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Donations to BBC Children in Need can be made at 24,000 neighbourhood shops across the country

Welwyn Garden City: Fundraisers and generous shoppers up and down the country will once again be able to make donations in cash to BBC Children in Need at more than 24,000 local neighbourhood stores with a PayPoint facility right up to 10.00pm or even 11.00pm on the night of the Appeal Show on 16 November and for the whole year afterwards, giving people plenty of time to collect all the money they have raised.

Seamus Smith, Managing Director of PayPoint, said: "It's easy and convenient for people to donate funds raised during the day or simply to make a personal donation at their local neighbourhood shop. Paying in cash at PayPoint is especially useful for young people and those unable to use plastic.

"Many people decide to make a donation on the night of the Appeal Show and they can do so in cash at their local PayPoint outlet, almost all of which are open until late in the evening and close to where they live – their local neighbourhood store.

"We are delighted to be supporting the BBC Children in Need appeal again this year and, hopefully, this will mean that even more money will be raised for BBC Children in Need this year."

Donations can be made at any PayPoint outlet. There is no charge for making any payments or donations at PayPoints or to BBC Children in Need for the facility. The BBC Children in Need Appeal Show takes place on Friday, 16 November, but it will be possible to make donations for the whole year afterwards. Every penny donated to this year's Appeal will go towards changing the lives of some of the most disadvantaged children and young people right here in the UK.

The PayPoint network is located in thousands of independent retailers as well as the Co-op, Spar, McColls, Costcutter, Sainsbury's Local, One Stop, Nisa and Londis chains throughout the UK, and can be identified by the distinctive yellow and blue sign. Anyone looking for their nearest PayPoint outlet can find it at <http://www.paypoint.co.uk>.

– Ends –

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ABOUT PAYPOINT

PayPoint is a leading specialist payments company with operations in the UK, Ireland, Romania, France, USA and Canada. It handles over £12 billion from over 650 million transactions annually. PayPoint processes consumer payments across a wide variety of markets (energy pre and post-payment, telecoms, housing, water, transport, e-commerce, parking and gaming) through its retail networks, internet and mobile phone channels. The PayPoint branded retail network in the UK numbers over 24,00 local shops (including Co-op, Spar, McColls, Costcutter, Sainsbury's Local, One Stop, Londis and thousands of independents).

ABOUT BBC CHILDREN IN NEED

The BBC Children in Need Appeal is a charity registered in England and Wales (802052) and Scotland (SC039557) whose aim is to make a positive change to the lives of disadvantaged children and young people across the UK.

BBC Children in Need's vision is that every child in the UK has a safe, happy and secure childhood and the chance to reach their potential. We will realise this vision by supporting, promoting and publicising work that addresses the challenges that children and young people face and work that builds their skills and resilience.

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