card directly to our PayPal account, which has the advantage that **no fees** are charged: <https://www.paypal.com/gb/fundraiser/charity/3179225> so this is the donation method we would recommend if you are not using Bank transfer (above).

4. Online Donations: 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 <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/donate?cid=145243> Again, donations can be made by Debit/Credit card **but there is a fee which has now increased to 8.0%** for this service, so we would recommend consideration of the zero cost options 2. and 3. above, or 5. on the next page (which also has no charges), if any of these are possible.

QR Code for Mobile Phone Donations to Everyclick:

We also have a QR code facility on the website for those who prefer to donate to Everyclick via their mobile phone.



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How Donations can be made to us (2)

5. Online Donations using Easyfundraising:

Easyfundraising website login: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/charity/> and you can register and then donate by credit card or debit card with NO CHARGES.

The website can also be accessed via our QR code:



6. Online Purchase Commission Payments to your Nominated Charity: using Give as You Live or Easyfundraising.

Give as You Live:

We are registered with this shopping commission website, which is a competitor of *Easyfundraising* (below), and where you can select a charity to receive a commission payment on your purchase, at no additional cost to you. You can login to the website, and register at:

<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/charity/chriswestwoodcharity>

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 at: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/charity/> Please contact us if you have any problems with the login or registration.

Depending on the retailer, the percentage commission varies, and from time to time additional bonus donations are offered.

7. Recycle4Charity (Used Printer Ink Cartridges)

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 of used cartridges is available on the Recycle4Charity website. Freepost return labels for your chosen charity can be downloaded after registration, but please ensure that you enclose at least the minimum number of cartridges (four), otherwise the funding is not granted due to postal costs.

8. Gift Aid

You can increase the effectiveness of your donation by completion of a Gift Aid declaration form (copy available on the next page), or download a copy from the [Forms](#) page of the website **Please return 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 (a copy of the form can be downloaded from the Forms page on our website) and return it to:
Chris Westwood Charity for Children with Physical Disabilities, PO Box 7131,
STOURBRIDGE, DY8 9FP*

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@outlook.com**

***Tel:* 07968 008098**



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