

Association of Blind Asians (Leeds)

Charity number 1042621

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024



WYCAS

COMMUNITY ACCOUNTING
WEST YORKSHIRE

Association of Blind Asians (Leeds)

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

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Prepared by West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

Association of Blind Asians (Leeds)

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2024

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

Name	Position	Dates
Kuldeep Bajwa	Chair	
Leena Inamdar	Chair	Resigned 25 April 2023
Shindi Dahri	Treasurer	
Janice Brown	Secretary	
Cllr Eileen Taylor		Resigned 23 January 2025
Catherine Mahoney		
Annette Morris		Deceased July 2024
Ballu Patel		Resigned 23 January 2025
Ummer Daraz		Appointed 23 January 2024
Asghar Khar		Appointed 25 November 2024

Charity number 1042621 Registered in England and Wales

Registered and principal address

Touchstone Support Centre
53-55 Harehills Avenue
Leeds
LS8 4EX

Bankers

Santander UK plc
55 Otley Road
Headingley, Leeds
LS6 3AB

Virgin Money
6 Otley Road
Headingley, Leeds
LS6 2AA

Independent examiner

Simon Bostrom FCIE

West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

Stringer House
34 Lupton Street
Leeds
LS10 2QW

Structure, governance and management

The charity is governed by a constitution adopted on 13 October 1994 as amended on 26 November 2010.

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees of the charity are appointed by the members at the AGM.

Association of Blind Asians (Leeds)

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2024

The charity's objects

To promote the welfare of blind and partially sighted people of Asian origin and /or other BME communities resident in the city of Leeds and its neighbourhood.

The charity's main activities

- * Visit clients at their homes
- * One to one support and provide advice and information on various issues including benefits
- * Drop-in sessions for clients to access support closer to their homes
- * Luncheon club to access freshly cooked food
- * Support to carers
- * Support to patients after hospital care

Public benefit statement

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular the relief of those in need by reason of disability.

Achievements and performance

ABA Chairperson's report – Ms Kuldeep Bajwa

This has been a really great year for ABA. We have worked on several different projects like the Aasra, Sahara, and the Roshni Project, which support individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds with sight loss and their carers. We find a lot of people we work with experience health complications due to not knowing where to go for the support they need or what they need. For example, the Roshni Project aims to bridge the gap for our service users to understand what is available to them.

ABA works with service users in different ways to ensure that the information gets to our diverse communities in Leeds via the different projects we are funded to deliver. ABA has a lot of projects which allow us to find different ways to ensure we can share the information with diverse communities about what they can do and where they are able to receive statutory services to improve their quality of life.

As you can see from the CEO's report the outline of the different projects and events such as "The Chai Project" and the South Asian Heritage Month were delivered successfully in liaison with varied partners including the Leeds Playhouse, Leeds City Council and the Police. All of which demonstrated the diversity of the work carried out by ABA.

I would like to say a big thank you to all the staff who have worked tirelessly in ensuring that ABA delivers a very high-quality service to our service users, and to our CEO who has worked hard to ensure that ABA is continuously funded to carry on the good work of ABA.

To our funders, thank you for allowing ABA to grow by funding us.

ABA CEO's report – Mrs Debbani Ghosh

This year, we have a lot to celebrate and share, thanks to the dedication and generosity of our staff, volunteers, and funders. We have also observed the challenges that our sector is currently facing and because of these obstacles, our efforts to secure funding and maintain our services have become increasingly difficult. Nevertheless, ABA has demonstrated remarkable resilience, adaptability, and teamwork in addressing these challenges. While our usual aim has been to achieve service outcomes that avert social isolation, we have now placed a greater focus on economic well-being. This shift is highly appropriate given the current cost of living crisis. As a result, we have increased service users' access to welfare rights and benefits, and certain funds, such as household support funds, have been particularly beneficial to those struggling to meet their needs.

Association of Blind Asians (Leeds)

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2024

This year has seen many highlights, including trips to the seaside, the International Day of Older Disabled People, and the End of Year celebration. However, if I had to choose one standout experience, it would be the group activities that focused on co-production and engagement within the community. One of the most uplifting moments was when we collaborated to create a blanket for charity. This project truly captures our greatest achievement of the year, as reflected in the feedback we received:

"Making a 'chakra' blanket for charity was our idea, but it was wonderful that ABA provided the wool for us to make the squares. We worked together, chatted, and laughed. It was my favourite activity."

One of the most successful events was South Asian Heritage Month, which was attended by nearly 200 people, including many distinguished guests from Leeds and beyond. This event, held at the Civic Hall in Leeds, provided a platform for our service users to take pride in their identity and the contributions made by immigrants in the city.

Our service users are at the heart of everything we do at ABA. We consistently listen to their requests within the group, and once those requests are acknowledged, we follow up on any feedback received. Although we were unable to bring the forum back to its full capacity since COVID-19, we continue to engage in consultations online, in-person, or in group settings.

Finally, I would like to thank the Trustees for their clear leadership and direction, which enable me to focus on creating a better future for our organisation.

Leeds Playhouse – The Year of Culture Celebration

As part of the Leeds 2023 Year of Culture, the Leeds Playhouse hosted an event called "Takeover by Older People." In April 2023, ABA facilitated a session titled "Make Your Own Chapati." During this session, service users demonstrated how to make authentic chapatis using family recipes. Attendees had the opportunity to observe the process, taste the finished products, and even try their hand at making chapatis themselves. A recipe was shared along with helpful tips for beginners.

The session also covered budgeting aspects such as buying bulk, looking for offers on chapati flour, storing flour, online shopping for gluten-free options, avoiding impulse purchases, and freezing dough and chapatis. Additionally, participants were encouraged to explore other recipes that use chapati flour, such as parathas and puris.

The event involved 30 participants, including service users, guests, volunteers, and ABA staff.

The Chai Project – funded by Awards for All

ABA was awarded for The Chai Project. In a joint initiative to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, ABA partnered with the Balbir Singh Dance Company.

We delivered the project in three phases and completed it in three months. Service users had the opportunity to see and smell the tea before it was brewed. The groups discussed various brewing practices, from using a kettle to boiling tea in a pan. The facilitator shared information about different types of tea, including black, green, and herbal tea, along with their benefits.

The concluding celebration event was held on July 12, 2023, at the Bridge Community Centre in Leeds. A total of 30 participants, including service users, guests, volunteers, and ABA staff, attended the event.

South Asian Heritage Month

South Asian Heritage Month (SAHM) celebrates the rich cultural diversity of South Asian communities, highlighting their contributions to society, history, and traditions. ABA initiated the celebration of SAHM on 15th of August. This event promoted awareness of South Asian heritage through storytelling, music, art, dance, and the setting up of the Spice Corner. All people enjoyed SAHM. The event was followed by warm food at Leeds Civic Hall.

Nearly 200 people attended the event, and 126 participated, including service users, guests, delegates, volunteers, and ABA staff

Association of Blind Asians (Leeds)

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2024

International Day of Older People

International Day of Older People, a day dedicated to raising awareness about the issues affecting the elderly and celebrating their contributions. ABA secured funding and in partnership with Sikh Elders hosted a sports day at Ramgarhia Sports Centre for service users and their families. Activities were planned to meet the needs of the elderly, including egg and spoon races (we used ping pong balls) and playing catch with small bean bags. It was amazing to hear stories of games/sports that brought back wonderful childhood memories - service users talked of games like hide and seek, hopscotch, and football. We had nearly 50 people who enjoyed taking part as well as watching and cheering others on. Lunch and refreshments were served.

Forum Central Household Support Fund (HSF)

In December 2023, ABA applied for a second round of funding from the Forum Central Household Support Fund (HSF) and was awarded funding to assist vulnerable households facing significant increases in living costs, helping them meet immediate needs and addressing challenges related to energy and water bills, food, and other essentials.

As a result, ABA provided support to 40 service users in the form of supermarket vouchers.

Roshni Project - Overview of the Project

The Henry Smith Project, led by ABA, supports individuals from culturally diverse and deprived communities facing sight loss or at risk of vision loss. The project addresses health complications caused by a lack of accessible information and healthcare by providing personalized support, advocacy, and promoting social inclusion. Between April 2023 and March 2024, ABA engaged the community through various methods, including face-to-face sessions, home visits, and outreach events, focusing on emotional and practical support, such as accessing benefits and navigating healthcare.

Key aspects included promoting eye health awareness through community group sessions and weekly luncheon gatherings. These served as social outlets while providing valuable information on managing health and finances. ABA also collaborated with local organisations to host events that raised awareness and built a supportive network for those experiencing sight loss.

Activities Organised:

Luncheon Groups: Held twice weekly, these groups provide hot vegetarian meals, an opportunity to socialise, and access to workshops on topics such as eye health, cost of living, healthy living, etc. This year, we served 1590 hot vegetarian meals while providing workshops on eye health and healthy living.

Health Awareness Roadshows: We organised four roadshows covering blood pressure checks and assistive technology, which were attended by over 250 people. These roadshows were organised in partnership with local organisations and other stakeholders.

Group Sessions: 78 total sessions from April 2023 to March 2024 focused on glaucoma awareness, budgeting, and well-being, as well as raising awareness of the importance of regular eye check-ups by visiting their opticians or Ophthalmologists at the eye clinics.

Advocacy Support: The team assisted 69 individuals with tasks like applying for benefits and renewing bus passes. Key figures include 9 successful PIP applications and numerous successful applications for carer's allowance, a blue badge, capacity for work and child benefits, along with 27 signposts to other organisations.

Trips: Organised a summer trip to Bridlington in August 2023 with 33 participants and their families.

Overall, the project has significantly impacted the community by providing essential support and fostering connections among those affected by sight loss.

Association of Blind Asians (Leeds)

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2024

Service User Case Study

G has been a long-term service user with diabetes that affected her feet and eyes, and she was recently diagnosed with cancer. She became isolated due to her health condition and fear of infection, particularly during her chemotherapy treatment. ABA staff supported G by booking hospital appointments, arranging interpreters, and organizing home visits. Staff ensured that she had both emotional and practical support, regularly checked in on her well-being, and arranged hospital transport for chemotherapy sessions. The ongoing contact has helped G feel less isolated and more confident about managing her care.

Service User Case Study

Mrs. B, aged 84, faced multiple health challenges, including diabetes, blood pressure issues, and macular degeneration. She was admitted to hospital for five weeks and later received carer's allowance for her personal care. ABA support workers provided essential information and emotional support to her and her family about Direct Payments, ensuring they were fully informed about their options. Although they ultimately chose not to proceed with Direct Payments, the family was grateful for the ongoing assistance.

Preventing Sight Loss – Funded by Big Lottery Fund

ABA secured funding from the Big Lottery Fund to strengthen operational activities and improve community engagement by recruiting two individuals for this project: a Business Development Officer and a Community Engagement Worker.

This year, we reviewed and enhanced our HR systems to support staff well-being and monitored HR-related documents. The Business Development Manager played a key role in this process, which was crucial during a challenging period.

Until September 2023, the Business Development Manager worked with a recruitment agency but later took over responsibilities for advertising and conducting interviews. By March 2024, following renewed funding from the Henry Smith Fund, two part-time Support Workers were hired, accompanied by new job descriptions and salary structures. This period was particularly challenging for recruiting and retaining staff due to the competitive job market. Out of the 15 individuals involved in the recruitment process, only five remain, indicating a high attrition rate and significant resource loss.

To improve our visibility, we are diligently working on enhancing our website to ensure better accessibility and a more user-friendly experience. The Business Development Manager has also focused on identifying long-term contracts and funding for the sustainable future of ABA. Funding from Live Well Leeds was secured for the Carers Project, and a successful appointment was made for the Carers Coordinator position. The Business Development Manager has been at the forefront of most funding applications this year, demonstrating her commitment and leadership in securing the project's financial stability.

Community engagements

Throughout the year, our outreach activities have been both successful and impactful, positively influencing individuals and the broader community. The dedicated efforts of our Community Engagement worker, who actively engages with diverse groups, have significantly strengthened connections, provided essential support, and promoted our services. This has resulted in meaningful and lasting benefits for those we serve.

Our focus on promoting ABA services and health awareness has led to 25 sessions, reaching over 670 individuals in various community groups. We delivered health awareness presentations to groups including the Leeds Refugee Forum, Beeston Community Centre, Asha Women's Group, Shantona, Nuban Community Group, Women's Health Group Lincoln Green, Bahar Community Group, the Middle Eastern and Mediterranean Community (MEMEC), Better Health Group Barca Leeds, Hong Kong Community Group, Red Lychee Group, and Beetey Din Community Group, among others. These often hard-to-reach and isolated groups have greatly benefitted from our consistent efforts to engage and connect with the community.

Association of Blind Asians (Leeds)

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2024

Our community engagement efforts successfully connected over 61 individuals with our services through collaborations with Primary Care Networks (PCNs), Adult Social Care, health awareness initiatives, networking, and community outreach. We established partnerships with 10 to 15 PCNs across Leeds, including Woodhouse, Bellbrooke Surgery (LS8 and LS9), Middleton & Hunslet, Armley PCN Network, as well as Seacroft PCN and developed referral pathways with community groups and organisations.

Aasra Carers' Project – Funded by Live Well Leeds

Overview of the Project

The Aasra Project provides vital support to unpaid carers, especially those from diverse communities, who often face significant challenges in their caregiving roles. These challenges include isolation alongside physical and emotional exhaustion and the difficulty of balancing caregiving with work and family responsibilities, which can leave little time for self-care. Recognising the importance of carers' well-being, the project offers a variety of services designed to alleviate these pressures, ensuring that carers receive the support they need to continue in their roles without compromising their own health and emotional stability.

The Aasra Project, launched in the summer of 2023, is a relatively new initiative aimed at providing crucial support to unpaid carers. Initially, the project offered only one-on-one telephone-based guidance, prioritising personalised care. However, in November 2023, structured support groups were introduced, providing a new layer of assistance.

The core mission of the Aasra Project is to evolve and grow in response to the changing needs of carers, with a strong focus on promoting their mental and physical well-being. Despite this, carers often face significant barriers, particularly in cultures where caregiving is seen as a family obligation. In such contexts, seeking external help can be viewed as inappropriate or even stigmatised, which adds further stress to their role. The Aasra Project aims to address these challenges by enhancing the availability of support and making it more accessible.

Similarly, another obstacle faced by the carers from diverse backgrounds is the lack of awareness about the range of services available, including respite care, financial assistance, and legal rights. This gap is often the result of poor outreach efforts or a lack of resources in languages that carers are most comfortable with.

The introduction of support groups has created a space where carers can share their experiences, challenges, and coping strategies with others in similar situations. These groups foster social interaction, reduce isolation, and provide a sense of community, allowing carers to feel supported and connected.

Activities organised

Engaging in arts and crafts, massage therapy, yoga, and Pilates has significantly benefited carers and service users.

For example, Arts & Crafts sessions have helped carers reduce stress, promote relaxation, and enhance mindfulness while fostering a sense of accomplishment. These therapeutic activities have also aided service users in managing their mental health.

Service users have enjoyed massage therapy, which offers deep relaxation and relief from physical tension, especially around the neck and shoulders. This treatment alleviates discomfort and emotional stress, promoting overall balance and well-being.

Other popular activities were Yoga and Pilates, which uplifted participants through stretching and breath control. These activities effectively promote relaxation, release tension, and improve flexibility and mental calmness.

Together, these activities foster a holistic mental and physical health approach for both carers and service users.

During this period, we conducted 25 sessions and provided one-on-one support to 25 individuals regarding their enquiries about benefits, carer's allowance, form filling, and more. Additionally, we carried out 21 outreach activities to promote our services and raise awareness of the Aasra project through various events and roadshows.

Association of Blind Asians (Leeds)

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2024

Service User Case Study

The service user (SU) is a caregiver for her daughter, who has mobility and disability challenges. After resigning from her full-time job to provide care, the SU is facing financial stress and struggling to manage household expenses for her five children. She is also on the waiting list for council housing but lacks guidance on navigating this process, increasing her stress.

Through ABA, the SU received valuable support in several areas:

ABA facilitated the SU's application for council housing, reducing her stress significantly. After moving in, the SU lacked essential items. ABA worked with external agencies to secure free furniture, alleviating her financial and mental burden, including helping her with Household Support Fund, providing food vouchers to ease her family's financial strain.

ABA's assistance significantly lowered the SU's stress and anxiety about her family's basic needs. Joining ABA's carer support group also provided her with an outlet for self-care and socialization. Over time, the SU built a trusting relationship with ABA, feeling comfortable seeking further help, which boosted her confidence and emotional well-being.

Testimonies:

"Thank you for everything" ...

"I enjoyed the yoga activities so much"

"I don't want to leave this group; I wish I could stay"

Sahara Project – Funded by BID Services

Overview of the Project

The project was set-up to deliver services to South Asian visually impaired people and their carers and is funded by BID Services, a Sensory Support Service in Leeds to provide comprehensive information sessions, activities and advocacy. The name itself suggests support (Sahara =Support). The word is associated in Hindi with the meaning of comfort or encouragement i.e providing assistance. As part of this project we run one session on Tuesdays at Chapeltown BAME Centre, Reginald Terrace. These sessions are very popular among service users. They get information and support in a friendly, sociable environment. They also receive advice on benefits and accessing various services/events within Leeds.

Activities organised

The range of activities offered in the community has proved to be incredibly beneficial, fostering creativity, health, and connection among participants. The Bead and Strings Workshop and Card Making Session facilitated artistic expression, allowing individuals to explore their creativity while developing fine motor skills. Similarly, the Cross Stitching and Origami sessions provided a serene environment for relaxation and mindfulness, which is essential for mental well-being. The Flower Arranging with Healing Music and Paper Flower Making not only beautified spaces but also promoted emotional wellness through the therapeutic power of art and nature. Cultural awareness was celebrated during events like the Asian Heritage Month and Black History Month activities, enriching participants with knowledge and fostering a sense of community. The "Eyes and Nature" Walk further enhanced this connection with nature, promoting mindfulness and appreciation for the environment. Workshops like Stone Painting and Spoon Colouring encouraged creativity in a relaxed setting, while sessions for crochet squares for charity blankets and cushion cover embroidery illustrated the spirit of giving back to the community.

During Christmas, service users planned for a meal out and a Candle Decoration workshop that added a festive touch, bringing people together to celebrate and share joy. Overall, these activities have not only cultivated individual skills and well-being but have also strengthened community bonds, highlighting the profound impact of creative and cultural engagement in enhancing our lives.

Association of Blind Asians (Leeds)

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2024

Outreach and roadshows

Outreach and promotion of services play a crucial role in engaging diverse audiences and fostering community participation. Effective outreach strategies, such as using social media and local community engagement raise awareness about significant events and initiatives, like Asian Heritage Month and Black History Month.

We have worked with various partners and community groups in different parts of Leeds, ensuring that everyone has access to meaningful experiences and resources. To enhance the events and provide additional value to the community, stall holders such as NHS and many community organisations, resulting in approximately 34 stalls offering health information.

This year, we have supported 62 individuals with various services, including one-to-one support and 240 advocacy sessions. We have worked closely with individuals, providing comprehensive support with aids and equipment. 93 sessions were delivered, including various activities and information sessions. We organised six events, including four roadshows, and we engaged with 545 people through these events demonstrating successful outreach.

60% of these people have been supported with translation support on letters, communication received by a medical or a council service; others have been offered individual attention in group activities, whether to listen to their needs/concerns or assist with the activity.

Co-production

Our outcomes were achieved through a combination of increased community awareness and participation in various workshops, fostering social connections and creativity among service users.

With increased conversation and engagement, we have noticed a significant increase in participation across creative workshop leading to individuals experiencing a renewed sense of accomplishment and connection within the community. Service users consistently provided positive feedback about the social impact of these activities, as they enhanced mental health and fostered a sense of contribution through service users' forum. Additionally, throughout all activities, service users felt empowered through co-production and active participation, which was key to achieving these positive outcomes.

Case Study - 2

Mr HB was referred by one of our partner organisations (Linking Leeds). He is man of Arab ethnicity and speaks very little English. He was feeling very isolated, low and lacking friends or companionship. A referral form was first completed for him, followed by an assessment on his needs. He was informed about the different groups that ABA ran including the times, days and locations. He chose a group on Monday morning at Mary Sunley House. The Support Worker went with him for the first time to introduce him to the other participants so that he did not feel nervous. It did not take him long to feel part of the session as other residents and attendees made him feel welcome. Despite the language differences, he engaged with body language, laughter and empathy. The hot lunch provided was welcomed by him and enabled further connection with the other group members. Following this the Support Worker arranged to put in place in a support plan. He was very happy with the support received.

Case Study – 1

JA is a South Asian woman. She had been suffering with low vision and other health issues such as diabetes blood pressure for several years. Like many women in her community, she neglected her health issues along with her eye condition due to lack of awareness and limited access to support groups and other health services.

She was referred to ABA. JA faced numerous challenges in addressing her health issues. She felt isolated and disconnected with the community, leading to feeling of loneliness and low self-esteem. She joined the Sahara group. She attended various wellbeing activities in the Sahara group each week.

Improved Health and wellbeing- Through attending groups and taking part in well-being activities she learnt to manage her stress and anxiety. She said she felt more relaxed and calmer. Engaging in art and craft sessions allowed her to express herself creatively.

Association of Blind Asians (Leeds)

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2024

Limited health awareness- JA said she has been experiencing health issues such as diabetes and high blood pressure. By participating in regular health workshops with ABA, JA learnt about the importance of a healthy diet, exercise, medications and regular check-ups to manage her diabetes and high blood pressures. As a result of her participation in the health groups, JA experienced a significant improvement in her health and overall wellbeing. By applying the knowledge gained from the workshops she was able to better control her diabetes and high blood pressure. She shared the knowledge with family and friends and felt more confident about herself.

Increased social network- JA said she was socially isolated before. When she started ABA's Sahara group she made good friends from the same community. She took part in the group discussions. She attended ABA roadshows which helped her to gain more knowledge.

JA said all these group activities and wellbeing sessions boost her confidence and self-esteem. She feels more positive now.

Volunteering with ABA - Encouraged by the supportive atmosphere of the ABA service JA decided to take a step further and explore volunteering opportunities. She participated in volunteering training. She made a great connection with other service users. These connections provided her emotional support and passion towards her work. Engaging in volunteering activities further boosted her confidence and self-esteem. She would like to help other service users who are suffering with the same situation.

"ABA has changed my life mentally and physically. I have improved my health wellbeing. I would like to recommend ABA service for other people who need the support."

Financial review

The net payments for the year were £74,416, including net receipts of £3,282 on unrestricted funds and net payments of £77,698 on restricted funds after transfers.

Reserves policy

The reserves policy is to aim to hold reserves equivalent to 6 months' payroll costs. This would equate to approximately £55,000.

The charity's free reserves, at the year end were £91,097.

Approved by the board of trustees on 27/1/2025.....

Signed: *K Bajwa* (Trustee)

Name: *Kuldeep Bajwa*

Association of Blind Asians (Leeds)

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Association of Blind Asians (Leeds)

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 12 to 16.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act;
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Name: Simon Bostrom FCIE

Date:

West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

Stringer House
34 Lupton Street
Leeds
LS10 2QW

Association of Blind Asians (Leeds)

Receipts and payments account

for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024 Unrestricted funds £	2024 Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
Receipts					
Grants, contracts and donations	(2)	36,786	123,802	160,588	245,956
Sales, fees and contributions		5,166	-	5,166	2,841
Total receipts		41,952	123,802	165,754	248,797
Payments					
Salaries and on costs		40,920	109,073	149,993	108,989
Freelance work		-	-	-	2,093
Travel and transport		32	1,464	1,496	2,726
Catering costs		744	10,604	11,348	7,767
Events and activities		741	5,573	6,314	5,097
Hardship donations		-	4,525	4,525	5,577
Rent and room hire		-	3,409	3,409	874
Insurance		204	814	1,018	1,180
Office and administration		1,414	4,151	5,565	6,332
Equipment and resources		349	542	891	2,368
Accountancy		189	456	645	2,817
Training		360	595	955	3,341
Memberships		126	268	394	384
Advertising, events and publications		-	3,502	3,502	7,087
Consultancy		992	2,735	3,727	549
Recruitment		58	4,220	4,278	11,334
Website		449	1,803	2,252	1,685
Other expense		-	-	-	30
Independent examination		198	594	792	600
Subcontracted delivery		-	13,581	13,581	12,000
Grants repaid		-	25,485	25,485	-
Total payments		46,776	193,394	240,170	182,830
Net receipts / (payments)		(4,824)	(69,592)	(74,416)	65,967
Transfers between funds	(3)	8,106	(8,106)	-	-
Net movement in funds		3,282	(77,698)	(74,416)	65,967
Fund balances brought forward		87,815	110,634	198,449	132,482
Fund balances carried forward	(3)	91,097	32,936	124,033	198,449

Association of Blind Asians (Leeds)

Statement of assets and liabilities

as at 31 March 2024

	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cash funds				
Cash at bank	90,338	32,936	123,274	198,139
Cash in hand	759	-	759	310
Total cash funds	<u>91,097</u>	<u>32,936</u>	<u>124,033</u>	<u>198,449</u>

Debtors and prepayments

Other debtors

2024

£

4,072

4,072

Assets retained for the charity's own use

11 desktop computers
3 printers
2 laptops
3 second hand laptops for service users
1 netbook
3 tablets
General office furniture
Camera
Video camera
Projector
26 I pads
3 i phones

Liabilities

2024

£

738

792

1,530

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on

Signed: KBajwa (Trustee)

Name: Kuldeep Bajwa

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Basis of accounting

No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

As a charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

Association of Blind Asians (Leeds)

Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 31 March 2024

2 Grants, contracts and donations	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	funds	funds	funds	funds
	£	£	£	£
Henry Smith Charity	-	25,000	25,000	52,500
Leeds City Council (LCC) contract	36,656	-	36,656	32,042
Leeds Community Foundation	-	4,685	4,685	4,360
Leeds Older Peoples Forum (LOPF)	-	30,200	30,200	82,345
National Lottery Community Fund	-	31,250	31,250	63,135
Touchstone	-	32,117	32,117	-
Leeds City Council (LCC) Covid-19	-	-	-	3,250
Leeds Mind	-	-	-	1,000
National Lottery Community Fund (A4A)	-	-	-	5,500
Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB)	-	-	-	1,500
Councillors contributions	-	550	550	-
Other donations	130	-	130	324
	<u>36,786</u>	<u>123,802</u>	<u>160,588</u>	<u>245,956</u>

3 Restricted funds	Balance b/f	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
Awards for All	15,485	-	3,001	(12,484)	-
Big Lottery Fund	35,817	31,250	55,525	-	11,542
Councillors Contribution	-	550	237	-	313
Forum Central	125	5,000	4,557	(568)	-
Henry Smith Charity	15,674	25,000	49,304	10,484	1,854
Leeds Mind	374	-	-	-	374
Live Well Leeds	-	32,117	20,882	-	11,235
LOPF - IDOP	-	200	200	-	-
LOPF - Enhance Funding	35,218	25,000	54,680	(5,538)	-
Lunch club	-	4,685	3,882	-	803
RNIB	1,000	-	726	-	274
Sir George Martin	353	-	-	-	353
Thomas Pocklington Trust	6,588	-	400	-	6,188
	<u>110,634</u>	<u>123,802</u>	<u>193,394</u>	<u>(8,106)</u>	<u>32,936</u>

Fund name

Awards for All

Purpose of restriction

Towards the 'Fair Ride' transport project. Funding was awarded during COVID-19, and the project was not delivered due to the circumstances. The funder gave the go ahead for the funds to be utilised as appropriate and so the remaining balance of £12,484 was transferred into the Henry Smith fund to extend that work.

Big Lottery Fund

Funding for a 2 year project to enable people living with visual impairments from South Asian and other BAME communities to access support through a variety of activities and also to enable the charity to develop plans for its longer term financial stability.

Councillors Contribution

Towards events at the Civic Hall.

Forum Central

Housing Support Fund to be distributed to vulnerable people struggling due to the increase in cost of living. The transfer relates to a contribution to overheads.

Association of Blind Asians (Leeds)

Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 31 March 2024

3 Restricted funds continued

Fund name	Purpose of restriction
Henry Smith Charity	Towards the running costs of a 1-2-1 support, advocacy and advice service for vulnerable BAME individuals with visual impairment in Leeds.
Leeds Mind	To provide activities and support service users with mental health.
Live Well Leeds	To provide support to unpaid carers from diverse communities.
LOPF - IDOP	Towards the International Day of Older People.
LOPF - Enhance Funding	Contract to work with the elderly BAME community in Leeds to support them to stay well at home, and have improved health and well being through a person-centred approach and a culturally appropriate service. Whilst being contractual, the funding is also restricted. The transfer relates to a contribution to overheads.
Lunch club	To provide freshly cooked food to blind and partially sighted people.
RNIB	To deliver training 'Living with sight loss'.
Sir George Martin	To support the organisation during Covid-19.
Thomas Pocklington Trust	To support the organisation during Covid-19.

4 Related party transactions

Trustee expenses

No trustee received any expenses during this year or the previous year.

Trustee remuneration and benefits

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.

Association of Blind Asians (Leeds)

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Association of Blind Asians (Leeds)

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 12 to 16.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act;
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 

Name: Simon Bostrom FCIE

27/01/2025

West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

Stringer House
34 Lupton Street
Leeds
LS10 2QW