

SAHARA PROJECT (PRESTON) LIMITED

England & Wales · Charity number 1050142

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [02967577](#)

Registered 1995-10-24

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 48-54 Fishwick Parade
Preston
PR1 4XQ

Phone 01772702090

Email sahara.inpreston@btinternet.com

Activities

Objects: (1) TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF WOMEN OF ETHNIC MINORITIES IN GENERAL AND OF ASIAN AND AFRO CARIBBEAN ORIGIN IN PARTICULAR IN THE ARE OF PRESTON. (2) TO SUPPORT AND ALLEVIATE THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF SUCH WOMEN. (3) TO PROMOTE GOOD RACE RELATIONS (4) TO PROVIDE FACILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR RECREATION AND LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE OF THOSE PERSONS IN CONDITIONS OF NEED HARDSHIP OR DISTRESS (5) TO PROMOTE THE EDUCATION OF WOMEN WHO THROUGH THEIR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES ARE IN NEED AND UNABLE TO GAIN EMPLOYMENT, AND IN PARTICULAR TO PROMOTE OR SUPPORT SCHEMES WHERE SUCH PERSONS MAY RECEIVE TRAINING WHILE IN EMPLOYMENT

Activities: The principal activities of the charity are to offer a free and confidential support service for women providing advice, information, counselling, volunteering and social activities and educational courses.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** PRESTON
- Lancashire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£436,596	£291,869	-	-
2024-03-31	£422,667	£355,152	-	-
2023-03-31	£287,436	£229,570	-	-
2022-03-31	£217,229	£285,247	-	-
2021-03-31	£413,241	£223,842	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
KASH SINGH		2025-02-13
LINDA KENYON		2025-02-11
RIAZ BEGUM		2011-05-04
RIFFTAT BATOOL		2012-12-04
SHAMIM REHMAN		
jackie louise flynn		2016-09-01

SAHARA PROJECT (PRESTON) LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1050142

Accounts

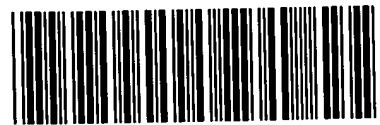
Registered number
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Sahara Project (Preston) Limited
Registered Charity Number: 02967577

Accounts

31 March 2025

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COMPANIES HOUSE

Sahara Project (Preston) Limited

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Sahara Project (Preston) Limited

Legal and administrative information

Constitution

Sahara Project (Preston) Limited is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its memorandum and articles of association.

Directors and trustees

The directors of the charitable company are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as trustees.

Directors/Trustees

Shamim Rehman
Jackie Flynn
Riffat Batool
Riaz Begum
Kash Singh
Linda Kenyon

Chair
Treasurer
Company Secretary

Manager

Zafar Coupland

Company number

02967577

Registered Charity Number

1050142

Accountants

Mrs Bina Shukla (ACPA)
BBS4Tax Limited
37 Hesketh Road
Southport
Merseyside

Business address

48 Fishwick Parade
Preston
Lancashire

Bankers

Virgin Money
44 Fishergate
Preston
PR1 8BH

Solicitors

Napthens LLP
7 Winckley Square
Preston
PR1 3JD

Sahara Project (Preston) Limited
Registered Number: 02967577

**Report of the trustees
for the year to 31 March 2025**

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year to 31/3/25. The Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of the report are set out on Page 1

Governing Document

The Sahara Project (Preston) Ltd is constituted as a registered charity and is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association
It is also a company limited by guarantee and is registered with Companies House

Charitable Objectives

See the Trustees Report for detail pertaining to this

Statement of Trustees responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with the controls, financial or otherwise. They are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.
The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Small Entities (effective January 2015)

The trustees of the company must, in determining how amounts are presented within items in the statement of financial activities and balance sheet, have regard to the substance of the reported transaction or arrangement, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and practices

TRUSTEES REPORT

The Trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements, have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published on 16 July 2014.

Sahara Project (Preston) Limited
Registered Number: 02967577

Report of the trustees - continued
for the year to 31 March 2025

Structure, governance and management
Governing document

The company was incorporated on 14 September 1994 and is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Status

The charity is registered with the Charity Commission and is also a Company Limited by Guarantee but does not have a share capital. The liability of the members is limited. Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company if it is wound up whilst she is a member or within one year after she ceased to be a member, such as amounts as may be required not exceeding one pound.

Organisation of the charity

All the directors of the company are also trustees of the charity and form the Management Board. The day-to-day management is carried out by the Sahara Manager. The short-term nature of funding for the voluntary sector means that some staff appointments have to be on a temporary basis, with contract periods of one to four years.

Directors/trustees

The directors and trustees listed on page 1 served during the year. The existing trustees accept the obligation to fully inform a new trustee of the duties and responsibilities of the charity trustees by providing the new trustee with copies of the governing instrument, minutes of previous meetings of the trustees, recent annual accounts of the charity and the relevant charity commission publication relating to the responsibilities of trustees.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning future objectives.

Objectives and activities

The main aims and objectives of Sahara are to;

preserve and protect the health and well-being of minority ethnic women in Preston, in particular those of Asian, Arabic, African and Caribbean heritage.

support and alleviate the social and economic problems created by high levels of unemployment, poverty, poor housing and social deprivation by offering a secure and comfortable place to turn to for help and advice

promote equality of opportunity and to oppose discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, religion, culture, and disability.

Sahara is a women's only organisation which supports and assists women in culturally and linguistically sensitive way. Sahara is proud to be able to provide targeted support to Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Women. We are unique in that we take an holistic approach and help women to overcome a wide range of interlinked problems.

For example, mental health problems and a lack of confidence, may be rooted in a woman having been the victim of domestic violence for over 20 years. Many of our users need months of dedicated support to be able to 'move on' and overcome their difficulties.

Sahara Project (Preston) Limited
Registered Number: 02967577

Report of the trustees - continued
for the year to 31 March 2025

Objectives and activities - continued

Our work with other Agencies allows specialist advice about immigration, employment, education, domestic abuse and discrimination to be provided. We believe that the quality of society is rooted in the knowledge, attitudes, skills and abilities of those who are members of communities. With appropriate support, we enable our service users to overcome the many difficulties they face and become positive members of cohesive and sustainable communities.

We seek to achieve our objectives, by, offering a free confidential support service for women, providing advice, information, counselling, and advocacy covering a wide range of problems and issues; provide support to those wishing to enter the job market, by working with DWP, Employers and other voluntary organisations, provide volunteering opportunities; social activities, run Netball and Football classes for Asian young women, hold conferences and seminars on health and other issues; and in conjunction with education and learning providers, offer a wide range of vocational and non-vocational courses.

We are also a designated centre for the reporting of Hate Crime.

Review of the charity's activities

Sahara continued to provide core activities for minority ethnic women to develop skills and experiences to enable them to move towards active citizenship within the Preston area. We also assisted women from Lancaster, Blackpool, Leyland and Chorley, where organisations like Sahara, do not exist. In recent times the challenges we have faced are a substantial increase in the women needing help because of the rise in the incidents of domestic violence and the cost-of-living crisis which has particularly affected women living in areas of high social deprivation.

Services provided

Sahara runs a number of Projects to support BME women and help them overcome problems they are facing. We employ bilingual staff to ensure we provide effective support to all our beneficiaries regardless of their language skills. Feedback from women indicates that the ability of our staff to communicate with them in their mother tongue is an invaluable support.

We provide advice on a wide range of issues, especially related to domestic abuse in all its forms. Our work with victims of abuse include advice on immigration status, housing, benefits, and a woman's rights in relation to children and family property. A self-help group meets regularly for women to come together and support each other. Counselling is provided to help women overcome the trauma of the abuse they have suffered. Women are also encouraged to make use of our employment services, so that over time they can become financially independent and have control over their lives. Other areas we frequently provide advice on are debt management, school places and appeals process, and dealing with formal letters from statutory organisations. Since 2021, we have been involved in distributing food parcels for those living in extreme poverty. This work is increasingly becoming a vital service for our beneficiaries and their families. We work closely with other service providers and in particular the NHS promoting their health and well-being initiatives.

Sahara Project (Preston) Limited
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Report of the trustees - continued
for the year to 31 March 2025

Services provided - continued

We run a Job Club where women can learn how to search for jobs, complete online application forms, prepare CVs, prepare for interviews and understand the requirements of employers. Local employers kindly support the Job Club, by attending on a two weekly basis to explain the type of jobs found in their organisations. Job Fairs and Volunteering Fairs are held at regular intervals with local employers and other voluntary organisations in attendance. These gave over five hundred women the opportunity to find out about the range of jobs and volunteering opportunities in the city. By the end of March 2025 one hundred and eighty-nine women had obtained jobs as the result of the support provided by Sahara. They now have financial independence and increased status and influence within their families and community and provide a role model for other women. The Job Fairs also provide opportunities for employers to directly meet with job seekers and explain the types of jobs available within their organisations and talk through their current vacancies. We also work with statutory and other voluntary organisations to promote paid and volunteering opportunities to our beneficiaries. We provide confidence building training when needed and where women lack the necessary skills for the job market and we encourage them to attend English, Math and Computer classes run at Sahara. Volunteering opportunities are offered so that women can develop valuable transferrable skills. These are within Sahara itself and in partnership with other voluntary organisations.

For many BME women Covid resulted in fear, isolation, anxiety and depression often exacerbating existing conditions. The effects of Covid will take years for some women to fully recover from. We run support groups on a weekly basis, which enable women to come together in a relaxed atmosphere and undertake activities geared to helping them improve their mental health. Women are encouraged and supported to seek medical help, and counselling is provided where a woman feels it would be of help to her.

Our weekly sports activities are very popular with young Asian Girls as well as playing, keeping fit and meeting other teams, such as the Police Cadets they have broken down cultural stereotypes, been role models to other girls, and been able to develop valuable social, confidence, communication leadership, time management and team building skills and self-esteem.

During the period April 2024 to March 2025 over 2000 BME women accessed various services from Sahara Centre based on Fishwick Parade with majority of the users coming from Ribbleson, St Mathews, Deepdale, Fishwick and Avenham. These are areas of high social deprivation, which according to government statistics are amongst some of the worst in the Country coming within the top 10% and 15% of deprived areas nationally. As indicated earlier, we also worked with women from other towns and cities including, Chorley, Leyland, Blackpool and Lancaster.

Our work with BME women since 1991, has shown, that in addition to facing this level of deprivation and disadvantage, our service users have to deal with other issues including lack of power and influence in their personal lives often leading to mental health problems.

A number of women faced problems because of their immigration status which meant they had no access to public funds

Sahara provides a bespoke service for BME women who are either victims of domestic abuse from their partners/extended family members, or forced marriages. It provides emotional support together with information and guidance, and encourages and assists victims to report incidents of domestic violence and forced marriages.

Where victims wish to leave the family home, we help them obtain housing or a place at local or national Women's Refuge and enable them to access relevant benefits and school places for their children. Where they do not wish to leave the family home, we work to help them to develop the confidence and personal strategies to keep themselves safe as well as inform the perpetrators that their behaviour is unacceptable. Our support to women who are victims of domestic abuse and forced marriage has enabled those, who are reluctant to seek help because of culture and honour, to disclose their situation and begin the process of rebuilding their lives. During 2024-25 we saw an increase in the number of women seeking help and advice in relation to domestic violence caused in some cases by the cost-of-living crisis with women being the 'scape goats' for debt and financial difficulties.

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Report of the trustees - continued
for the year to 31 March 2025

Services provided - continued

Sahara staff have also supported a number of women who needed advice in relation to Child Protection Orders. In many cases, they did not understand the process and were in danger of exacerbating the situation.

Our 'one stop shop' facility enabled over 150 BME women, each week, to raise problems affecting their lives, thus allowing them to 'have a voice' and preventing their marginalization and isolation from within the wider society. Depending on the complexity of the issues, it can take between 2 hours to 72 hours to resolve problems. Sahara actively encouraged women to engage in their local communities, volunteering in local schools and play schemes and working with other partners to improve local neighbourhoods.

Our partnerships with Lancashire Adult Learning, WEA, and other training organisations enabled BME women to take advantage of a wide range of courses, many delivered weekly, through the year. Many of the courses are accredited and provide a progression route for women who wish to gain higher-level qualifications and employment.

During this period, in addition to on-going activities, Sahara ran specific projects on: domestic abuse and forced marriage; social isolation, mental health; digital inclusion, financial inclusion; literacy, employment support, sport activities, weekly job clubs, and health awareness programmes. Many projects were delivered through partnership working with a range of public and voluntary sector organisations. Including, NHS, Lancashire Constabulary, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, Lancashire County Council, and Preston North End Community Education Trust.

We worked on a day-to-day basis with partner organisations, supporting each other by sharing knowledge and experience to improve services for vulnerable BME women. Our partner organisations include NHS, South Ribble Primary Care Trust, and Preston City Council. Preston Domestic Violence Service, Department of Work and Pensions, Active Lancashire, Lancashire County Council, REC, Refugee and Asylum Seeker services, Immigration services, Local Primary and Secondary Schools, Preston Vocational Centre. Safe Net. Childs Play. Housing Associations, Friends of Fishwick and St Matthews, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, Lancashire Constabulary, Macmillan Cancer Support Charity, DWP, MIND, Preston North End Community Education Trust, Health Watch, Mandala CIC, Preston Community Network. All of these relationships contributed to the support services we offered our beneficiaries during 2024-25

Sahara held four Open Days and Consultation events to identify the needs of women and to help them empower themselves. Conferences were held with representatives of statutory and other voluntary organisations, including Lancashire County Council, NHS, Health Visitor and Midwifery Services, Clinic Commissioning Group, Preston City Council, Police, DWP, HMRC, CAB and Refuges, to improve women's knowledge about the role and responsibilities of these service providers. Numbers of participants were kept small to encourage a robust dialogue and discussion. These events have given women the confidence and the knowhow to approach statutory and service providers to report problems.

The Sahara Manager is actively involved in working at a strategic level with the Police, NHS, Police and Crime Commissioner, Preston City Council, Lancashire County Council and the wider voluntary sector to represent the needs of BME women.

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Report of the trustees - continued
for the year to 31 March 2025

Services provided - continued

Furthermore, the Manager sits on a number of strategic bodies. She chairs meetings of the City Council's Inclusion Reference Group, which acts as a critical friend in relation to Preston City Councils, Equality and Diversity policies and is Chair of the Preston Community Network, which supports voluntary organisations in the Preston area

Sahara is also a member of the Managing Committee for the Friends of Fishwick and St Matthews, which is overseeing a lottery grant to improve facilities in the area.

Sahara has been recognised as a Community Asset in the Friends of Fishwick and St Matthews Community Plan.

Future Plans

Sahara is committed to continuing its work to support vulnerable BME women in Preston and surrounding areas by seeking funding to deliver services to this group. With over thirty-two years' experience of supporting and working with BME women, there is now a recognition amongst public, private and third sector organisations about Sahara's unique position in Preston and the vital contribution we make to community cohesion and social inclusion

Going Concern

The Board has secured funding for the 2025-26 financial year from the Big Lottery, Preston City Council, Lloyds Foundation, Lancashire County Council, Friends of Fishwick and St Matthews, USKSPF Employ and we will also look to identify other funding streams relevant to our work

Financial Information

Financial review

The SOFA for the period is set out in the financial statements.

During 2024-25 period Sahara raised project funding from statutory organisations and charitable trusts and foundations, including, Big Lottery, Lancashire County Council, Friends of Fishwick and St Matthews, Preston City Council, Lloyds Foundation, Spring North West, Local Member Grants from County Councillors, details of which are given below.

Big Lottery Moving Forward Grant

The 24-25 period saw the first year of a four-year Big Lottery Grant, which provided a contribution towards running costs and the cost of staff working to address the following issues : -

- Poverty, unemployment and dependency on the welfare benefit system;
- Health and well-being;
- Social isolation;
- Discrimination and abuse – e.g. domestic abuse, hate crime, child sexual abuse, and the impact of Child Care legislation on women and their families.
- BME women not accessing statutory and other services to meet their needs and not participating in decision making processes.

Ministry of Justice and Home Office Grant

This grant has enabled Sahara to provide an enhanced support service to BME women who are the victims of domestic violence in all its forms

Preston City Council Digital Inclusion Grant

This enabled Sahara to help women improve their IT skills and search for jobs and information on a range of subjects.

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Report of the trustees - continued
for the year to 31 March 2025

Cancer Project funded by Spring North West

Enabled Sahara to improve the knowledge of BME women about the disease and promoted prevention and self-testing

Volunteering Project funded by Preston City Council

Enabled Sahara to provide additional volunteering opportunities to allow women to develop valuable transferrable skills

Asylum Seekers Project funded by Preston City Council

Enabled Sahara to work with Asylum Seekers and help their integration into the local community

BME Carers Project commissioned by Lancashire County Council

Has enabled Sahara to work with BME carers who often feel isolated and lack knowledge about support which is available

Work Well Project being carried out in conjunction with Active Lancashire

Has enabled Sahara to support those in employment or seeking employment who have health issues

Lancashire County Council, Local Member Grants enabled Sahara to support women with mental health issues and provide information on healthy eating.

Lloyds Foundation

Provided an unrestricted grant to contribute towards day to day running costs and also awarded a three-year Racial Equality Grant which runs to 2027

Income Generation

Additionally, Sahara raised funds through hiring rooms to training providers, statutory organisations, commercial organisations and private individuals, in both the main Sahara building and the Community Centre, which opened in early 2019, providing increased classroom and meeting room space.

Financial Review

The Charities income during 24-25 totalled £436,596 of this £342,150 related to grant funding and includes grants which run over more than one financial year

The surplus of unrestricted funds at the 31/3/25 totalled £220,255.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of Sahara, to only run projects, once funding is in place and staff are only employed for the life of a project.

Due to careful management, control of expenditure, and income generation activities, the unrestricted reserves at the end of the 2024-25 financial year stood at £220,255, which will cover running costs for over 6 months.

In addition, some of the unrestricted funds will also be used to finance the running of local projects, for which it would not be possible to obtain grant funding for and to run educational classes for BME women who would not meet the criteria for courses run by training providers, but who nonetheless need support.

We are very grateful to all those organisations who have given their support to Sahara.



Shamim Rehman. Chair of the Sahara Board

Sahara Project (Preston) Limited

Independent examiner's report to the trustees

We report on the accounts of the company for the year to 31 March 2025

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

Basis of independent examiner's report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention that gives cause for concern specifically in connection to ;

1a) We have no reason to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 have not been met

1b) We have prepared Accounts which accord with the Accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice; Accounting and Reporting by Charities

2) No matter has arisen where our attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

BBS4TAX Limited
ACPA



37 Hesketh Road
Southport
Merseyside
PR9 9PB

1st August 2025

Sahara Project (Preston) Limited
Statement of financial activities including Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31st March 2025

		Unrestricted Funds	Resticted Funds	TOTAL	Unrestricted Funds	Resticted Funds	TOTAL
	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £	2024 £
Income from							
Donations and Legacies	2	27,500	342,150	369,650	25,000	335,740	360,740
Investments Income		3,994	-	3,994	4,280	-	4,280
Room hire		62,952		62,952	57,647	-	57,647
Total income	3	<u>94,446</u>	<u>342,150</u>	<u>436,596</u>	<u>86,927</u>	<u>335,740</u>	<u>422,667</u>
Expenditure on							
Charitable activities		33,056	258,813	291,869	29,348	325,804	355,152
Net outgoing/(incoming) resources for the year		<u>61,390</u>	<u>83,337</u>	<u>144,727</u>	<u>57,579</u>	<u>9,936</u>	<u>67,515</u>
Gross Transfers b/fwd between funds		<u>(59,000)</u>	<u>59,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		<u>2,390</u>	<u>142,337</u>	<u>144,727</u>	<u>57,579</u>	<u>9,936</u>	<u>67,515</u>
Fund balances at 1st April 2024		<u>217,865</u>	<u>211,685</u>	<u>429,550</u>	<u>160,286</u>	<u>201,749</u>	<u>362,035</u>
Fund balances at 31st March 2025		<u>220,255</u>	<u>354,022</u>	<u>574,277</u>	<u>217,865</u>	<u>211,685</u>	<u>429,550</u>

Sahara Project (Preston) Limited
Balance Sheet
as at 31st March 2025

	Notes	2025	2024
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	4	<u>13,197</u>	<u>21,022</u>
		13,197	21,022
Current assets			
Debtors		61,637	90,880
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>506,610</u>	<u>324,960</u>
	4	<u>568,247</u>	<u>415,840</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		<u>(7,167)</u>	<u>(7,312)</u>
Net current assets		561,080	408,528
Net assets		<u>574,277</u>	<u>429,550</u>
Income Funds			
Restricted funds		354,022	211,685
Unrestricted funds		220,255	217,865
Total funds	5	<u>574,277</u>	<u>429,550</u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees

Ms J Flynn

J. Flynn

Mrs S Rehman

S. Rehman

Date

15/12/25

Sahara Project (Preston) Limited
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31st March 2025

1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015), the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005 (SORP 2005) and the Charities Act 1993.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income. Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Donated services and facilities are included to the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them. Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Freehold investment properties are included at market value at the balance sheet date. No depreciation or amortisation is provided in respect of freehold investment properties.

2 Voluntary income	Restricted funds	2025 £	2024 £
Donations and Legacies	342,150	342,150	335,740
	<u>342,150</u>	<u>342,150</u>	<u>335,740</u>

Sahara Project (Preston) Limited
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31st March 2025

4 Analysis of net assets between funds	Unrestricted funds	2025 £	2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	13,197	13,197	21,022
Current assets	568,247	568,247	415,840
Current liabilities	(7,167)	(7,167)	(7,312)
	<u>574,277</u>	<u>574,277</u>	<u>429,550</u>

5 Analysis of Total Funds	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfer between Funds	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Restricted funds	211,685	342,150	258,813	59,000	354,022
Unrestricted funds	217,865	94,446	33,056	(59,000)	220,255
Total funds	<u>429,550</u>	<u>436,596</u>	<u>291,869</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>574,277</u>

Sahara Project (Preston) Limited
Detailed profit and loss account
for the year ended 31st March 2025

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Sales		
Grants & Charitable Activities	369,650	360,740
Fund Generation - Room Hire	62,952	57,647
Interest Received	3,994	4,280
	<u>436,596</u>	<u>422,667</u>
Purchases		
Cost of Charitable Activities - combined below	-	115,045
	<u>-</u>	<u>115,045</u>
Gross Profit/(Loss):	<u>436,596</u>	<u>307,622</u>
Overheads		
Support Costs - Rent and Rates	21,930	21,014
Support Costs - Heat, Light and Insurance	7,381	9,086
Support Costs - Travelling Expenses	3,186	1,995
Support Costs - Telephone, Printing and Stationery	12,446	9,217
Support Costs - Equipment Hire and Rental	3,604	3,357
Support Costs - Maintenance	4,365	10,438
Support Costs - General Expenses	2,083	2,818
Management & Admin - Bank Charges and Interest	972	762
Management & Admin - Gross Wages	203,851	162,855
Management & Admin - Professional Fees	6,047	10,067
Management & Admin - Depreciation	7,825	-
Management & Admin - Local Projects	6,355	-
Management & Admin - Employers NI	8,792	6,163
Management & Admin - Employers Pensions	3,032	2,335
	<u>291,869</u>	<u>240,107</u>
Net Profit/(Loss):	<u>144,727</u>	<u>67,515</u>

SAHARA PROJECT (PRESTON) LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1050142

Accounts

Sahara Project (Preston) Limited

Registered Charity Number: 1050142

Companies House Registration No; 02967577

Accounts 1/4/23 to 31/3/24

Sahara Project (Preston) Limited

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Legal and administrative information

Constitution

Sahara Project (Preston) Limited is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its memorandum and articles of association.

Directors and trustees

The directors of the charitable company are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as trustees.

Directors/Trustees	Shamim Rehman Jackie Flynn Riffat Batool Riaz Begum Linda Kenyon	Chair Treasurer Company Secretary
--------------------	--	---

Manager	Zafar Coupland
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Company number	02967577
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Registered Charity Number	1050142
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Accountants	Mrs Bina Shukla (ACPA) BBS4Tax Limited 37 Hesketh Road Southport Merseyside PR9 9PB
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Business address	48 Fishwick Parade Preston Lancashire PR1 4XQ
------------------	--

Bankers	Virgin Money 44 Fishergate Preston
---------	--

Solicitors	Napthans LLP 7 Winckley Sq Preston
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Sahara Project (Preston) Limited

Report of the Trustees for the Year 23-24

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year to 31/3/24. The Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of the report are set out on Page 1

Governing Document

The Sahara Project (Preston) Ltd is constituted as a registered charity and is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association
It is also a company limited by guarantee and is registered with Companies House

Charitable Objectives

See the Trustees Report for detail pertaining to this

Statement of Trustees responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with the controls, financial or otherwise. They are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Small Entities (effective January 2015)

The trustees of the company must, in determining how amounts are presented within items in the statement of financial activities and balance sheet, have regard to the substance of the reported transaction or arrangement, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and practices

TRUSTEES REPORT

The Trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements, have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published on 16 July 2014.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The company was incorporated on 14 September 1994 and is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Status

The charity is registered with the Charity Commission and is also a Company Limited by Guarantee but does not have a share capital. The liability of the members is limited. Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company if it is wound up whilst she is a member or within one year after she ceased to be a member, such as amounts as may be required not exceeding one pound.

Organisation of the charity

All the directors of the company are also trustees of the charity and form the Management Board. The day-to-day management is carried out by the Sahara Manager. The short-term nature of funding for the voluntary sector means that some staff appointments have to be on a temporary basis, with contract periods of one to three years.

Directors/trustees

The directors and trustees listed on page 1 served during the year. The existing trustees accept the obligation to fully inform a new trustee of the duties and responsibilities of the charity trustees by providing the new trustee with copies of the governing instrument, minutes of previous meetings of the trustees, recent annual accounts of the charity and the relevant charity commission publication relating to the responsibilities of trustees.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning future objectives.

Objectives and activities

The main aims and objectives of Sahara are;

- To preserve and protect the health and well-being of minority ethnic women in Preston, in particular those of Asian, Arabic, African and Caribbean heritage.
- To support and alleviate the social and economic problems created by high levels of unemployment, poverty, poor housing and social deprivation by offering a secure and comfortable place to turn to for help and advice
- To promote equality of opportunity and to oppose discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, religion, culture, and disability.

Sahara is a women's only organisation which supports and assists women in culturally and linguistically sensitive way. Sahara is proud to be able to provide targeted support to Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Women. We are unique in that we take an holistic approach and help women to overcome a wide range of interlinked problems. For example, mental health problems and a lack of confidence, may be rooted in a woman having been the victim of domestic violence for over 20 years. Many of our users need months of dedicated support to be able to 'move on' and overcome their difficulties.

Our work with other Agencies allows specialist advice about immigration, employment, education, domestic abuse and discrimination to be provided. We believe that the quality of society is rooted in the knowledge, attitudes, skills and abilities of those who are members of communities. With appropriate support, we enable our service users to overcome the many difficulties they face and become positive members of cohesive and sustainable communities.

We seek to achieve our objectives, by, offering a free confidential support service for women, providing advice, information, counselling, and advocacy covering a wide range of problems and issues; provide support to those wishing to enter the job market, by working with DWP, Employers and other voluntary organisation, provide volunteering opportunities; social activities run Netball and Football classes for Asian young women, hold conferences and seminars on health and other issues; and in conjunction with education and learning providers, offer a wide range of vocational and non-vocational courses.

We are also a designated centre for the reporting of Hate Crime.

Review of the charity's activities

Sahara continued to provide core activities for minority ethnic women to develop skills and experiences to enable them to move towards active citizenship within the Preston area. We also assisted women from Lancaster, Blackpool, Leyland and Chorley, where organisations like Sahara, do not exist. In recent times the challenges we have faced are a substantial increase in the women needing help because of the rise in the incidents of domestic violence and the cost of living crisis which has particularly affected women living in areas of high social deprivation.

Services provided

Sahara runs a number of Projects to support BME women and help them overcome problems they are facing. We employ bilingual staff to ensure we provide effective support to all our beneficiaries regardless of their language skills. Feedback from women indicates that the ability of our staff to communicate with them in their mother tongue is an invaluable support.

We provide advice on a wide range of issues, especially related to domestic abuse in all its forms. Our work with victims of abuse include advice on immigration status, housing, benefits, and a woman's rights in relation to children and family property. A self-help group meets regularly for women to come together and support each other. Counselling is provided to help women overcome the trauma of the abuse they have suffered. Women are also encouraged to make use of our employment services, so that over time they can become financially independent and have control over their lives. Other areas we frequently provide advice on are debt management, school places and appeals process, and dealing with formal letters from statutory organisations. Since 2021, we have been involved in distributing food parcels for those living in extreme poverty. This work is increasingly becoming a vital service for our beneficiaries and their families. We work closely with other service providers and in particular the NHS promoting their health and well-being initiatives.

We run a Job Club where women can learn how to search for jobs, complete online application forms, prepare CVs, prepare for interviews and understand the requirements of employers. Local employers kindly support the Job Club, by attending on a two weekly basis to explain the type of jobs found in their organisations .

Job Fairs and Volunteering Fairs are held at regular intervals with local employers .and other voluntary organisations in attendance. These gave over five hundred women the opportunity to find out about the range of jobs and volunteering opportunities in the City. By the end of March 2024, one hundred and seventy-one women had obtained jobs as the result of the support provided by Sahara. They now have financial independence and increased status and influence within their families and community and provide a role model for other women. The Job Fairs also provide opportunities for employers to directly meet with job seekers and explain the types of jobs available within their organisations and talk through their current vacancies. We also work with statutory and other voluntary organisations to promote paid and volunteering opportunities to our beneficiaries. We provide confidence building training when needed and where women lack the necessary skills for the job market we encourage them to attend English, Math and Computer classes run at Sahara. Volunteering opportunities are offered so that women can develop valuable transferrable skills. These are within Sahara itself and in partnership with other voluntary organisations.

For many BME women Covid resulted in fear, isolation, anxiety and depression often exacerbating existing conditions. The effects of Covid will take years for some women to fully recover from. We run support groups on a weekly basis, which enable women to come together in a relaxed atmosphere and undertake activities geared to helping them improve their mental health. Women are encouraged and supported to seek medical help, and counselling is provided were a woman feels it would be of help to her.

Our weekly sports activities are very popular with young Asian Girls as well as playing, keeping fit and meeting other teams, such as the Police Cadets they have broken down cultural stereotypes, been role models to other girls, and been able to develop valuable social, confidence, communication leadership, time management and team building skills and self –esteem.

During the period April 2023 to March 2024 over two thousand BME women accessed various services from Sahara Centre based on Fishwick Parade with majority of the users coming from Ribbleson, St Mathews, Deepdale, Fishwick and Avenham. These are areas of high social deprivation, which according to government statistics are amongst some of the worst in the Country coming within the top 10% of deprived areas nationally. As indicated earlier, we also worked with women from other towns and cities including, Chorley, Leyland, Blackpool and Lancaster.

Our work with BME women since 1991, has shown, that in addition to facing this level of deprivation and disadvantage, our service users have to deal with other issues including lack of power and influence in their personal lives often leading to mental health problems.

A number of women faced problems because of their immigration status they had no access to public funds

Sahara provides a bespoke service for BME women who are either victims of domestic abuse from their partners/extended family members, or forced marriages. It provides emotional support together with information and guidance, and encourages and assists victims to report incidents of domestic violence and forced marriages.

Where victims wish to leave the family home, we help them obtain housing or a place at local Women is Refuge and enable them to access relevant benefits and school places for their children. Where they do not wish to leave the family home, we work to help them to develop the confidence and personal strategies to keep themselves safe as well as inform the perpetrators that their behaviour is unacceptable. Our support to women who are victims of domestic abuse and forced marriage has enabled those, who are reluctant to seek help because of culture and honour, to disclose their situation and begin the process of rebuilding their lives. During 2023-24 we saw an increase in the number of women seeking help and advice in relation to domestic violence caused in some cases by the cost of living crisis with women being the 'scape goats' for debt and financial difficulties

Sahara staff have also supported a number of women who needed advice in relation to Child Protection Orders. In many cases, they did not understand the process and were in danger of exacerbating the situation.

Our 'one stop shop' facility enabled over 110 BME women, each week, to raise problems affecting their lives, thus allowing them to 'have a voice' and preventing their marginalization and isolation from within the wider society. Depending on the complexity of the issues, it can take between 2 hours to 72 hours to resolve problems. Sahara actively encouraged women to engage in their local communities, volunteering in local schools and play schemes and working with other partners to improve local neighbourhoods.

Our partnerships with Lancashire Adult Learning, WEA, and other training organisations enabled BME women to take advantage of a wide range of courses, many delivered weekly, through the year. Many of the courses are accredited and provide a progression route for women who wish to gain higher-level qualifications and employment.

At the request of women and the BME community and in conjunction with Lancashire County Council, we opened a Saturday morning Maths Study Centre for Primary and Secondary School children from across the Preston area. These have provided additional support, helped improve confidence, improved the standard of homework submitted and provided advice about examination preparation. Again, at the request of women Lancashire County Council has run Education information sessions where women have been able to find about applying for school places, submitting appeals, transport, school uniforms and free school meals.

During this period, in addition to on-going activities, Sahara ran specific projects on: domestic abuse and forced marriage; social isolation, mental health; digital inclusion, financial inclusion; literacy, employment support, sport activities, weekly job clubs, and health awareness programmes. Many projects were delivered through partnership working with a range of public and voluntary sector organisations. Including, NHS, Lancashire Constabulary, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, Lancashire County Council, and Preston North End Community Education Trust

We worked on a day-to-day basis with partner organisations, supporting each other by sharing knowledge and experience to improve services for vulnerable BME women. Our partner organisations include NHS, South Ribble Primary Care Trust, and Preston City Council. Preston Domestic Violence Service, Department of Work and Pensions, Active Lancashire, Lancashire County Council, REC, Refugee and Asylum Seeker services, Immigration services, Local Primary and Secondary Schools, Preston Vocational Centre. Safe Net. Childs Play. Housing Associations, Friends of Fishwick and St Matthews, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, Lancashire Constabulary, Macmillan Cancer Support Charity, DWP, MIND, Preston North End Community Education Trust, Health Watch, Mandala CIC, Preston Community Network. All of these relationships contributed to the support services we offered our beneficiaries during 2023-24

Sahara held four Open Days and Consultation events to identify the needs of women and to help them empower themselves. Conferences were held with representatives of statutory and other voluntary organisations, including Lancashire County Council, NHS, Health Visitor and Midwifery Services, Clinic Commissioning Group, Preston City Council, Police, DWP, HMRC, CAB and Refuges, to improve women's knowledge about the role and responsibilities of these service providers. Numbers of participants were kept small to encourage a robust dialogue and discussion. These events have given women the confidence and the knowhow to approach statutory and service providers to report problems. The Sahara Manager is actively involved in working at a strategic level with the Police, NHS, Police and Crime Commissioner, Preston City Council, Lancashire County Council and the wider voluntary sector to represent the needs of BME women.

Furthermore, the Manager sits on a number of strategic bodies. She continued as the Chair of the Preston BME Forum, which works strategically to increase representation, influence, and engagement of all local BME organisations and the communities they serve, in the decisions and policies that affect them. She chairs meetings of the City Council's Inclusion Reference Group, which acts as a critical friend in relation to Preston City Councils, Equality and Diversity policies and is Chair of the Preston Community Network, which supports voluntary organisations in the Preston area

Sahara is also a member of the Managing Committee for the Friends of Fishwick and St Matthews, which is overseeing a lottery grant to improve facilities in the area.

Sahara has been recognised as a Community Asset in the Friends of Fishwick and St Matthews Community Plan.

Future Plans

Sahara is committed to continuing its work to support vulnerable BME women in Preston and surrounding areas by seeking funding to deliver services to this group. With over thirty-two years' experience of supporting and working with BME women, there is now a recognition amongst public, private and third sector organisations about Sahara's unique position in Preston and the vital contribution we make to community cohesion and social inclusion

Going Concern

The Board has secured funding for the 2024-25 financial year from the Big Lottery, Preston City Council, Lloyds Foundation, Ministry of Justice and Home Office. USKSPF Employ and we will also look to identify other funding stream relevant to our work

Financial Information

Financial review

The SOFA for the period is set out in the financial statements.

During 2023-24 period Sahara raised project funding from statutory organisations and charitable trusts and foundations, including, Big Lottery, Lancashire County Council, Friends of Fishwick and St Matthews, Preston City Council. Active Lancashire, Sport England, Lloyds Foundation, Caring Families Foundation, South Ribble Primary Care Trust, NHS and Local Member Grants from County Councillors, details of which are given below.

Big Lottery Moving Forward Grant

The 23-24 period saw the third and final year of the three-year Big Lottery Grant, which provided a contribution towards running, costs and the cost of staff working to address the following issues addresses.

- Poverty, unemployment and dependency on the welfare benefit system;
- Health and well-being;
- Social isolation;
- Discrimination and abuse – e.g. domestic abuse, hate crime, child sexual abuse, and the impact of Child Care legislation on women and their families.
- BME women not accessing statutory and other services to meet their needs and not participating in decision making processes.

Ministry of Justice and Home Office Grant

This grant has enabled Sahara to provide and enhanced support service to BME women who are the victims of domestic violence in all its forms

Caring Families Foundation Grant

This enabled Sahara to provide enhanced advocacy services to the the victims of domestic violence

Preston City Council Financial Inclusion Grant

This enabled Sahara to help women improve their financial management skills and make best use of their limited resources.

Preston City Council Digital Inclusion Grant

This enabled Sahara to help women improve their IT skills and search for jobs and information on a range of subjects.

Preston City Council Health Inequalities Grant

This enabled Sahara to improve the physical and mental health of BME women, particularly those who reside in the five areas of high social deprivation in the City

Health Improvement Project with South Rabble Primary Care Trust.

This allowed the appointment of Health Care Champions who promoted the use of vaccinations and knowledge of cancer within the BME communities

Bowel Cancer Project Grant

This enabled Sahara to provide information on the symptoms of Bowel Cancer and how to use the testing kit. As the result of this grant, five women who felt they had some of the symptoms went to see their GPs and three women received treatment for Stage One Bowel Cancer

Food Poverty Grants from Lancashire County Council. Preston City Council and the Friends of Fishwick and St Matthews.

These enabled Sahara to provided culturally sensitive food parcels to women living in extreme poverty

Preston City Council Health Care Assistant Grant.

This enabled Sahara along with NHS Staff, to teach women about the jobs available in the NHS and how to apply for them

Lancashire County Council, Local Member Grants enabled Sahara to support women with mental health issues and provide information on healthy eating.

Sport England and Active Lancs Grants enabled us to provide physical activities which have contributed to the well-being of women.

Lloyds Foundation.

Provided an unrestricted grant to contribute towards day to day running costs

Additionally, Sahara raised funds through hiring rooms to training providers, statutory organisations, commercial organisations and private individuals, in both the main Sahara building and the Community Centre, which opened in early 2019, providing increased classroom and meeting room space.

Financial Review

The Charities income during 23-24 totalled £422667 of this £360740 related to grant funding for specific Projects.

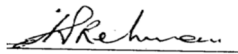
The surplus of unrestricted funds at the 31/3/24 totalled £217865 and the surplus on restricted funds totalled £211685 and includes Projects which run over more than one financial year. Expenditure on specific projects and core cost totalled £355152

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of Sahara, to only run projects, once funding is in place and staff are only employed for the life of a project.

Due to careful management, control of expenditure, and income generation activities, the unrestricted reserves at the end of the 2023-24 financial year stood at 217865, which will cover running costs for eleven months taking into account cost of living rises. Some of the unrestricted funds will also be used to finance the running of local projects, for which it would not be possible to obtain grant funding for and to run educational class for BME women, who would not meet the criteria for course run by training providers, but who nonetheless need support.

We are very grateful to all those organisations who have given their support to Sahara and to the staff and volunteers.



Shamim Rehman. Chair of the Sahara Board

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees

We report on the accounts of the company for the year to 31 March 2024

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

Basis of independent examiner's report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention that gives cause for concern specifically in connection to ;

1a) We have no reason to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 have not been met

1b) We have prepared Accounts which accord with the Accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice; Accounting and Reporting by Charities

2) No matter has arisen where our attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

BBS4TAX Limited
37 Hesketh Road
Southport
Merseyside
PR9 9PB
26/11/24
Page 10
26th November 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BBS4TAX'.

Sahara Project
(Preston) Limited
Statement of financial activities including Income and Expenditure Account for
the year ended 31st March 2024

		Unrestricted Funds	Resticted Funds	TOTAL	Unrestricted Funds	Resticted Funds	TOTAL
	Notes	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from							
Donations and Legacies	2	25,000	335,740	360,740	0	203,497	203,497
Charitable activities	3	0	0	0	12,796	0	12,796
Investments Income		4,280	0	4,280	194	0	194
Room hire		57,647	0	57,647	70,949	0	70,949
Total income		<u>86,927</u>	<u>335,740</u>	<u>422,667</u>	<u>83,939</u>	<u>203,497</u>	<u>287,436</u>
Expenditure on							
Charitable activities		29,348	325,804	355,152	27,499	202,071	229,570
Net outgong/(incoming) resources for		57,579	9,936	67,515	56,440	1,426	57,866
Gross Transfers between funds		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Net movement in funds		57,579	9,936	67,515	56,440	1,426	57,866
Fund balances at 1st April 2023		160,286	201,749	362,035	103,846	200,323	304,169
Fund balances at 31st March 2024		<u>217,865</u>	<u>211,685</u>	<u>429,550</u>	<u>160,286</u>	<u>201,749</u>	<u>362,035</u>

Sahara Project (Preston) Limited Balance Sheet as at 31/3/24

Notes		2024	2023
£			£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	4	<u>21,022</u>	<u>24,050</u>
		21022	24,050
Current assets			
Debtors		90,880	69254
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>324,960</u>	<u>281,097</u>
	4	415,840	350,350
Creditors: amounts falling due within		<u>-7,312</u>	<u>-12,365</u>
Net current assets		408,528	337,985
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>429,550</u>	<u>362,035</u>
Net assets		<u>429,550</u>	<u>362,035</u>
Income Funds			
Restricted funds		148,060	188,774
Unrestricted funds		281,490	173,261
Total funds	5	<u>429,550</u>	<u>362,035</u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees

Ms J Flynn  _____

Mrs S Rehman  _____

Date 3/12/24

Sahara Project (Preston) Limited
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31st March 2024

1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015), the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005 (SORP 2005) and the Charities Act 1993.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income. Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Donated services and facilities are included to the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred, Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them. Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Freehold investment properties are included at market value at the balance sheet date. No depreciation or amortisation is provided in respect of freehold investment properties.

2 Voluntary income	Restricted funds	2024	2023
	£	£	£
Donations and Legacies	335,740	335,740	203,497
	<u>335,740</u>	<u>335,740</u>	<u>203,497</u>
3 Charitable activities	Unrestricted Funds	2024	2023
		£	£
Income from Local Initiatives - including Room Hire & Interest Received	86,927	86,927	83,939
	<u>86,927</u>	<u>86,927</u>	<u>83,939</u>

Sahara Project (Preston) Limited
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31st March 2024

Unrestricted

⁴ Analysis of net assets between funds	funds	2024 £	2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	21,022	21,022	24,050
Current assets	415,840	415,840	350,350
Current liabilities	(7,312)	(7,312)	(12,365)
		429,550	362,035
		429,550	362,035

⁵ Analysis of Total Funds	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources at 31 March 2024 £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Restricted funds	201,749	335,740	325,804	211,685
Unrestricted funds	160,286	86,927	29,348	217,865
Total funds	362,035	422,667	355,152	429,550

SAHARA IN PRESTON - DETAILED P&L
Year end 31st March 2024

	<u>31/03/2024</u>	<u>31/03/2023</u>	
Sales			
Grants & Charitable Activities	360,740	216,293	
Fund Generation - Room Hire	57,647	70,949	
Interest Received	4,280	194	
		422,667	287,436
Purchases			
Cost of Charitable Activities	<u>115,045</u>	<u>13,572</u>	
		115,045	13,572
Direct Expenses			
Charitable Expenditure	<u>0</u>	<u>952</u>	
		<u>0</u>	<u>952</u>
Gross Profit/(Loss):		307,622	272,912
Overheads			
Support Costs - Rent and Rates	21,014	21,241	
Support Costs - Heat, Light and Insurance	9,086	10,108	
Support Costs - Travelling Expenses	1,995	696	
Support Costs - Telephone, Printing and Stationery	9,217	6,421	
Support Costs - Equipment Hire and Rental	3,357	3,423	
Support Costs - Maintenance	10,438	12,975	
Support Costs - General Expenses	2,818	1,929	
Management & Admin - Bank Charges and Interest	762	1,671	
Management & Admin - Gross Wages	162,855	139,967	
Management & Admin - Professional Fees	10,067	7,452	
Management & Admin - Health & Safety	0	0	
Management & Admin - Employers NI	6,163	6,926	
Management & Admin - Employers Pensions	<u>2,335</u>	<u>2,237</u>	
		<u>240,107</u>	<u>215,046</u>
		67515	57866

SAHARA PROJECT (PRESTON) LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1050142

Accounts

Company Registration No: 02967577

Charity No: 1050142

**TRUSTEES
REPORT
Sahara Project
(Preston) Limited**

Accounts 22-23

SAHARA PROJECT (PRESTON) LIMITED

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Charity information

Trustees' report.

The financial report is contained in a separate document

Independent examiner's report

Statement of financial activities

Balance sheet

Notes to the financial statements

SAHARA PROJECT (PRESTON) LIMITED

CHARITY INFORMATION

Directors/Trustees	Shamim Rehman Minakshi Raithatha Riaz Begum Riffat Batool Linda Kenyon Jackie Flynn	Chair Company Secretary Treasurer
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Manager Zafar Coupland

Registered office 48 Fishwick Parade
Preston
PR1 4XQ

Company number 02967577

Registered Charity number 1050142

Independent examiner Bina Shukla ACPA
BBS4Tax Limited
37 Hesketh Rd
Southport
Merseyside
PR9 9PB

Bankers Virgin Money
44 Fishergate
Preston
PR1 8BH

Solicitors Napthens LLP
7 Winckley Square
Preston
PR1 3JD

SAHARA PROJECT (PRESTON) LIMITED
TRUSTEES REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The Trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements, have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published on 16 July 2014.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The company was incorporated on 14 September 1994 and is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Status

The charity is registered with the Charity Commission and is also a Company Limited by Guarantee but does not have a share capital. The liability of the members is limited. Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company if it is wound up whilst she is a member or within one year after she ceased to be a member, such as amounts as may be required not exceeding one pound.

Organisation of the charity

All the directors of the company are also trustees of the charity and form the Management Board. The day-to-day management is carried out by the Sahara Manager. The short-term nature of funding for the voluntary sector means that some staff appointments have to be on a temporary basis, with contract periods of one to three years.

Directors/trustees

The directors and trustees listed on page 1 served during the year. The existing trustees accept the obligation to fully inform a new trustee of the duties and responsibilities of the charity trustees by providing the new trustee with copies of the governing instrument, minutes of previous meetings of the trustees, recent annual accounts of the charity and the relevant charity commission publication relating to the responsibilities of trustees.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning future objectives.

Objectives and activities

The main aims and objectives of Sahara are to:

- To preserve and protect the health and well-being of minority ethnic women in Preston, in particular those of Asian, Arabic, African and Caribbean heritage.
- To support and alleviate the social and economic problems created by high levels of unemployment, poverty, poor housing and social deprivation by offering a secure and comfortable place to turn to for help and advice
- To promote equality of opportunity and to oppose discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, religion, culture, and disability.

Sahara is a women's only organisation which supports and assists women in culturally and linguistically sensitive way. Sahara is proud to be able to provide targeted support to Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Women. We are unique in that we take an holistic approach and help women to overcome a wide range of interlinked problems. For example, mental health problems and a lack of confidence, may be rooted in a woman having been the victim of domestic violence for over 20 years. Many of our users need months of dedicated support to be able to 'move on' and overcome their difficulties.

Our work with other Agencies allows specialist advice about immigration, employment, education, domestic abuse and discrimination to be provided. We believe that the quality of society is rooted in the knowledge, attitudes, skills and abilities of those who are members of communities. With appropriate support, we enable our service users to overcome the many difficulties they face and become positive members of cohesive and sustainable communities.

We seek to achieve our objectives, by, offering a free confidential support service for women, providing advice, information, counselling, and advocacy covering a wide range of problems and issues; provide support to those wishing to enter the job market, by working with DWP, Employers and other voluntary organisation, provide volunteering opportunities; social activities run Netball and Football classes for Asian young women, hold conferences and seminars on health and other issues; and in conjunction with education and learning providers, offer a wide range of vocational and non-vocational courses.

We are also a designated centre for the reporting of Hate Crime.

Review of the charity's activities

Sahara continued to provide core activities for minority ethnic women to develop skills and experiences to enable them to move towards active citizenship within the Preston area. We also assisted women from Lancaster, Blackpool, Leyland and Chorley, where organisations like Sahara, do not exist. In recent times the challenges we have faced are a substantial increase in the women needing help because of the rise in the incidents of domestic violence and the cost of living crisis which has particularly affected women living in areas of high social deprivation.

Services provided

Sahara runs a number of Projects to support BME women and help them overcome problems they are facing. We employ bilingual staff to ensure we provide effective support to all our beneficiaries regardless of their language skills. Feedback from women indicates that the ability of our staff to communicate with them in their mother tongue is an invaluable support.

We provide advice on a wide range of issues, especially related to domestic abuse in all its forms. Our work with victims of abuse include advice on immigration status, housing, benefits, and a woman's rights in relation to children and family property. A self-help group meets regularly for women to come together and support each other. Counselling is provided to help women overcome the trauma of the abuse they have suffered. Women are also encouraged to make use of our employment services, so that over time they can become financially independent and have control over their lives. Other areas we frequently provide advice on are debt management, school places and appeals process, and dealing with formal letters from statutory organisations. Since 2021, we have been involved in distributing food parcels for those living in extreme poverty. This work is increasingly becoming a vital service for our beneficiaries and their families. We work closely with other service providers and in particular the NHS promoting their health and well-being initiatives.

We run a Job Club where women can learn how to search for jobs, complete online application forms, prepare CVs, prepare for interviews and understand the requirements of employers. Local employers kindly support the Job Club, by attending on a two weekly basis to explain the type of jobs found in their organisations .

Job Fairs are held at regular intervals with local employers in attendance and these gave over two hundred women the opportunity to find out about the range of jobs and volunteering opportunities in the City. By the end of March 2023, one hundred and sixty one women had obtained jobs as the result of the support provided by Sahara. They now have financial independence and increased status and influence within their families and community and provide a role model for other women. The Job Fairs also provide opportunities for employers to directly meet with job seekers and explain the types of jobs available within their organisations and talk through their current vacancies. We also work with statutory and other voluntary organisations to promote paid and volunteering opportunities to our beneficiaries. We provide confidence building training when needed and where women lack the necessary skills for the job market we encourage them to attend English, Math and Computer classes run at Sahara. Volunteering opportunities are offered so that women can develop valuable transferrable skills. These are within Sahara itself and in partnership with other voluntary organisations.

For many BME women Covid resulted in fear, isolation, anxiety and depression often exacerbating existing conditions. The effects of Covid will take years for some women to fully recover from. We run support groups on a weekly basis, which enable women to come together in a relaxed atmosphere and undertake activities geared to helping them improve their mental health. Women are encouraged and supported to seek medical help, and counselling is provided where a woman feels it would be of help to her.

Our weekly sports activities are very popular with young Asian Girls as well as playing, keeping fit and meeting other teams, such as the Police Cadets they have broken down cultural stereotypes, been role models to other girls, and been able to develop valuable social, confidence, communication leadership, time management and team building skills and self –esteem.

During the period April 2022 to March 2023 over one thousand and nine hundred BME women accessed various services from Sahara Centre based on Fishwick Parade with majority of the users coming from Ribbleson, St Mathews, Deepdale, Fishwick and Avenham. These are areas of high social deprivation, which according to government statistics are amongst some of the worst in the Country coming within the top 10% of deprived areas nationally. As indicated earlier, we also worked with women from other towns and cities including, Chorley, Leyland, Blackpool and Lancaster.

Our work with BME women since 1991, has shown, that in addition to facing this level of deprivation and disadvantage, our service users have to deal with other issues including lack of power and influence in their personal lives often leading to mental health problems.

A number of women faced problems because of their immigration status they had no access to public funds

Sahara provides a bespoke service for BME women who are either victims of domestic abuse from their partners/extended family members, or forced marriages. It provides emotional support together with information and guidance, and encourages and assists victims to report incidents of domestic violence and forced marriages. Where victims wish to leave the family home, we help them obtain housing or a place at local Women is Refuge and enable them to access relevant benefits and school places for their children. Where they do not wish to leave the family home, we work to help them to develop the confidence and personal strategies to keep themselves safe as well as inform the perpetrators that their behaviour is unacceptable. Our support to women who are victims of domestic abuse and forced marriage has enabled those, who are reluctant to seek help because of culture and honour, to disclose their situation and begin the process of rebuilding their lives. During 2022-23 we saw an increase in the number of women seeking help and advice in relation to domestic violence caused in some cases by the cost of living crisis with women being the 'scape goats' for debt and financial difficulties

Sahara staff have also supported a number of women who needed advice in relation to Child Protection Orders. In many cases, they did not understand the process and were in danger of exacerbating the situation.

Our 'one stop shop' facility enabled over 105 BME women, each week, to raise problems affecting their lives, thus allowing them to 'have a voice' and preventing their marginalization and isolation from within the wider society. Depending on the complexity of the issues, it can take between 2 hours to 72 hours to resolve problems. Sahara actively encouraged women to engage in their local communities, volunteering in local schools and play schemes and working with other partners to improve local neighbourhoods.

Our partnerships with Lancashire Adult Learning, WEA, and other training organisations enabled BME women to take advantage of a wide range of courses, many delivered weekly, through the year. Many of the courses are accredited and provide a progression route for women who wish to gain higher-level qualifications and employment.

At the request of women and the BME community and in conjunction with Lancashire County Council, we opened a Saturday morning Maths Study Centre for Primary and Secondary School children from across the Preston area. These have provided additional support, helped improve confidence, improved the standard of homework submitted and provided advice about examination preparation. Again, at the request of women Lancashire County Council has run Education information sessions where women have been able to find out about applying for school places, submitting appeals, transport, school uniforms and free school meals.

During this period, in addition to on-going activities, Sahara ran specific projects on: domestic abuse and forced marriage; social isolation, mental health; digital inclusion, financial inclusion; literacy, employment support, sport activities, weekly job clubs, and health awareness programmes. Many projects were delivered through partnership working with a range of public and voluntary sector organisations. Including, NHS, Lancashire Constabulary, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, Lancashire County Council, and Preston North End Community Education Trust

We worked on a day-to-day basis with partner organisations, supporting each other by sharing knowledge and experience to improve services for vulnerable BME women. Our partner organisations include NHS, South Ribble Primary Care Trust, and Preston City Council. Preston Domestic Violence Service, Department of Work and Pensions, Active Lancashire, Lancashire County Council, REC, Refugee and Asylum Seeker services, Immigration services, Local Primary and Secondary Schools, Preston Vocational Centre. Safe Net. Childs Play. Housing Associations, Friends of Fishwick and St Matthews, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, Lancashire Constabulary, Macmillan Cancer Support Charity, DWP, MIND, Preston North End Community Education Trust and Local County and Preston Community Network. All of these relationships contributed to the support services we offered our beneficiaries during 2022-23.

Sahara held four Open Days and Consultation events to identify the needs of women and to help them empower themselves. Conferences were held with representatives of statutory and other voluntary organisations, including Lancashire County Council, NHS, Health Visitor and Midwifery Services, Clinic Commissioning Group, Preston City Council, Police, DWP, HMRC, CAB and Refugees, to improve women's knowledge about the role and responsibilities of these service providers. Numbers of participants were kept small to encourage a robust dialogue and discussion. These events have given women the confidence and the knowhow to approach statutory and service providers to report problems.

The Sahara Manager is actively involved in working at a strategic level with the Police, NHS, Police and Crime Commissioner, Preston City Council, Lancashire County Council and the wider voluntary sector to represent the needs of BME women.

Furthermore, the Manager sits on a number of strategic bodies. She continued as the Chair of the Preston BME Forum, which works strategically to increase representation, influence, and engagement of all local BME organisations and the communities they serve, in the decisions and policies that affect them. She chairs meetings of the City Council's Inclusion Reference Group, which acts as a critical friend in relation to Preston City Councils, Equality and Diversity policies and is Chair of the Preston Community Network, which supports voluntary organisations in the Preston area

Sahara is also a member of the Managing Committee for the Friends of Fishwick and St Matthews, which is overseeing a lottery grant to improve facilities in the area.

Sahara has been recognised as a Community Asset in the Friends of Fishwick and St Matthews Community Plan.

Future Plans

Sahara is committed to continuing its work to support vulnerable BME women in Preston and surrounding areas by seeking funding to deliver services to this group. With over thirty two years' experience of supporting and working with BME women, there is now a recognition amongst public, private and third sector organisations about Sahara's unique position in Preston and the vital contribution we make to community cohesion and social inclusion

Going Concern

The Board has secured funding for the 2023-24 financial year from the Big Lottery, Preston City Council, Lancashire County Council, Lloyds Foundation, Active Lancashire, Sport England, Ministry of Justice and Home Office and Local Member Grants from County Councillor Mein and County Councillor De Molfetta. It is also intended to submit a further funding bid to the Big Lottery.

Financial Information

Financial review

The SOFA for the period is set out in the financial statements.

During 2022-23 period Sahara raised project funding from statutory organisations and charitable trusts and foundations, including, Big Lottery, Lancashire County Council, Friends of Fishwick and St Matthews, Preston City Council. Lloyds Foundation, Caring Families Foundation, South Ribble Primary Care Trust, NHS and Local Member Grants from County Councillors, details of which are given below.

The National Lottery Community Fund; Big Lottery Moving Forward Grant; RC North West Region

The 22-23 period saw the second year of the three year Big Lottery Grant, which provided a contribution towards running, costs and the cost of staff working to address the following issues;

- Poverty, unemployment and dependency on the welfare benefit system;
- Health and well-being;
- Social isolation;
- Discrimination and abuse – e.g. domestic abuse, hate crime, child sexual abuse, and the impact of Child Care legislation on women and their families.
- BME women not accessing statutory and other services to meet their needs and not participating in decision making processes.

Caring Families Foundation Grant

This enabled Sahara to provide enhanced advocacy services to the the victims of domestic violence

Preston City Council Financial Inclusion Grant

This enabled Sahara to help women improve their financial management skills and make best use of their limited resources.

Preston City Council Digital Inclusion Grant

This enabled Sahara to help women improve their IT skills and search for jobs and information on a range of subjects.

Preston City Council Health Inequalities Grant

This enabled Sahara to improve the physical and mental health of BME women, particularly those who reside in the five areas of high social deprivation in the City

Health Improvement Project with South Ribble Primary Care Trust.

This allowed the appointment of Health Care Champions who promoted the use of vaccinations and knowledge of cancer within the BME communities

Bowel Cancer Project Grant

This enabled Sahara to provide information on the symptoms of Bowel Cancer and how to use the testing kit. As the result of this grant, five women who felt they had some of the symptoms went to see their GPs and three women received treatment for Stage one Bowel Cancer

Food Poverty Grants from Lancashire County Council. Preston City Council and the Friends of Fishwick and St Matthews.

These enabled Sahara to provided culturally sensitive food parcels to women living in extreme poverty

Preston City Council Health Care Assistant Grant.

This enabled Sahara along with NHS Staff, to teach women about the jobs available in the NHS and how to apply for them

Lancashire County Council, Local Member Grants enabled Sahara to support women with mental health issues and provide information on healthy eating.

Lloyds Foundation.

Provided an unrestricted grant to contribute towards day to day running costs

Additionally, Sahara raised funds through hiring rooms to training providers, statutory organisations, commercial organisations and private individuals, in both the main Sahara building and the Community Centre, which opened in early 2019, providing increased classroom and meeting room space.

Financial Review

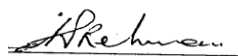
The Charities income during 22-23 totalled £287436. Of this £203497 related to grant funding. The surplus of unrestricted funds at the 31/3/23 totalled £ 160286` and the surplus on restricted funds which are related to specific projects, which run over more than one year, was £201479 Expenditure on specific projects and core costs totalled £229570

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of Sahara, to only run projects, once funding is in place and staff are only employed for the life of a project.

Due to careful management, control of expenditure, and income generation activities, the unrestricted reserves at the end of the 2022-23 financial year stood of £160286, which will cover running costs for nine months. Some of the unrestricted funds will also be used to finance the running of small local projects, which it would not be possible to obtain grant funding for and to run educational class for BME women, who would not meet the criteria for course run by training providers.

We are very grateful to all those organisations who have given their support to Sahara.



Shamim Rehman. Chair of the Sahara Board

SAHARA PROJECT (PRESTON) LIMITED

Company limited by guarantee

**Company Registration Number:
02967577 (England and Wales)**

Unaudited statutory accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023

Period of accounts

Start date: 1 April 2022

End date: 31 March 2023

SAHARA PROJECT (PRESTON) LIMITED

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for the Period Ended 31 March 2023

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Balance sheet notes

SAHARA PROJECT (PRESTON) LIMITED

Profit And Loss Account for the Period Ended 31 March 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Turnover:	287,436	217,229
Cost of sales:	(229,570)	(285,247)
Gross profit(or loss):	<u>57,866</u>	<u>(68,018)</u>
Operating profit(or loss):	<u>57,866</u>	<u>(68,018)</u>
Profit(or loss) before tax:	<u>57,866</u>	<u>(68,018)</u>
Profit(or loss) for the financial year:	<u>57,866</u>	<u>(68,018)</u>

SAHARA PROJECT (PRESTON) LIMITED

Balance sheet

As at 31 March 2023

	<i>Notes</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2022</i>
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets:	3	24,050	20,950
Total fixed assets:		<u>24,050</u>	<u>20,950</u>
Current assets			
Debtors:	4	69,253	55,498
Cash at bank and in hand:		281,097	232,972
Total current assets:		<u>350,350</u>	<u>288,470</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year:	5	(12,365)	(5,251)
Net current assets (liabilities):		<u>337,985</u>	<u>283,219</u>
Total assets less current liabilities:		<u>362,035</u>	<u>304,169</u>
Total net assets (liabilities):		<u>362,035</u>	<u>304,169</u>
Members' funds			
Profit and loss account:		362,035	304,169
Total members' funds:		<u>362,035</u>	<u>304,169</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

SAHARA PROJECT (PRESTON) LIMITED

Balance sheet statements

For the year ending 31 March 2023 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared and delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

**This report was approved by the board of directors on 20 December 2023
and signed on behalf of the board by:**

Name: SHAMIM REHMAN
Status: Director

The notes form part of these financial statements

SAHARA PROJECT (PRESTON) LIMITED

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the Period Ended 31 March 2023

1. Accounting policies

Basis of measurement and preparation

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Section 1A (Small Entities) of Financial Reporting Standard 102

SAHARA PROJECT (PRESTON) LIMITED

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period Ended 31 March 2023

2. Employees

	2023	2022
Average number of employees during the period	9	9

SAHARA PROJECT (PRESTON) LIMITED

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the Period Ended 31 March 2023

3. Tangible assets

	Land & buildings	Plant & machinery	Fixtures & fittings	Office equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
Cost	£	£	£	£	£	£
At 1 April 2022	25,033			36,024		61,057
Additions				3,100		3,100
Disposals						
Revaluations						
Transfers						
At 31 March 2023	<u>25,033</u>			<u>39,124</u>		<u>64,157</u>
Depreciation						
At 1 April 2022	25,022			15,085		40,107
Charge for year						
On disposals						
Other adjustments						
At 31 March 2023	<u>25,022</u>			<u>15,085</u>		<u>40,107</u>
Net book value						
At 31 March 2023	<u>11</u>			<u>24,039</u>		<u>24,050</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>11</u>			<u>20,939</u>		<u>20,950</u>

SAHARA PROJECT (PRESTON) LIMITED

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the Period Ended 31 March 2023

4. Debtors

	<i>2023</i>	<i>2022</i>
	£	£
Trade debtors	16,626	55,498
Prepayments and accrued income	3,555	
Other debtors	49,072	
Total	<u>69,253</u>	<u>55,498</u>

SAHARA PROJECT (PRESTON) LIMITED

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the Period Ended 31 March 2023

5. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year note

	<i>2023</i>	<i>2022</i>
	£	£
Trade creditors	2,387	1,521
Taxation and social security	7,592	2,255
Other creditors	2,386	1,475
Total	<u>12,365</u>	<u>5,251</u>

This document was delivered using electronic communications and authenticated in accordance with the registrar's rules relating to electronic form, authentication and manner of delivery under section 1072 of the Companies Act 2006.

SAHARA PROJECT (PRESTON) LIMITED

Company limited by guarantee

**Company Registration Number:
02967577 (England and Wales)**

Unaudited statutory accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023

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SAHARA PROJECT (PRESTON) LIMITED

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SAHARA PROJECT (PRESTON) LIMITED

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SAHARA PROJECT (PRESTON) LIMITED

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These accounts have been prepared and delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

**This report was approved by the board of directors on 20 December 2023
and signed on behalf of the board by:**

Name: SHAMIM REHMAN
Status: Director

The notes form part of these financial statements

SAHARA PROJECT (PRESTON) LIMITED

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the Period Ended 31 March 2023

1. Accounting policies

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SAHARA PROJECT (PRESTON) LIMITED

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the Period Ended 31 March 2023

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SAHARA PROJECT (PRESTON) LIMITED

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SAHARA PROJECT (PRESTON) LIMITED

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the Period Ended 31 March 2023

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SAHARA PROJECT (PRESTON) LIMITED

Notes to the Financial Statements

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SAHARA PROJECT (PRESTON) LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1050142

Accounts

Company Registration No: 02967577

Charity No: 1050142

Sahara Project (Preston) Limited

Accounts

**For The Year Ended
31 March 2021**

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SAHARA PROJECT (PRESTON) LIMITED
CHARITY INFORMATION

Directors/Trustees	Shamim Rehman Minakshi Raithatha Riaz Begum Riffat Batool Linda Kenyon Jackie Flynn	Chair Treasurer
Company Secretary	Jackie Flynn	
Manager	Zafar Coupland	
Registered office	48 Fishwick Parade Preston PR1 4XQ	
Company number	02967577	
Registered Charity number	1050142	
Independent examiner	Bina Shukla ACPA BBS4Tax Limited 37 Hesketh Rd Southport Merseyside PR9 9PB	
Bankers	Yorkshire Bank/Virgin 44 Fishergate Preston PR1 8BH 9 9PB	
Solicitors	Naphthens LLP 7 Winckley Square Preston PR1 3JD	

SAHARA PROJECT (PRESTON) LIMITED
TRUSTEES REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The Trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published on 16 July 2014.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The company was incorporated on 14 September 1994 and is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Status

The charity is a Company Limited by Guarantee and does not have a share capital. The liability of the members is limited. Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company if it is wound up whilst she is a member or within one year after she ceased to be a member, such as amounts as may be required not exceeding one pound.

Organisation of the charity

All the directors of the company are also trustees of the charity. The day-to-day management is carried out by the Sahara Manager. The short-term nature of funding for the voluntary sector means that some staff appointments have to be on a temporary basis, with contract periods of one to two years.

Directors/trustees

The directors and trustees listed on page 1 served during the year. The existing trustees accept the obligation to fully inform a new trustee of the duties and responsibilities of the charity trustees by providing the new trustee with copies of the governing instrument, minutes of previous meetings of the trustees, recent annual accounts of the charity and the relevant charity commission publication relating to the responsibilities of trustees.

Objectives and activities

The main aims and objectives of Sahara are to:

- To preserve and protect the health and well-being of minority ethnic women in Preston, in particular those of Asian, African and Caribbean heritage.
- To support and alleviate the social and economic problems created by high levels of unemployment, poverty, poor housing and social deprivation by offering a secure and comfortable place to turn to for help and advice

- To promote equality of opportunity and to oppose discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, religion, culture, and disability.

Sahara is a women's only organisation which supports and assists women in a culturally and linguistically sensitive way. Sahara is proud to be able to provide targeted support to Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Women. We are unique in that we take a holistic approach and help women to overcome a wide range of interlinked problems. For example, mental health problems and a lack of confidence may be rooted in a woman having been the victim of domestic violence for over 20 years. Many of our users need months of dedicated support to be able to 'move on' and overcome their difficulties.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning future objectives.

2020-21 Period

During the period 2020-21 the work of Sahara was greatly affected by the Covid 19 virus and both national and local restrictions. Lancashire with Preston was subject to additional measures due to the high number of cases. For most of the period it was not possible for women to visit Sahara for help and advice.

However we swiftly set up telephone helplines and operated this seven days a week to ensure that women continued to have access to help, especially with issues related to domestic abuse, isolation, and food poverty. The feedback from women was that this was a lifeline, particularly as the majority of the staff are bilingual and were able to communicate with the users in their mother tongue. In addition to dealing with calls from the service users there was an increase in referrals from other organisations who were unable to directly help the women. The telephone helpline will continue to be a key feature of our service delivery in 2021.

The telephone helpline increased the work of staff as it was more difficult to obtain information from women who were often in a highly emotional state and liaising with other organizations was also more complicated with many staff working from home.

We also worked with foodbanks to support women and families on low incomes.

Towards the end of March 21 we were able to restart some services subject to restrictions in terms of numbers, including

- Drop in Centre for five days per week providing advice and guidance in relation to a wide range of problems;
- Employment support for women wanting to enter the job market through the Job Club;
- Advocacy providing specialist support for the victims of domestic abuse, forced marriage, honour based abuse and women with mental health problems. Mental health issues are often linked to having been the victims of domestic abuse for a long period of time;
- Advocacy Service for BME women, many of whom live in areas of high social deprivation and face a number of problems which affect their well-being, including debt, poor housing and poor mental and physical health;
- Support to women whose children were subject to child care proceedings;

- Being a designated Centre for the reporting of hate crime
- Support for lone parents, who have often been ostracised by their families for leaving abusive relationships;
- Intensive literacy training for those with poor language skills.

Sahara has been recognised as a Community Asset in the Friends of Fishwick and St Matthews Community Plan.

Financial review

The SOFA for the period is set out on page 7 of the financial statements. A summary of the financial results and the work of the charity is set out below.

The Charity's income totalled £413,241 of which £349,359 related to restricted grant funding, for specific projects running over one year. The surplus during the year on unrestricted funds was £94,785 which is used to cover running costs.

During 2020-21 Sahara raised project funding from statutory organisations and charitable trusts and foundations, to support our work in assisting BME women and in compensating for the reduction in our income generation potential due to Covid 19. Funders included, Big Lottery, Active Lancashire, Friends of Fishwick and St Matthews, Preston City Council, Charitable Foundations, Lloyds Foundation, and the UK Government.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of Sahara to only run projects once funding is in place and staff are only employed for the life of a project. Our reserves at the end of 2020-21 financial year is £372,187, of which £277,402 is restricted funds for specific projects, including carry forward grants to meet the on-going demands because of Covid-19. This together with the unrestricted reserve fund of £94,785 will cover running costs for two years and will enable us to deal with the increased requests for help from BME women who are the victims of domestic violence and mental illness due to the effects of the Covid pandemic and the lockdowns.

Going Concern

The Board has secured funding for the 2021-22 financial year from the Big Lottery, Preston City Council, Active Lancashire, Lloyds Foundation and Income Generation activities should recommence during 2021-22.

Sahara Project (Preston) Limited

Independent examiner's report to the trustees

We report on the accounts of the company for the year to 31 March 2021

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

Basis of independent examiner's report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention:

1) which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006;

and

- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice; Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

2) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

BBS4TAX Limited
ACPA

37 Hesketh Road
Southport
Merseyside
PR9 9PB

15 December 2021

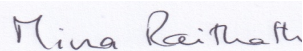
Sahara Project (Preston) Limited								
Statement of financial activities including Income and Expenditure Account								
for the year ended 31 March 2021								
			Unrestricted Funds	Resticted Funds	TOTAL	Unrestricted Funds	Resticted Funds	TOTAL
		Notes	2021	2021	2021	2020	2020	2020
			£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from								
Donations and Legacies	3		0	349,357	349,357	0	31,048	31,048
Charitable activities	4		53,741	0	53,741	28,463	0	28,463
Investments Income	5		0	0	0	298	0	298
Room hire			10,143	0	10,143	0	0	0
Total income			63,884	349,357	413,241	28,761	31,048	59,809
Expenditure on								
Charitable activities	6		7,996	215,846	223,842	33,131	138,897	172,028
Net outgoing resources for the year			55,888	133,511	189,399	- 4,370	- 107,849	- 112,219
Gross Transfers between funds			0	0	0	3,855	- 3,855	0
Net movement in funds			55,888	133,511	189,399	- 515	- 111,704	- 112,219
Fund balances at 1st April 2020			38,897	143,891	182,788	39,412	255,595	295,007
Fund balances at 31st March 2021			94,785	277,402	372,187	38,897	143,891	182,788

Sahara Project (Preston) Limited
Balance Sheet
as at 31 March 2021


	Notes	2021	2020
	es	£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	9	20,950	20,950
		<u>20,950</u>	<u>20,950</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	10	114,969	119,565
Cash at bank and in hand		247,361	48,767
		<u>362,330</u>	<u>168,332</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(11,093)	(6,494)
Net current assets		<u>351,237</u>	<u>161,838</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>372,187</u>	<u>182,788</u>
Net assets		<u>372,187</u>	<u>182,788</u>
Income Funds			
Restricted funds		277,402	143,891
Unrestricted funds	9	94,785	38,897
Total funds		<u>372,187</u>	<u>182,788</u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees

Ms M Raithatha
(Treasurer)



Mrs S Rehman (Chair)



Date

15/12/21
