



Inspiring hope & change

**SHPRESA PROGRAMME**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**31 MARCH 2023**

Company Registration Number 4692860

Charity Number 1110688

Prime Chartered Accounts  
Corner Oak  
1 Homer Road  
Solihull  
West Midlands  
B91 3QG

**SHPRESA PROGRAMME  
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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## **SHPRESA PROGRAMME**

### **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2023**

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2023.

#### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

**Charity name:** Shpresa Programme  
**Company Registration Number:** 04692860  
**Charity Registration Number:** 1110688

**Registered Office and Principal Address:** Mansfield House  
 30 Avenons Road  
 London  
 E13 8HT

#### **DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES**

Shannon Helene Griffin	Chair
Leonard Dedgjonaj	Vice Chair
Hatixhe Demushi	Treasurer
Ergest Zejnelaj	Trustee
Nertila Beti	Trustee
Jeremond Emric During	Trustee (appointed 22 October 2022)
Elona Gega	Trustee (appointed 22 October 2022)

The trustees have delegated day to day responsibilities to Luljeta Nuzi, the Project Director.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE:** Luljeta Nuzi

**BANKERS:** HSBC Bank Plc  
 118 High Street North  
 East Ham  
 London  
 E6 2HX

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:** Jeremy Kitson  
 Prime Chartered Accountants  
 Corner Oak  
 1 Homer Road  
 Solihull  
 West Midlands B913QG

## **SHPRESA PROGRAMME**

### **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2023**

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

Shpresa Programme ('Shpresa') is a registered charity and is incorporated as a limited company with the dispensation to omit the word limited. It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association and the objectives are the same as those set out in its charity registration.

The date of incorporation of the company is 11th March 2003, and its formal charity registration is 2nd August 2005.

#### **Trustees' selection, Induction and Training**

The Governance of the charity is overseen by the board of Trustees (the 'Board'). Trustees are recruited by the Board who consider the skills currently available and then identify the requirements needed for any additional or replacement trustees. Potential trustees are invited to a preliminary discussion with the Board. In the successful appointment of a trustee, the CEO provides an induction pack to introduce the potential trustee to the work and objectives of the organisation.

#### **Organisation of the Charity**

The Board agrees on policy and strategy issues and delegates the day-to-day management of Shpresa's operation to the CEO who is supported by a team of appropriately qualified people. Shpresa's team, comprises of 4 full-time staff and 5 part-time staff.

#### **Risk Management**

The Board meets regularly to discuss risks and make efforts to mitigate such risks. Their decisions are based on the four columns of the Charity Commission's recommended categories which are: Governance and Management, Operational, Financial and Environmental and External Risk.

#### **Public Benefit**

The Board has had due regards to the guidance published by the Charity Commission on Public Benefit and is of the view that Shpresa Programme is of immense benefit to the Albanian speaking community.

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

##### **Objects**

Shpresa is established for the benefit of the Albanian speaking people in the UK, both seeking asylum and granted refugee status, migrants, and their dependents in accordance with the laws of England and Wales. Shpresa:

- Advances their education and offers training, particularly to advance them in life and help them adapt within a new community;
- Provides relief of financial hardship, in particular, but not exclusively, by providing advice and other assistance;
- Preserves and protects their good physical and mental health;
- Provides facilities for recreation or other leisure activities with the object of improving the conditions of life of those persons who have need of such facilities by reasons of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances; and
- Promotes any further charitable purposes for the benefit of the Albanian speaking community in the UK as the Board may from time to time decide (with preference given to the London area).



## SHPRESA PROGRAMME

### TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2023

#### Introduction

2022 – 2023 it has been another year full of challenges for Shpresa Programme members and our service users. We continued to listen, identify issues and turn them into solvable problems. Shpresa keeps adapting its work and is a place where the Albanian speaking community and other minority communities can come for help, and Shpresa works with other providers to offer that help.

This year Shpresa continued to respond to issues that members of the Albanian community were facing, such as housing, mental health, VAWG, homelessness and NRPF, poverty, delays on Home Office responses to settlement and asylum application, accessing public services and unemployment.

This is the year where the country has seen a significant change in terms of immigration and asylum law with the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 ('NBA22') coming into force, and significant changes to the immigration system.

Shpresa's work is crucial not only in addressing the difficulties faced by members of the Albanian community but also ensuring that their voices are heard within influencing channels. Shpresa actively argued against legislations that affect its users, are unjust and have a direct impact on hate language, and which ultimately put lives in greater danger. The hate rhetoric used this year about the Albanian community, including in media, has directly impacted Shpresa's users' mental health and how they are perceived in the wider community, resulting in increased racism.

As with previous years, Shpresa continued to enable children and young people to learn and celebrate Albanian language, culture and heritage and created opportunities to share these with the wider community. Social actions were expanded through all age groups and services, to equip and support everyone to play an active role in community life with particular emphasis on young people engaging in positive activities.

Following the renewal of the lease of Mansfield House, the building Shpresa Programme is based, in February 2022, there have been further developments and our offer to acquire Mansfield House was accepted by Aston Mansfield. It was not on the best price offered but included the best use of the building. We secured the financial support of the Charity Bank, Trust for London and Impact Alchemy and completed the acquisition of the building in spring 2023.

We celebrated Shpresa's 20th anniversary at the Museum of London and at other events throughout the year. On the 17th of January 2023 we successfully launched our new leaders and campaigning project: Turning Dreams into Reality, Anger into Justice, Problems into Solutions. This event was held at the House of Parliament and hosted by the Right Honourable Sir Stephen Timms MP.

Throughout the report you will find lived experiences of people Shpresa works with along with the successes, achievements, challenges, difficulties and impact of Shpresa's work as well as future plans and statement of financial activities. Shpresa is very happy to share that over 3000 users benefited from its work during 2022 – 2023.

#### Chair's Report Ms Shannon Griffin

As Shpresa Programme's Chair for four years now, I am pleased to welcome you to the Shpresa Programme annual report. I have enjoyed being on the board of Shpresa Programme and its chair during the past year. I am excited about Shpresa Programme's new chapter at Mansfield House and proud at the organisation's response to UK's changing immigration landscape. The work, achievements and life changing stories highlighted in this report show that Shpresa Programme grows from strength

## **SHPRESA PROGRAMME**

### **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2023**

to strength, while remaining focused on its mission, and all of these achievements were praised during Shpresa Programme's 20th anniversary celebration.

This last year has been particularly challenging for Shpresa Programme's users from a legislative perspective. I would like to praise the resilience, hard work, courage, passion and commitment of our staff and volunteers. Shpresa Programme has been vital in ensuring members of the Albanian community are heard and challenging legislation that has a direct impact on how immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers are perceived. Not only is this impacting people's mental health, but it is also not promoting a cohesive culture.

With a view to reaching a wider audience, Shpresa Programme has also been working on amending its memorandum and is eager to share its user-led model with all minority groups, including migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. The immigration challenges that have been developing over this year emphasize how important it is for organisations, like Shpresa Programme, to be a voice to under representation populations.

In May 2023, Shpresa Programme successfully purchased its home, Mansfield House, with support from Charity Bank, Trust for London and Impact Alchemy. Mansfield House is officially the first Albanian community building in the UK. For the first time, Shpresa Programme has the opportunity to truly mould Mansfield House into the home of its dreams and has ambitious renovation plans from a community kitchen to temporary shelter for those most in need.

I look forward to seeing Shpresa Programme evolve over the next year into being an even more nurturing, safe, trusted and respected organisation amongst the community, the sector and the country at large.

#### **Chief Executive Report**

"Never let a crisis go to waste" has been the motto on how we at Shpresa Programme overcome challenges and difficulties that we as an organisation have been faced with, or our members and service users have experienced. This approach has enabled us to provide each solution needed at the appropriate time. We will take as an example the time of the Covid – 19 crisis. During this time our members and service users were faced with issues such as NRPF, high unemployment, cost of living crisis, increase of DV along with a number them seeking asylum or being victims of trafficking. Since we are experts on identifying such needs we continued to strengthen previous partnerships and create new ones. Not only do we provide services for people, but we work with them to increase their knowledge, skills, and information on how they can help themselves and better navigate the systems to access support, training, employment and health services.

We also have created opportunities for their needs to be heard and addressed by specialist institutions, local authorities, and government departments. As well as organising profile-raising events ourselves, we took part to other events and activities. As part of the VRU project our young people attended the Youth Take Over Day and meeting with the Deputy Mayor. During this event one of our youth leaders asked the Deputy Mayor if there was any action they would take against the dangerous stereotyping language used about the Albanian speaking community, which is affecting our lives at school and other public spaces and increasing bullying and violence felt by young people from our community.

On the 10th of December we took part in the "We are Newham" event organised at The Green Street Library. This was a joint event with other organisations operating in Newham; we shared food, success stories, dance. In addition, we raised our concerns and asked for support with the Albanian Language campaign, housing and mental health issues.



## **SHPRESA PROGRAMME**

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We continued working with Telco on several issues affecting our community such as health inequalities, housing, immigration and the living wage. To address the impact of inadequate housing on the educational experience, we worked with our members and users to help facilitate the research done by Telco in understanding the experience of children and families using our services. This was done via semi-structured interviews allowing users to express their views and talk about key issues such as the impact of housing on emotional and psychological wellbeing, on children's education, the impact of Covid pandemic and the ways in which schools might provide support.

The team that worked on the "Lost on Hold, Our Stories Told" project publicised a number of reports in the media, such as in the Guardian and Mirror. They submitted a response to the Parliament Joint Committee on Human Rights Call for Evidence on the Human Rights of Asylum Seekers in the UK. The film created by young people taking part on the project which was nominated and shortlisted by the Charity Film Awards.

<https://livesonhold.org/>

The "Breaking the Chains" project was nominated for the Anti-Slavery Day Awards and won the 2022 Empowering Survivors Voices Award.

The Leadership project is a flagship programme which bottles up the lived experience of Shpresa's leadership, the learning from social entrepreneurship (SSE) and includes community organising (Citizens UK). The mentors of this project have been supporters of Shpresa for many years and are contributing to growing the current and future leaders.

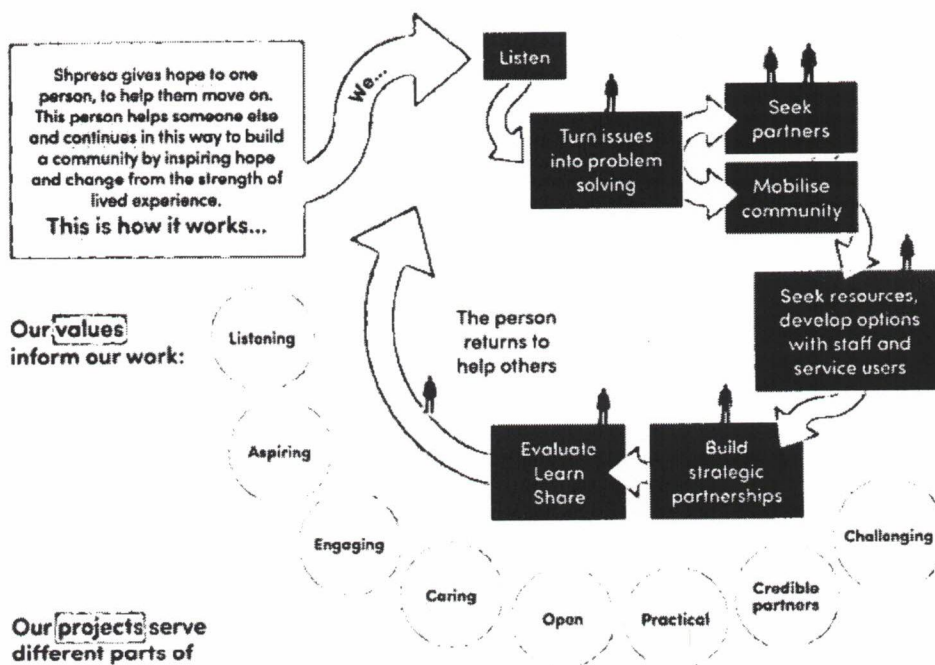
The cherry on top has been making the 20 year old dream of Shpresa Programme a reality. Over 20 years ago, a group of young mothers dreamed of having a community building that could be their "home" - a place where they felt safe, welcomed, understood, not judged, and valued. It would help them grow and make this country their home. We started from having a hot desk in 2000, moving to our first office, which was a story room in 2003, getting the lease of our first building in 2007 to buying our building in 2023.

We are very excited for what the future holds for making this "home" a hub for everyone that wants to help themselves and others.

Our Theory of Change and Pillars of Success are still relevant and continue to guide us on our work.

## SHPRESA PROGRAMME

## TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2023



**Our projects serve different parts of our community:**

#### Advice and Advocacy project:

aims to provide, in partnership with other providers such as MLCU, Money A+E, Horizon, Manor gardens, New Europeans advice and advocacy on behalf of the Albanian-speaking clients in various fields—such as benefits, immigration, settlement, debts etc.

#### Children and Young People project:

aims to improve the life, the education and the wellbeing of the Albanian-speaking children from refugee, asylum and migrant backgrounds as well as enabling their voices to get heard.

#### Volunteering project:

aims to promote volunteering amongst Albanian-speaking community as way to improve their chances of employment as well as their education and health. At the same time, as an organisation we offer work placements and internships, and team challenges for business teams.

#### Campaigning:

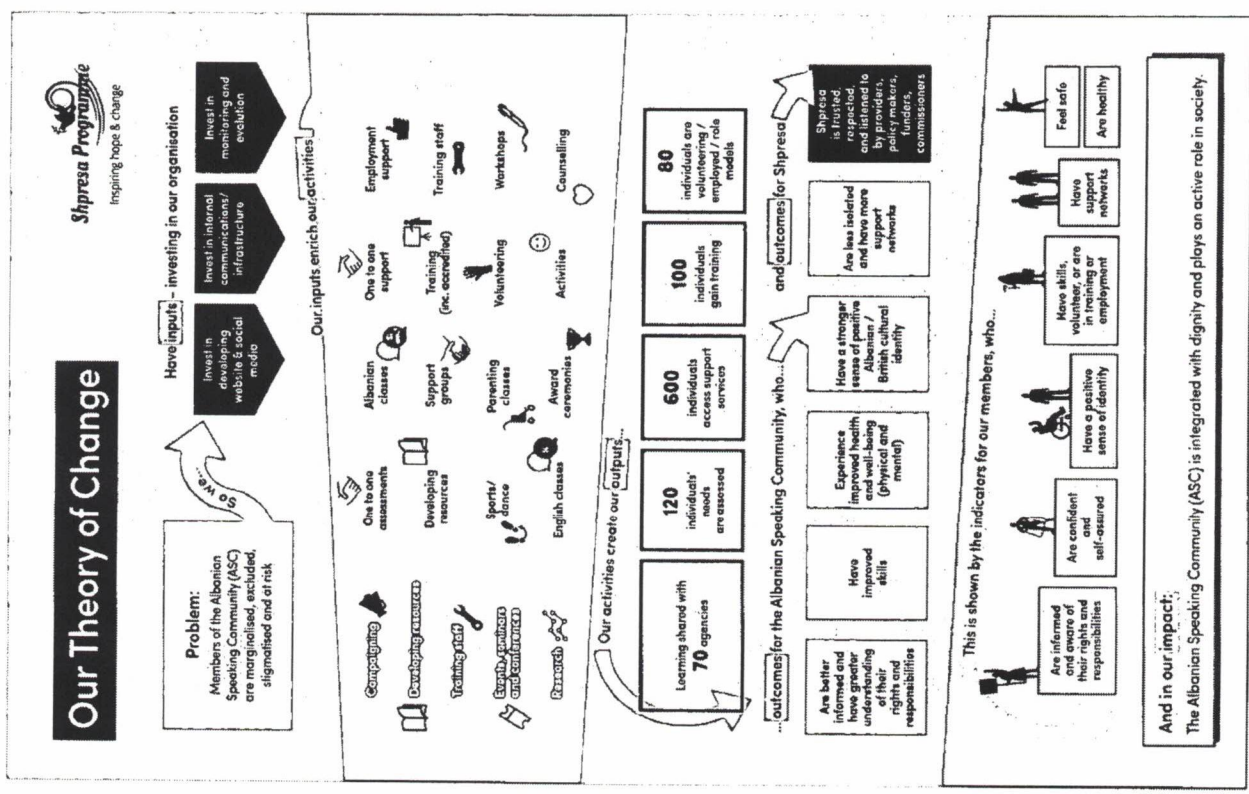
aims to engage, up-skill and empower the Albanian-speaking people living in the UK, to work together to solve the problems that matter to them and for the common good.

#### Women's Health and Wellbeing project:

aims to improve the chances of the Albanian-speaking women to break the isolation, loneliness and other barriers so they can improve their health, integrate within the society and play a full part in the family, community and society.

#### Resources/research:

aims to share our learning, model of working and resources with other user-led groups to maximise our impact and play our active role in society.





## SHPRESA PROGRAMME

## TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2023

## 6 Pillars of Success

These six factors act as the pillars supporting all Shpresa work, creating a consistent and coherent philosophy for the organisation.

I was accepted as part of a family

'G', MAN IN THE VOLUNTEERS/EX-SERVICE USERS - ADULTS FOCUS GROUP

Friendship here is very important

'H', WOMAN IN THE SERVICE USERS FOCUS GROUP

## Inclusiveness

Shpresa has a very strong culture of family, friendship, solidarity and warmth which gives rise to high levels of trust and openness. It sends out messages of inclusiveness to newcomers, so they can take full advantage of the opportunities as quickly as possible. In the focus groups, service users often referred to Shpresa, its staff and users, as 'family'.

Shpresa gives you pride in Albania and you need that to integrate

'I', WOMAN IN EARLY 20s, VOLUNTEERS FOCUS GROUP

If families can't afford to go home, the Shpresa Programme can replicate the experience

'K', MAN IN HIS 40s, EX-SERVICE USERS/VOLUNTEERS FOCUS GROUP

## Cultural Identity

Our programme and provision of a space for the Albanian-speaking community provides a clear reinforcement of what it means to be Albanian through language, dances and cultural activities. Reinforced family ties promote communication between generations. This clarity of identity is experienced as providing a way of finding one's place in British society and giving rise to respect from others outside the Albanian community.

[Shpresa] put me through many, many training... they brought my confidence back. If [the staff] can't help, they find someone else to help

'L', WOMAN IN THE VOLUNTEERS FOCUS GROUP

## Problem Solving Know-How

Shpresa's staff act as role models to service users and volunteers, and demonstrate consistent patterns of behaviour.

This includes:

- Acting as though every problem can be solved
- Knowing enough to be able to be useful to others, but also admitting limits and finding experts who do know.
- Not compartmentalising problems, but seeing people in the round.
- Stressing self-help, encouraging active experimentation and personal development.
- Encouraging honest reflection and openness in facing difficulties.

We stress the skills of problem solving so that participants can transfer this approach to all other problems they face.

## Focus on family

The Shpresa Programme provides a range of specific projects for children, young people and women, men, and old people. This focus has had the effect of reaching those who are the most significant holders and transmitters of cultural values.

Shpresa is currently looking for ways to involve more male service users over 25.

Men were involved in the Talent show, but women are the ones who take part in the projects. Men are getting the benefits of Shpresa from their wives and children

'O', WOMAN IN THE VOLUNTEERS FOCUS GROUP

I have been coming since Shpresa was in Manor Park. Since then I feel at home, it is like my family

'R', MAN 60s, SERVICE USERS FOCUS GROUP

## Progressive Steps

Participants continue to take on progressive challenges to suit their stage of development both within Shpresa, such as the volunteering programme, or outside, such as courses to further their career aspirations. Staff take an active hand in encouraging and supporting this climate of self-development. There is a strong feeling amongst women who are current and ex-service users that by being in the UK and in contact with Shpresa, that they can achieve things that would not have been possible at home in their personal development and careers.

They made me feel good for myself. Previously, I was isolated, waiting for a decision on my refugee status. [Once in contact with Shpresa] 'I felt useful working for other people. I got my self-esteem and have gone on to higher education'

'B', WOMAN IN THE VOLUNTEERS FOCUS GROUP

## Understanding the UK &amp; Getting the UK to Understand Albanians

Many people reported how the Shpresa Programme had fostered integration rather than separation. Many commented on the programmes, visits and activities to give insight and understanding and encourage appropriate involvement with UK society - for example visits to the House of Parliament. There was evidence that the Shpresa Programme helps service users of all ages to understand and feel comfortable with British culture.

The Shpresa Programme helps you with English culture

'T', TEENAGE MALE, CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S FOCUS GROUP

**Shpresa Programme**  
Inspiring hope & change



## **SHPRESA PROGRAMME**

### **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2023**

#### **The impact of our work and what we achieved in 2022-2023**

The board of trustees present the report and audited accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2023. In this report we look at achievements and outcomes, impact of work on the community and review plans, ensuring the aims, objectives and activities of the charity are reflected throughout.

During 2022-2023 Shpresa Programme offered life changing services touching the lives of 3128 individuals, including unaccompanied minors, survivors of trafficking, VAWG, asylum seekers, refugees, migrants, and their family members.

This year we continued to face the impact of Covid on members of our community, saw an increase in the need for housing, mental health support, ESOL classes, IT equipment and training. The cost-of-living crisis showed a need for immediate, poverty-related support, financial assistance and access to food banks. There has been a large increase in Albanian speaking asylum seekers arriving on small boats through the channel; many of the ones that have approached us have small children, and particularly acute needs for legal and welfare support. Media and political coverage of migrant issues has focused disproportionately on negative portrayals of the community, resulting in increased racism, and leaving the community feeling more vulnerable and under attack. The current immigration bill poses great threat on vulnerable people, in particular those that are being trafficked, exploited, and don't see a way out of abusive circles.

Shpresa Programme has been delivering expert support for more than 20 years. Its approach and work with the community is well tested and is trusted by the community and wider. It has excellent networks throughout the Albanian speaking community, the voluntary sector and other service provider organisations. This year Shpresa's current active network includes: MiCLU (Migrant and Refugee Children's Legal Unit), Garden Court Chambers, Liverpool, UCL, UEL and Southampton University, Human Trafficking Foundation, Telco, Manor Gardens, The Alternative Trust, Croydon Drop In, Kazzum, Refugee Council, Money A&E, Total Family Coaching, Alisar Training provider, Jonathan Ellis campaigns, LMLAS, IKWRO- Women's Rights Organization, New Europeans, Law firms and barristers, Frenford Clubs, BDYD, Muslimahsports, EUSS Consortium, Connect Newham, Newham College, Local MPs and counsellors.

Throughout the years Shpresa Programme's work has been valued and recognised widely, and this year:

- It won the Empowering Survivors Voices for the Anti-Slavery Day Awards 2022.
- It was the Shortlisted Nominee for the Creating a Better Future London Award for the London Youth Awards 2022.
- Our CEO, Luljeta Nuzi won the Women's Empowerment Award 2023, Anne Estela Lifetime Achievement Award, and Freedom of the Borough Award from LBBD, and she was celebrated at Barking Town Hall.
- Shpresa has been nominated and shortlisted by the Charity Film Awards for the "Lives On Hold: Our Stories Told", a film that was created by a group of young people who came to the UK as unaccompanied asylum seeking children and become part of Shpresa Programme.
- In partnership with MiCLU, Shpresa prepared an Open Letter in support of an amendment to the current Illegal Migration Bill, to remove Albania from the list of "Safe Countries". The amendment was proposed by Baroness Lister and Lord Cashman. The Open Letter was signed within hours by 41 organisations and 55 professionals, showing their support towards this cause.

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### TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2023

During this financial year Shpresa Programme celebrated its 20th anniversary. It held several events including:

- “We played our part” – Celebrating 10th anniversary of London Olympics on the 4th of June 2022;
- Volunteer Week and Refugee Week Festival 25 June 2022 from 3 centres Shpresa operates from;
- Albanian Independence Day 26 November 2022 at Museum of Docklands and 28 Nov 2022 at Barking Town Hall;
- End of Year Celebrations 17 Dec 2022 at Forest Gate Youth Zone;
- On the 17th Of January 2023 Shpresa successfully launched its new leaders and campaigning project: Turning Dreams into Reality, Anger into Justice, Problems into Solutions. This event was held at the House of Parliament and hosted by the Right Honourable Sir Stephen Timms MP;
- Kosovo Independence Day Celebrations at Kosovo Embassy on 15 Feb 2023 and on 17 February 2023 at Barking Town Hall;
- Women’s Day Celebration on 12 March 2023 at Forest Gate Youth Zone;
- As part of Refugees for Refugees project, in collaboration with Trinity Centre on 29 April 2023 Shpresa ran the “Ukrainian’s Easter Celebration” event.
- During the 16 Days of Activism Shpresa planned each day an activity, workshop, or event, including talks by Albanian women professionals such as Rema Duli CEO at Kosovar Albanian Youth Against Violence, DV seminar run by Enida Myftari, Senior Lawyer in Family and Immigration Law.
- 31st of March Shpresa celebrated Freedom of the Borough Award received by our CEO at a ceremony held at Barking Town Hall.

3,128 Albanian speaking people access Shpresa services every year. Shpresa has proven throughout the years that its model, centred around relationship building and supporting the community at all stages using the family approach, works very well for our community. Being user-led is very important as we all share similar experiences and have a deep understanding of issues the community faces. “Listening - hearing what our users tell us, even when it’s hard”, and “Openness – being flexible and responsive and leading by example, delivering quality services”, are principles that are important to Shpresa, and others, as Shpresa learns what is needed, what works well and what needs to be improved. Shpresa shares the learning amongst its networks and systematically applies learning points to improve service delivery.

Shpresa Programme, in collaboration with UID Women UK and with the great support of Cllr Saima Ashraf, started in record time fundraising to help the families that lost their loved ones back in Turkey as the result of the earthquake. The emergency market was created from community members that cooked dishes and sold jewellery and goods on the day. £10,000 was raised on the day towards helping families affected by the earthquake in Turkey.

Shpresa runs activities and services seven days a week. Its main services are:

**Women’s Support, Health, Wellbeing and Safety Project:** Delivering a range of services and holistic support for Albanian speaking women. Shpresa knows that Albanian speaking women face lots of challenges, find themselves isolated and have difficulty integrating into UK society. They have little or no understanding of English and British culture and society and feel lonely and isolating. They find themselves in limbo, don’t understand the lengthy immigration process or their entitlements. They are afraid to approach services as they fear they won’t be understood and will be misjudged. The economic disadvantage they face is another hurdle, creating lots of stress and anxiety and uncertainty in their



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### TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2023

daily lives. They are at high risk of suffering domestic violence along with suffering from depression and mental health difficulties. These issues are constantly reported by women Shpresa works with, partner providers and is supported by statistics. Challenges women from the Albanian speaking community face make them more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation and less likely to engage with mainstream service providers, preventing them from reaching their fullest potentials.

To address the disadvantages women face, provide life changing support, bring people together and build stronger relationships within and across communities, enabling users to fulfil their potential, Shpresa runs several services and activities, including:

- Women support groups to provide a safe and welcoming space for women to get together and socialise, connect, and build a support network with each other;
- Informative workshops providing information that is relevant to their needs, helps them to learn about the immigration system, obtain access to lawyers, understand different types of benefits and entitlements, learn about safeguarding and forms of VAWG, understand more about their local authority and accessing online services, healthy living and other topics;
- Mental health and wellbeing activities such as art classes, walking group and gardening help women use their creativity and express themselves in different forms, increasing a sense of self-worth and improving health and wellbeing;
- Life in the UK sessions for women to learn about different aspects of life in the UK and have a better understanding of their rights and responsibilities;
- Triple P parenting training programme helps women learn and practise positive parenting skills to prevent problems in school and families before they arise;
- Accessing ESOL, IT and teaching assistant classes learn new skills and reach their full potential;
- Mental health awareness to help with understanding and breaking barriers, accessing psychoeducational group therapy and one to one therapy;
- Domestic violence knowledge to provide information and increase understanding on the issues, learn about where to get help and support in accessing specialist services;
- Introduction to volunteering and opportunities;
- One to one support to identify needs and provide holistic support, including referrals to specialist agencies;
- Emergency support in the form of vouchers, food, clothes and digital access;
- Trips to places of interest such as the House of Commons and museums; and
- Celebratory events to come together and celebrate achievements, role models, share experiences, enjoy and keep up the community spirit and sense of belonging.

Additional issues we have identified during this year include:

- Women being placed in hotels by the Home Office receive only £8 a week. They are offered food at the hotel which they or their children do not eat. They are finding it difficult to survive and have high basic needs. We refer them to food banks and have supported them in making claims for small grants.
- Health Surcharge – women on a spouse visa are worried about the additional costs when applying for extension of their visa, including the increase of the health surcharge. They fear increase of DV as economic constraints are increasing and impacting family life.
- The current Immigration Bill highlights many issues for our community, especially for the victims of trafficking and those seeking asylum as they will be the first community to be experimented with, due to the nature of their arrival. We have consulted users on all our projects; the We Can project has many women who are new arrivals and they have expressed their fears and difficulties they face already.

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- Discrimination – Users report an increase in discrimination following the hateful language rhetoric, used by politicians and the media against the community. Shpresa is taking social actions against this and are sharing positive experiences of the Albanian community members, sharing their journeys and their success stories. Shpresa is working with the community to help them feel safe and protected, valued, and respected.

#### Case study:

- 1- A young mother, being placed by the Home Office in a hotel with her children says: "I would be forever grateful to Shpresa Programme and everyone that works here. I will never forget how you came to the hotel I am staying and brought changing clothes for me and my children. We came on a boat, risking our lives, had nothing on us. My kids were shaking as the clothes we had on were not suitable for the weather, they got wet and dry on our body. I will not forget the smiles on my children's face when they saw the clothes and even more when at one of the bags there were toys and colouring books for them. I find Shpresa now the place I can relax and feel normal, like I have somewhere to go, share my problems and worries and get help. I have learnt how to travel, where to ask for help, I am learning some English and I am learning about life here in UK and how to help my children. I still need a lot of support and I know I have a long difficult journey ahead but at least I have hope, I have support, I have friends around me now and I found a home at Shpresa where I can even eat a warm meal with my children".
- 2- N came to the UK with her three children to seek asylum since they were getting threatened in Albania from the people her husband had a conflict with. When N's daughter was regularly followed and nearly killed N decided to flee her country and seek sanctuary in the UK. N is also a victim of domestic violence and honour-based violence; she felt threatened by her family and thought if she was to leave her husband, they would dishonour her. In September 2022, N was interviewed with her three children by the Home Office and a cab was organised to take them to the allocated hotel by the Dover Home Office team. But unfortunately, the driver left them outside a closed building and said that he couldn't help them any further. The family could not speak or understand English so were not able to seek any help. They managed to get to the local police station and the police sent them to the Barking council office where they were offered a place to stay for a few nights and later discharged stating that it's not their duty. The eldest daughter was able to find online Shpresa's contact details and they messaged Shpresa in desperate need for help. Shpresa acted immediately, sending them a cab to bring them to Shpresa's office, along with finding clothes for N and her children. Shpresa immediately looked to identify providers who could support them with emergency accommodation and food as it was getting dark and Shpresa could not leave them on the street. IKWRO took on the case, placed the family in emergency accommodation, gave them supermarket food vouchers and worked with other professionals to get their claim lodged with the Home Office. They were referred to an immigration solicitor who arranged the asylum claim interview and once asylum was accepted the family was placed by the Home Office in emergency accommodation. During all this time Shpresa continued to support the family by providing clothing, inviting them for warm food at the Centre and inviting them to join the women's group for socialising. Although the family is now placed outside London Shpresa continues to be in touch and ensure they don't disconnect with the community and encourage participation of the mother and the three young people in sessions Shpresa runs online for members who cannot access in person sessions.
- 3- Albanian speaking therapist report:  
"Presenting problems in the groups were depression, emotional difficulties, separation, welfare issues, traumatic childhood experiences, cognitive and behavioural difficulties,



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isolation, health issues, lack of social functioning, self-acceptance. All the women attended regularly. The groups work really well, the discussions were always serious and engaged. The women share their stories and how they are affected personally. They also talked about the difficulties with relationships and the psychological effects. A shared experience of the women in the group was that they had all been enduring suffering and second-class status in their lives due to the impacts of being asylum seekers and the feelings of being unworthy. Their self-esteem was badly affected.

Often the outcome of the groups is that the women wanted to move on and to start to put themselves first and prioritize their own needs. They became interested in ways that they could empower themselves. The women were able to explore how they think and feel about themselves and how this affects their lives and relationships. We were also able work on how to recognize their strengths and resources and use them to build their self-esteem. Sharing their experiences on an equal and mutual basis helped them to better manage their own wellbeing. They have also found enjoyment of life through peer support and activities which bring them together with people in similar situations in life".

**Volunteering Project** aims to promote volunteering amongst the Albanian speaking community to enable them to volunteer, work and better understand the culture they now live in.

Through the volunteering project Shpresa has been able to create opportunities for our members to:

- Raise awareness of volunteering;
- Access Training in Volunteering, CV writing and job search;
- Befriending;
- Access accredited training such as ESOL and TA courses, Advice qualification, etc;
- Learn and become Parenting Champions, Mental Health Champions, Immigration Champions, Walking or Employment Champions. There are opportunities for all;
- Gain new skills and work experience in an area they feel comfortable or want to explore;
- Increase confidence and self-esteem;
- Access other training such as Safeguarding, Health and Safety and Food Hygiene;
- Enhance their CV and improve work prospects;
- Work by their own initiative and as part of the team, feel valued and appreciated;
- Make a difference to the lives of others;
- Socialise, meet new people and create new networks;
- Learn about and access other services in the local community and wider; and
- Be the voice of the most vulnerable ones, represent their needs in different platforms and helping to make a positive change;

At Shpresa Programme "Everyone has something to offer; everyone can be a volunteer in their daily life by helping others anytime, anywhere". Among the different benefits of volunteering, people report a sense of connection and belonging to an organisation and a culture of respect and trust, contributing, and feeling part of something bigger. For previous volunteers, the positive and enjoyable experiences, along with feeling valued and appreciated, has led to continued participation in volunteering, not losing touch and allowing for future engagements. For people who have never thought of volunteering before, tackling barriers is a step-by-step process. This starts with raising awareness of volunteering, encouragement and making it easy to get involved, providing inclusive opportunities, flexibility, and openness, encouraging them to bring their lived experiences to their role, looking at role models and helping them take the first steps into volunteering. The variety of volunteering roles and placements offered this year include Mental Health Champions, Parenting Champions, Employment Champions, Walking Champions, Immigration Champions, Safeguarding champions, peer researchers, teaching

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assistants, gardening, befriending (including telephone befriending), mentoring, social action champion, admin and reception, customer service, as well as sports and art leaders and event organising.

We value and recognise volunteer contributions in many ways and show them that they are making a difference. Every year we celebrate Volunteer Week and hold events at different venues such as the event that was at Houses of Parliament and hosted by Stephen Tims MP. This year we also attended Newham and Enfield Volunteer Week events. We recognise the impact and importance of the volunteer's role, strengthening connections and creating platforms for their voices to be heard. Volunteers are presented with thank you certificates and get to be thanked from people whose life they have impacted. They receive recognition from other organisations and projects of their achievements and the meaningful role they play in their volunteering position.

**The Leadership and Social Action Project** engages skills and encourages upskilling and empowering the Albanian speaking people living in the UK to work together to solve the problems that matter to them and for the common good. It builds power, leadership, and influences Albanians in the UK to champion the power of lived experience and leadership for positive social change. It creates opportunities for needs, concerns, ideas, and aspirations of minority migrant communities to be heard in the "corridors of power".

Activities Shpresa runs via this project include:

- Leadership training – to increase skills, knowledge and confidence, access opportunities and social networks and be able to apply new approaches to social actions.
- Mentoring – Social activists/Community leaders will be supported by mentors to help them reach their goals.
- Other training – to increase understanding of civic and political participation in the UK and to better understand how political structures relate to their lives.
- Network development- navigate these networks to raise their voices. To increase knowledge and awareness of contributions, assets, experiences and needs of the Albanian speaking community and other minority communities amongst policy and decision makers.
- Youth leadership training and youth forums – engage unrepresented young people on a programme of education in social action, leadership, development, and diversionary activities.

Through leadership and social actions, the young people and adults with lived experience have grown into becoming responsible individuals and have started contributing to changes on a bigger scale. An important partnership on this project for the work with young people, is the My London Project led by Fenford clubs in partnership with Shpresa, BDYD and Muslimahsports.

The "Turning Dreams into Reality" project also benefits by the involvement of professional mentors and others involved in the steering group such as Campaigners, CEO of SSE, Leaders of Citizens UK, CEO of Dance Challenge, Manager of JustLetmeKnow, Therapist, Trainers, Specialist VAWG and Advocates.

A number of social actions and related activities were held this year including:

- To talk about the racist and discriminatory language used against the Albanian community in the UK by politicians and in the media. Challenge it by showing positive role models and that a whole community cannot be generalised based on a few cases. Young people attending The Youth Take Over Day asked the Deputy Mayor if there was any action they would take against the dangerous stereotyping language used about the Albanian speaking community. The same questions was asked to leaders of different boroughs when presenting social action at different



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events such as the flag raising event at Barking Town Hall in November, "We are Newham" event on the 10th of December 2022, etc.

- Environment campaign, to grow your bee friendly garden, planting purple flowers in gardens so bees have access to nectar from March to October.
- Raising funds for the families in Turkey that lost their family members in the earthquake that hit the country.
- Online campaign on registering to vote to raise awareness amongst our users on the importance of voting and the Voter ID.
- Young leaders met with Margaret Hodge, MP for LB B&D, briefed on their campaigns and asked for help especially in accessing venue for free to be able to run sessions in the area. A number of meetings have been held with representatives from Barking and Dagenham Council to assist in finding another free venue to deliver services in the area.
- Took social action against the current Illegal Migration bill by getting users to share their stories, write an Open Letter for a bill amendment and got 41 organisations and 55 individuals to sign the Open Letter within hours.
- Co-ordinate seminars, alongside staff and partners at Garden Court Chambers and MiCLU, reaching over 300 professionals working with children and young people on the asylum system, aiming at informing them about issues affecting the community and how to promote access and develop child friendly services.
- Facilitated an in-person meeting between the Independent Chief Inspector for Borders and Immigration (ICIBI) and children and young people who are part of the "Breaking the Chains" programme. This meeting was designed by the young people as an immersive event to communicate the experiences of young people in the asylum system, and an introduction to Albanian culture for the Chief Inspector and his team. It had a huge impact, and the Chief Inspector has been clear that he heard the messages that the young people wanted to communicate, is committed to taking these forward where he can, and to consider how the ICIBI ensures that future inspections are more accessible to those with lived experience of the systems under inspection. A member of the ICIBI team wrote to us afterwards to say: I wanted to reiterate my own thanks to you all and the young people for organizing such a brilliant, creative and very powerful evening. We have come away with plenty to think about. I was particularly struck by how articulately the young people highlighted issues in the asylum system, which must have been difficult subjects for them to talk about, having experienced them (or still be experiencing the effects of them) so closely themselves.

Shpresa is proud to have continued to work with London Citizens this year on the:

- Settling our settled status - aiming to get settlement for everyone who calls Britain home;
- Addressing Health inequalities- aiming to increase access to support and improve the relationships with the local organisations, NHS and Local Authorities;
- Living Wage Campaign - aiming to get more employers to become living wage employers; and
- Affordable housing.

#### Launching the Leadership Programme - an Introduction by Jonathan Ellis

Jonathan Ellis works independently to support people across the world to campaign for change. In addition to supporting Shpresa Programme, his recent portfolio includes work for the Refugee Council, UNHCR, Eurochild, and Concern. He is also project director of Detention Forum, a network of over 50 organisations challenging the use of immigration detention in the UK.

"The powerful combination between lived experience and learnt experience."

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Back in the summer I was approached by Luli Nuzi, director of Shpresa programme, who gave me the exciting news that they had received funding to run a new leadership course for migrant community leaders.

I was keen to meet up and discuss this exciting initiative, and when we did so I suggested that we might make a start by looking at existing good practice and build such a course on this. I was very politely challenged by Luli, who suggested that what we could do would be to build the course on the lived experience of Shpresa programme. I just loved this challenge, and I could immediately see that I was wrong and that there was such a value on Luli's approach.

We then had a series of meetings over the course of the summer based loosely on some initial framing of the questions. At the end of these meetings, I was left with the most incredible collection of practical lived advice to aspiring leaders.

Over the course of my career, I've had the opportunity to engage with a lot of leadership training, but despite all of this, I was struck by the incredible originality and freshness of this material. And with all of the work that I've done in the past endeavouring to support refugee community organisations, I could see that this new material could be immensely helpful to leaders from such organisations because it is rooted in lived experience. And without wanting to give away too much about the excellent content in this course, we do cover some really useful information for emerging leaders. Having defined what we mean by leadership, we go on to discuss how you can get going, how to develop a mission, and how to be as a leader. We then focus on how to build partnerships, what to think about as you develop an organisation, some of the really useful things to know as a leader, and we finish with the tests for an effective leader.

I am clearly biased when it comes to this new course, but after all of my experience working in and around the refugee and migrant sector over the last 20 years, I think that this course will offer something fresh and incredibly needed that will help to stimulate the development of leaders in the sector with lived experience. We have needed such training for a long time, and I am so delighted that Shpresa Programme has stepped up to meet this challenge.

"I think this is the start of something incredibly important in this country. Keep an eye out for this programme and spread the word!"

**Children and Young People's (CYP) Project** develops confidence and self-esteem via training, dancing, sport, leadership and many more activities. It aims to improve the life, education, and the wellbeing of the Albanian-speaking children from refugee, asylum and migrant backgrounds as well as enabling their voices to be heard. Young people attending services run by the Children and Young People's project have opportunities to regularly meet every week in a place where the lack of language and lack of cultural understanding are not barriers for participation, engagement, belonging or having fun. The young people value that these places are local, safe, welcome, no judgmental, warm and at some of them hot meals are provided.

**Language and Heritage Project** provides CYP with Albanian language classes, storytelling and drama and dance classes, enhancing their educational attainment, while promoting active and engaged citizenship.



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**Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children's and Young People Project** provides support, signposting, advice and advocacy, mental health advice, training and other activities for very vulnerable children and young people (CYP).

Shpresa's approach to working with young people works really well, and is:

- Identification and Support.
- General engagement and empowerment program including provision of culturally friendly activities and information sessions.
- Important child-centred, trauma informed mental health and other support.
- Referral to child-centred advice and advocacy support.
- Leadership and 'Voice of the Child/Young person' engagement and empowerment program.
- Share experiences and learning with others.

Services, events, and successes during 2022- 2023 include:

- Supplementary school project for learning the Albanian language, culture and heritage, run from 5 venues in East, North and South London, as well as online classes.
- Football, volleyball, and other sport activities.
- Traditional dancing classes and drama play sessions.
- Learning events & seminars on planning and developing leadership and organisational skills.
- Money heroes' program.
- Cooking sessions at Forest Gate Youth Centre and Mansfield House combined with workshops on mental health/wellbeing, healthy relationships, anger management, living a healthy life, eating healthy and managing finances. Sessions on immigration champions with MiCLU and Garden Court Chambers about the asylum system and current Immigration bill.
- Leadership & Social Action training sessions leading to social action projects.
- Mental Health champions training.
- Mental health awareness sessions were provided and also one-to-one access to therapy and group work offered by professionals such as Croydon drop-in.
- Providing a holistic package of support to meet the needs of UCAS. Advocacy was provided to help with planning their transition to move from foster care to living independently, which is very significant for young people granted asylum or were trafficked.
- The befriending emergency response team has also continued to provide emotional support to our young people, as well as check on their needs, identify support available and make sure young people access such support.
- Sharing Shpresa's model. We have continued to strengthen our work and relationship with Garden Court Chambers and MiCLU and represent issues and the voices of young people on different platforms, including at a Parliament hearing.
- Shpresa organised residencies in Southampton and York, trips to places of culture/ interest such as museums, the Houses of Parliament and City of London.

Some other events organised in partnerships with MiCLU include:

- Blood feuds: Critiquing the new CPIN on Albania (Legal seminar) – 1 December 2022 at Garden Court Chambers in London.
- Breaking the Chains Celebration and Launch – 20 June 2022 (York).
- Still Walking a Tightrope: Conference and workshops – 16 June 2022 (London) .

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Young people report that being able to meet in a place where their culture is understood and appreciated, where they can speak their mother tongue as well as learn English, feels very beneficial to them and they can fully enjoy, learn, participate, and feel they belong to the group. Being at a young age and going through many changes they find it difficult to identify themselves or have the courage to define themselves as they want. They have been through many challenges and barriers, back home, and in the UK, where they seek sanctuary but in reality, find a very hostile environment and an increased extreme and vocal racism in their daily lives. Facilitators of the groups, have observed and witnessed how young people have developed their sense of identity, believing in themselves and being able to make important decisions for themselves. They have been outspoken and able to express their feelings and share experiences, work towards their goals and succeed in some of the most difficult challenges they face. With the support of the advocate and specialist partner organisation young people have succeeded in having important key people listening to them and winning their asylum cases. Young people have led on meetings with counsellors and MPs, with representatives from Home Office, they have taken part to important research done by Southampton University and contributed significantly to sharing their experiences with others informing important findings highlighting the complex reason of asking of seeking asylum in the UK and exploitation on arrival. Young people report an increase on sense of identity and self-worth. They report that they find themselves useful and value their input, they feel proud of their achievements and look forward to new challenges. They report that through the social action activities they have found a meaningful purpose.

#### Case Study:

"My name is D. I joined Shpresa at a very dark time of my life, last year a nurse from mental health hospital called F to help me. She came the next day to visit me in hospital and left me till today. I was helpless, left in a Limbo feeling alone and hopeless. I was one step in and one step out of the dark work. It was the love, care, empathy, willingness to understand and help of women leader at Shpresa especially F who pulled me out of these spirals. Their leadership, their understanding, their empathy, unconditional love made me trust them and encouraged me to work with them, train with them.

It was not an easy journey. But today after one year of my involvement at Shpresa I got a solicitor, a social worker and F who became the second mum for me. I am learning a lot about mental health and how to look after myself but most importantly I am staying out of trouble focusing only on good stuff. I regularly attend both groups, I love the sport activities we do, volleyball and football. I learned how to cook simple traditional food and because of that the pain in my stomach is gone as I was eating chicken and chips every day. I made new friends, and they are helping me a lot, one of them has become like my brother, he has been with me all this week to enable me to enrol in college.

Shpresa has become my family. F and E are my role models. F will always be my second mum in my life. In the darkest time she showed me the light, in the sad moments she was next to me she believed and trusted me. I want to say to everyone today I am in a better place just because of their help and support. I want to promise everyone and especially to F, I WILL HELP OTHERS LIKE YOU HELPED ME".

'Sharing the Model' aims to share Shpresa's learning, model of working and resources with other user-led groups to maximise Shpresa's impact and play an active role in society. Shpresa also wants to get the voices and lived experiences of its members in research, so it has been working with Southampton, Liverpool, UCL, UEL, York University on research projects. Part of this is also the work with the Ukrainian community "Refuges for Refuges" project. Shpresa started providing one to one befriending and then progressed into other services, encouraging, and enabling members of the Ukrainian community to engage in life in the UK, break isolation, identify needs and find solutions. Shpresa offers a holistic package of support that contributes towards improved access to services and support, improved health and wellbeing and improved community cohesion, while supporting growth of volunteers and leaders within the Ukrainian community.



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**Heritage Project**, keeping heritage in the community, inspiring people, and creating a legacy. Having successfully delivered this project through the previous years with a focus on northern and southern Albania, this year Shpresa worked on the "We played our part, keeping heritage in the community, inspiring people and creating legacy" project, looking at the 2012 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games, hosted in Stratford, Newham. Through this project Shpresa captured the experiences of community members that participated in the raising of Stratford City. As part of the project, Shpresa conducted a series of videos entailing the stories of Newham residents. The interviews demonstrate a multi-perspective reflection of lived experiences, as well as the impact Of the 2012 Olympic Games on participants' lives.

**The Walk, Talk, Watch** programme promotes walking, looking into the environment and doing activities together across all age groups. This is an intergenerational project that aims to create closer connections between people over 55 who have mental health problems, with local young people that have no friends, or those who want to learn English and want to be more active by organising various trips, etc. Shpresa has taken members on weekly walks, trips to different parks in London, discovering different monuments, the heritage of different boroughs, flora, and fauna, etc.

**Getting active sport programme** – engaging young people on sport activities and helping them to change behaviours and build sport habits, improve physical skills and general health and wellbeing.

Case study: "ET is a young boy that found school challenging and had difficulties with concentration. Since joining the sport sessions, he found that he really likes football and is very good at it. With time, he improved his attendance, became very disciplined and a great listener. He enrolled on the leadership program and then took the initiative to enrol at a football club. He attends a local private football club regularly and is progressing very well. He is very grateful for the opportunity given and cannot thank us enough for directing him into sport, especially football."

**Emergency provision** aims to provide relief for financial hardship, by providing financial support, clothes, food and access to data to the most vulnerable groups by working in partnership with partners and local authority, such as Newham Council. Clothes have been mostly donated by members of the community while we also receive toys for Christmas via ELBA Toy Appeal. City Harvest has delivered food weekly that has been shared amongst users. We also registered with PZ food donations platform as an alternative for additional food provision and received food parcels from GLA. During this year we distributed £5,000 in Tesco vouchers provided by Newham Council for 50 Newham families. We also made applications on users' behalf to LMLAS hardship fund and Biscuit Fund. 18 other families have received vouchers or cash payments to help ease their financial difficulties.

**Jack Petchey Achievement and Leader Award scheme**, awarding every year 24 young people and leaders who have gone beyond and achieved not only academically/professionally but had a personal accomplishment, broke barriers, or are outstanding team players. The nominations and awards create positive role models and recognition of dedication and hard work and are a way to say thank you to these incredible young people and adults.

Jack Petchey Award nomination by young people - G is a young girl who at first was very timid and withdrawn and not much involved in activities. With time and support she started to open up and enjoy the activities. She now attends the service regularly and got the best out of the sessions. She has learnt and progressed very well and has become a confident young girl. She shares her experience with others and encourages them to take up positive activities and be involved in youth groups, including research and social action activities. Her peers have nominated her for being a positive role model and a great supporter of other young people. As a result of attending Shpresa's activities the

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children and young people who accessed Shpresa's services, are engaged in positive activities and are diverted from dangerous, exploitative activities or situations, and are better equipped to make decisions for a safer life.

#### Overall data for 2022-23

3128 users have benefited from services provided by Shpresa Programme, including events, seminars, weekly groups and workshops, emergency services and other activities.

- Are better informed and have greater understanding of their rights and responsibilities;
- Have increased support networks;
- Feel more confident/self-assured;
- Feel safe and have a positive sense of identity; and
- Have received direct support from the organisation depending on their needs.

#### Moreover:

- 129 Albanian speaking people accessed volunteering opportunities and report improvement on skills and work experience;
- 46 have undertaken accredited training;
- 564 Albanian speaking women have increased their knowledge and taken part to at least 3 informative workshops;
- 955 ASP, 375 Albanian speaking young people and 580 adults experience improved health and wellbeing;
- 375 Albanian speaking young people have taken part on weekly youth activities; and
- 24 Albanian speaking young people received a Jack Petchey Achievement Award.

#### Fundraising

##### Funding secured:

- BBC Children in Need small - grant for 3 years for the Albanian school and heritage project at £10000/year for September 2019 - August 2022;
- BBC Children in Need - 3 year grant for looked after children in Croydon August 2022, received another three year grant up to August 2023;
- BBC Money Heroes - to deliver money management sessions to disadvantaged children so they can improve life skills through developing their understanding of financial management;
- TNL - 5 year grant towards We Can project aiming to reduce loneliness, increase social contact, employment related skills, learn about life in UK and improve mental health resilience and wellbeing of women from the ASC. TNL uplift was added to support with cost-of-living crisis;
- Connect Newham (Led by Age UK) - covers provision of an online befriending project, training of volunteers and matching with beneficiaries as well as monitoring impact on mental health scores. New funding received during 2022-2023 to provide befriending to Ukrainian refugees;
- Henry Smith Charity - 3 year grant starting 20th April 2020 for the women advocacy project;
- Lloyds Bank Foundation - 3 year grant to develop our advocacy with young people, ended March 2022, extended to March 2023;
- LB Barking & Dagenham -A contract for providing services to deliver a targeted programme to work with young people;
- London Youth - to deliver sports and the "Getting Active" programme;
- MOPAC VAWG Grassroot Fund - 2 year funding ends in March 2023 to provide holistic support, therapy and training to Albanian-speaking women in Newham, Redbridge, Barking & Dagenham, Enfield and Haringey to reduce the likelihood of re-victimisation and improve their life chances;
- East End Community Fund to run Ukrainian befriending and support project;



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- GLA Walking and cycling to establish a walking group specifically aimed at bringing together speakers of different age groups, to improve familiarity with local areas and increase physical fitness and mental through gentle outdoor exercise;
- TNL Community Fund – Awards for All - To develop Shpresa Community Café;
- My London Programme - provides engagement with young people typically underrepresented on youth forums and leads them through a 6-month programme of education in social action, leadership and development;
- Newham Heritage - to run "We Played our Part" project, keeping heritage in the community, inspiring people and creating legacy;
- Paul Hamlyn Foundation - MiCLU led Partnership addressing challenges in the area of migration and integration, providing advocacy capacity and training and capacity building sessions with Albanian speaking children and young people;
- The Jack Petchey Foundation - Youth Achievements and Leadership Awards;
- Trust for London - two year grant towards holistic services to enable members of Albanian speaking community who are in exploitative or precarious employment to move into better work June 2021. New funding is approved for three years starting June 2022 for a programme to create new leaders from the Albanian Speaking Community;
- University of Liverpool - to train and support 10 young unaccompanied asylum seekers (YUAS) in research methods and ethics for the purpose of this project, support them and facilitate access to up to 80 YUAS respondents as part of the research;
- Violence Reduction Unit- Stronger Futures Programme - to work with young people from the Albanian speaking refugee and asylum seeker community and provide specialist counselling, youth leadership programme, supplementary school and youth diversionary activities. Funding extended for Oct 2022 - May 2023;
- Access Reach Fund - to use for survey and other pre building acquisition costs;
- PHF shared ground - one year funding for operational emergency support and funding will contribute to fundraising and management capacity and/or support for wellbeing of staff, volunteers and service users; and
- TNL MiCLU led - MiCLU led partnership project, to work on "Breaking the Chains" project addressing challenges in the area of migration and integration, providing advocacy capacity and training and capacity building sessions with Albanian speaking children and young people.

#### **Funding our work**

Shpresa is aware that the funding climate is challenging for small to medium sized NGOs. Shpresa has been prudent in drafting its budget for the current financial year and has the capacity to reduce planned expenditure in line with the pace at which it meets its fund-raising targets. Shpresa will continue to:

- Maintain and develop our positive relationship with charitable trusts and foundations. Shpresa is delighted that, in spite of the increased demands on many of our funders, it continues to benefit from grants from many of the major trusts and foundations including: Trust for London, Henry Smith, The City Bridge Trust, BBC Children in Need (small and main), Lloyds Foundation, Reaching Communities grants, Greater London Authority, Mopac VAWG, Barking and Dagenham Council, London Youth and Jack Petchey Foundation.
- Develop the potential for further statutory funding, particularly in Newham, Croydon, Brent, Redbridge and Barking and Dagenham where we are working with unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and where we have been encouraged to apply for statutory funding.
- Maximise Shpresa's potential to generate its own income. Shpresa is working towards the refurbishment of the building, once completed Shpresa would be able to generate income

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from the building. Shpresa also continue to run training programmes for professionals and other stakeholders working with unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

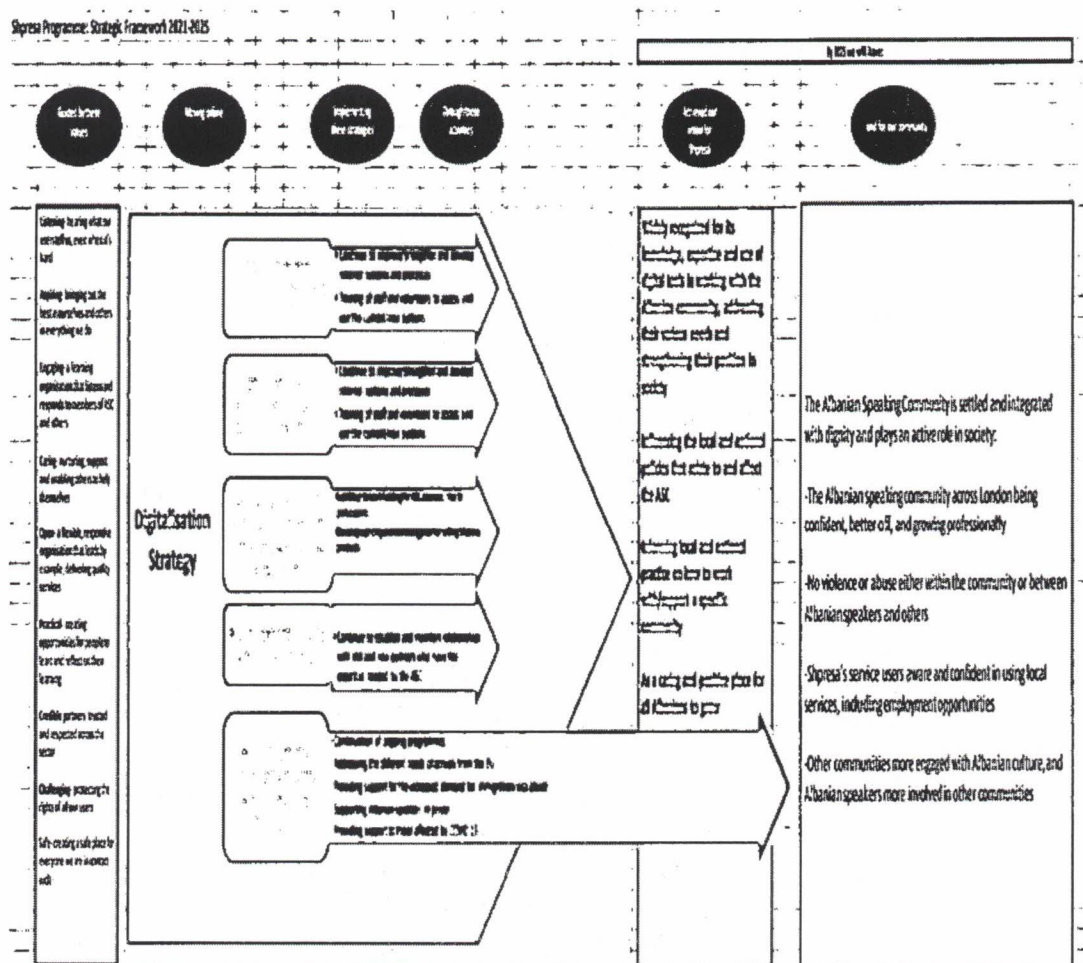
- Maintain prudent financial controls, reviewing risk at each trustees meeting and making the necessary adjustments in line with income secured.
- Develop Shpresa's pilot project on working with new refugees and seek to build new partnerships.

## Quality assurances

Shpresa has worked towards achieving AQS (advice quality mark) and received the certificate in September 2023.

## Policies

Shpresa's policies are reviewed regularly, and any changes or updates approved yearly.





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#### **Shpresa's plans for 2022 -2023**

Shpresa is planning to continue to provide services that respond to the needs of the Albanian speaking community in the UK.

#### **1 Listening**

- Hearing what Shpresa's users say and actively responding to the needs by building partnerships and fundraising to provide services needed.
- A learning organisation that listens and responds to members of the Albanian speaking community and other minority communities.

#### **2 Increase Outreach:**

- Expand Shpresa's work nationwide via digital platforms.
- Make better use of the social media.
- Build new partnerships reflecting the need for specialist services for members of the Albanian speaking community in the UK.
- Secure funding to sustain services and increase capacity and provision.

#### **3 We want to see a difference in the community:**

- The Albanian community across London being confident, better off, well integrated, and well established.
- No violence or abuse either within the community or between Albanians and others.
- Shpresa's service users being aware and confident in using local services, including employment opportunities and aware of their rights.
- Hosting communities to engage more with Albanian culture and get Albanians more involved in other communities and the local community.

#### **4 We want to see Shpresa:**

- As a caring and positive place for all Albanians to grow.
- Challenging and protecting the rights of all our users.
- Widely recognised for its knowledge and expertise in working with the Albanian community, addressing their various needs, and strengthening their position in society.
- Influencing and informing local and national practice on how to work with/ support a specific community.

#### **5 Shpresa will continue to:**

- Develop in person projects and services based on listening to those with lived experiences and setting up partnerships with specialist organisations for mental health, benefits advice, immigration, employment and respond to the identified needs, aiming to reach more London boroughs.
- Continue online provision of services to enable reaching people where they are.
- Provide one to one support to those affected by Covid 19 and other crises.
- Address the different needs of arrivals from EU and provide relevant support.
- Support models transferrable to other communities and vulnerable people, with an increased number of Shpresa members active in the wider local community, including campaigning.
- Increase networks and partners.
- Narrow the digital gap, provide systems and processes to enable better communication.
- Regularly monitor and evaluate its services internally and externally.

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**6 Shpresa to build on learning** from the Covid era of working, to continue to build presence and to deliver in a flexible way:

- Shpresa to develop a hybrid working space, which would be a combination of a digital space and physical space.
- Shpresa to develop projects that increase the use of the local park as much as local facilities.

**7 The voices of our community members to be heard and be able to drive policy change:**

- Continue to build relationships with different universities and other stakeholders to bring the lived experiences of members of the community to their attention and work with them to produce research.

**8 Celebrate successes and share learning:**

- Hold at least 5 main celebration events throughout the year.

**9 Leadership Training**

- Run the training program for emerging leaders on the community based on lived experiences.

**10 Refurbishments of first home of Shpresa Programme, Mansfield House**

- Shpresa will start the work of refurbish the building and making a hub for minority communities. The building development will be done in stages, looking at a community café, affordable offices and training room.

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The Charity is reporting a surplus for the year of £172,921 (2022: £45,320).

Income amounted to £673,896 (2022: £468,551). Donations totalling £96,448 (2022: £27,615) were received from our supporters, rental income of £6,840 (2022: £9,265) and grant income of £561,089 (2022: £415,435) to support Shpresa project activity. Fees for services amounted to £8,934 (2022: £14,720).

Shpresa's running costs, including project activity, amounted to £500,975 (2022: £423,231).

The Statement of Financial Activities on page 27 summarises the incoming resources and main areas of expenditure. The Balance Sheet on page 28 shows the Charity's assets and liabilities at 31 March 2023.

#### **RESERVES POLICY**

Trustees have a designated reserve which currently stands at £150,000 and covers three - six months of committed expenditure. However, the Board of Trustees is looking at increasing this balance every year until they are able to cover up to six months of committed expenditure.

**SHPRESA PROGRAMME****TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2023****RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES**

The trustees (who are also director of Shpresa Programme for purposes of the company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and UK Accounting Standards (United Kingdom generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principals in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statement on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue to operate.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with the reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities FRS 102 (January 2019) and in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



Shannon Griffin  
Chair

Approved by the trustees on 30/09/23



**SHPRESA PROGRAMME****INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF  
SHPRESA PROGRAMME**

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**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Shpresa Programme ('the Company')**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

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



Jeremy Kitson BA FCA  
Prime  
Chartered Accountants  
Corner Oak  
1 Homer Road  
Solihull  
B91 3QG

Date:



**SHPRESA PROGRAMME****(REGISTERED NUMBER: 04692860)****STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (incorporating the INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2023**

	Notes	Year ended 31 March 2023			Year ended 31 March 2022		
		<u>Restricted Funds</u> £	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u> £	<u>Total</u> £	<u>Restricted Funds</u> £	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u> £	<u>Total</u> £
Income from:							
Donations	2	-	96,448	96,448	-	27,615	27,615
Income from charitable activities:							
Grants	3	561,089	-	561,089	415,435	-	415,435
Fees	4	-	8,934	8,934	-	14,720	14,720
Other	4	-	415	415	-	1,511	1,511
Other trading activity:							
Rental income		-	6,840	6,840	-	9,265	9,265
Investment income		-	170	170	-	5	5
<b>Total Income</b>		<u>561,089</u>	<u>112,807</u>	<u>673,896</u>	<u>415,435</u>	<u>53,116</u>	<u>468,551</u>
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	5	5,483	-	5,483	2,253	-	2,253
Charitable activities	5	474,555	20,937	495,492	414,040	6,938	420,978
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<u>480,038</u>	<u>20,937</u>	<u>500,975</u>	<u>416,293</u>	<u>6,938</u>	<u>423,231</u>
Net income & net movement of funds for the year		81,051	91,870	172,921	(858)	46,178	45,320
Transfer of funds		16,166	(16,166)	-	-	-	-
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		88,736	302,280	391,016	89,594	256,102	345,696
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	14	<u>185,953</u>	<u>377,984</u>	<u>563,937</u>	<u>88,736</u>	<u>302,280</u>	<u>391,016</u>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

**SHPRESA PROGRAMME****(REGISTERED NUMBER: 04692860)****BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2023**

	Notes	<u>2023</u>		<u>2022</u>	
		£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	10		1,665		776
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>			1,665		776
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	11	13,138		21,858	
Cash at bank and in hand		592,877		453,766	
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		606,015		475,624	
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	12	(43,743)		(85,384)	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			562,272		390,240
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			563,937		391,016
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			563,937		391,016
<b>CHARITY FUNDS</b>	14,17				
Restricted Funds			185,953		88,736
Unrestricted Funds:					
Designated		150,000		150,000	
General		227,984		152,280	
			377,984		302,280
<b>TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS</b>			563,937		391,016


The Trustees are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to the audit of the financial statements for the year by virtue of section 477, and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

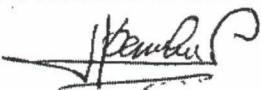
The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) ensuring that the company keeps proper accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act, and
- (ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

These financial statements were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 30/09/2023 and are signed on their behalf by:

  
Shannon Griffin - Chair

  
Hatixhe Demushi - Treasurer

## SHPRESA PROGRAMME

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2023**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£
Cash flow from operating activities	141,029	44,946
Cash flow from investing activities:		
Interest received	170	5
Fixed asset additions	(2,088)	(819)
Net cash flow from investing activities	(1,918)	(814)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year	139,111	44,132
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	453,766	409,634
Total cash equivalents at the end of the year	592,877	453,766
Cash and cash equivalents consist of:		
Cash at bank and in hand	592,877	453,766
Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities:		
Net movement in funds	172,921	45,320
Interest receivable	(170)	(5)
Depreciation	1,199	1,894
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	8,720	(263)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(41,641)	(2,000)
Net cash flow from operating activities	141,029	44,946



## SHPRESA PROGRAMME

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2023

#### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

##### Basis of preparing the financial statements

Shpresa Programme is a registered charity in the United Kingdom. The address of its principal office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are given on page 2 of these financial statements.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest pound.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

##### Income

Income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income: -

- For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained, then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled in the reporting period.
- Income from grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grant have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.
- Donated facilities and donated professional services recognised as income at their fair value when their economic benefit is probable, it can be measured reliably the charity has control over the item. Fair value is determined on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity, for example the amount the charity would be willing to pay in the open market for such facilities and services. A corresponding amount is recognised in expenditure.
- No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees' Annual Report, where relevant.
- Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes such as term deposit.

## SHPRESA PROGRAMME

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2023

#### ACCOUNTING POLICIES – continued

##### Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under activities that aggregate all costs related to any particular activity. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties; it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:-

- Expenditure on charitable activities include those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the categories above.
- All categories of costs include both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

##### Support costs

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include premises costs, office costs, governance costs, administrative and payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular activities, they have been allocated to expenditure on a basis which may be based on activity as represented by direct costs expended on that activity or based on a proportion of staff costs. The analysis of these costs is included in Note 5.

##### Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Office equipment	- 20% straight line basis
Computer equipment	- 33% straight line basis

Assets costing less than £500 are not capitalised.

##### Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

##### Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either: -

- i) Unrestricted general funds – these are funds without specified purpose and are available as general funds.
- ii) Designated funds - these are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects.
- iii) Restricted funds - these are funds which can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Transfers between funds are made to cover deficits on individual restricted funds and to recognise fixed assets acquired with restricted income, but with no further restrictions on use, within unrestricted funds.

##### Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

**SHPRESA PROGRAMME****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2023****2. DONATIONS**

	<u>Year to 31 March 2023</u>			<u>Year to 31 March 2022</u>		
	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>		<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Other Donations	-	96,448	96,448	-	27,615	27,615
	-	96,448	96,448	-	27,615	27,615
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

**3. GRANTS**

	<u>Year to 31 March 2023</u>			<u>Year to 31 March 2022</u>		
	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>		<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Awards for All	10,000	-	10,000	-	-	-
Access Reach Fund	16,720	-	16,720	-	-	-
Barking and Dagenham	10,000	-	10,000	19,964	-	19,964
BBC Children in Need	51,829	-	51,829	35,817	-	35,817
BBC Money Heroes	-	-	-	1,000	-	1,000
BBC Small Grant	2,836	-	2,836	10,326	-	10,326
TFL Reaching Communities	33,783	-	33,783	37,829	-	37,829
City Bridge	-	-	-	10,833	-	10,833
Connect Newham	6,883	-	6,883	5,000	-	5,000
East End Community Fund	6,000	-	6,000	-	-	-
GLA – Intergeneration Programme	2,000	-	2,000	2,250	-	2,250
GLA – Young Londoners Fund	-	-	-	35,675	-	35,675
Henry Smith	51,250	-	51,250	40,000	-	40,000
Lloyds Banking Group	27,250	-	27,250	25,000	-	25,000
London Youth	2,500	-	2,500	7,320	-	7,320
Mopac VAWG	49,877	-	49,877	49,364	-	49,364
My London Programme	7,334	-	7,334	5,000	-	5,000
New Europeans	-	-	-	2,300	-	2,300
Newham Heritage	-	-	-	8,000	-	8,000
Our Newham Money	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation (MiCLU led partnership)	33,042	-	33,042	19,143	-	19,143
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	30,000	-	30,000	-	-	-
TNL uplift	19,168	-	19,168	-	-	-
TNL Reaching Communities	68,140	-	68,140	-	-	-
The Jack Petchey Foundation	10,500	-	10,500	7,950	-	7,950
The Renewal Programme	-	-	-	8,000	-	8,000
TNL (MiCLU led)	36,935	-	36,935	-	-	-
Trust for London	27,001	-	27,001	21,850	-	21,850
University of Liverpool	-	-	-	35,493	-	35,493
VRU – Stronger Futures Programme	53,041	-	53,041	27,321	-	27,321
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
	561,089	-	561,089	415,435	-	415,435



**SHPRESA PROGRAMME****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2023****4. FEES AND OTHER INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	<u>Year to 31 March 2023</u>			<u>Year to 31 March 2022</u>		
	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>		<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Membership Fees	-	415	415	-	-	-
Consultancy	-	8,934	8,934	-	14,720	14,720
Other Income	-	-	-	-	1,511	1,511
	-	9,349	9,349	-	16,231	16,231
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

**5. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE**

	<u>Year to 31 March 2023</u>			<u>Year to 31 March 2022</u>		
	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>		<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Basis of Allocation:</b>						
Unless stated allocated on a usage basis						
<b>Charitable Activities</b>						
<b>Direct Costs:</b>						
Wages and Salaries	246,833	-	246,833	237,422	-	237,422
Employer's NI Contributions	18,869	-	18,869	17,442	-	17,442
Staff Pension Costs	10,511	-	10,511	9,346	-	9,346
Staff Training and Subsistence	1,772	-	1,772	3,376	-	3,376
Sessional Staff	40,543	-	40,543	31,142	-	31,142
Training	10,467	-	10,467	10,990	-	10,990
Volunteer Expenses	14,242	-	14,242	15,575	-	15,575
Activities, Trips and Performances	18,092	511	18,603	13,615	-	13,615
Resources and Web	4,456	43	4,589	4,518	-	4,518
Consultation Events, Information & Publicity	2,093	-	2,093	1,446	-	1,446
Equipment and Materials	2,566	(1,817)	749	5,667	(819)	4,848
Consultancy	9,100	-	9,100	-	-	-
Evaluation	3,326	-	3,326	2,204	-	2,204
Beneficiaries support	4,314	-	4,314	12,438	-	12,438
Donations	5,000	1,277	6,277	-	5,863	5,863
<b>Support Costs:</b>						
Rent and Rates	37,623	16,639	54,262	24,244	-	24,244
Utilities	3,473	-	3,473	2,751	-	2,751
Premises Maintenance	4,482	-	4,482	4,190	-	4,190
Insurance	3,280	-	3,280	1,935	-	1,935
Printing, Postage & Stationery, Publicity	4,476	30	4,505	3,869	-	3,869
Telephone and Internet	5,606	798	6,404	4,381	-	4,381
Consultancy Fees	1,682	66	1,748	1,109	-	1,109
General Expenses	739	(2)	738	778	-	778
Subscriptions	3,797	153	3,949	3,839	-	3,839
Depreciation on Fixtures and Equipment	-	1,199	1,199	-	1,894	1,894
Building purchase costs	17,020	-	17,020	-	-	-
<b>Governance Costs:</b>						
Fundraising costs	5,483	-	5,483	2,253	-	2,253
Trustees' costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Independent examiner's fees	193	2,040	2,233	1,763	-	1,763
<b>Total</b>	<b>480,038</b>	<b>20,937</b>	<b>500,975</b>	<b>416,293</b>	<b>6,938</b>	<b>423,231</b>
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

**SHPRESA PROGRAMME****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2023****6. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£
Net incoming resources is stated after charging:		
Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible assets	1,199	1,984
Independent Examiner's fees	2,233	1,763
	=====	=====

**7. TRUSTEES AND KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES**

The trustees did not receive any remuneration nor reimbursed expenses during the year (2022: £Nil).

The charity considers its key management personnel comprise the Board of Trustees and its CEO.

The total amount of employee benefits including employer's pension contributions received by key management personnel were £59,107 (2022: £58,018).

Staff Costs and Employee Benefits

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£
Gross salaries	246,833	237,422
Employer's national insurance	18,869	17,442
Pension costs	10,511	9,346
	=====	=====
	276,213	264,210

The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year was 7 (2022: 7).

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 pa (2022: None).

**8. PENSION COSTS**

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme in respect of its employees. The scheme and its assets are held by independent managers. The pension scheme charge represents contributions due from the company and amounted to £10,511 (2022: £9,346).

There are no payments to be collected for 31 March 2023 (2022: £Nil).

**9. TAXATION**

The company is a registered charity and it is considered that its activities are such that no taxation liability will arise.



**SHPRESA PROGRAMME****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2023****10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	<u>Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment</u> £	<u>Computer Equipment</u> £	<u>Total</u> £
<b>COST</b>			
At 1 April 2022	2,276	31,152	33,428
Additions	-	2,088	2,088
Disposals	(2,276)	(20,431)	(22,707)
At 31 March 2023	-	12,809	12,809
	=====	=====	=====
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>			
At 1 April 2022	2,276	30,376	32,652
Charge for the Year	-	1,199	1,199
Eliminated on disposal	(2,276)	(20,431)	(22,707)
At 31 March 2023	-	11,144	11,144
	=====	=====	=====
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>			
At 31 March 2023	-	1,665	1,665
	=====	=====	=====
At 31 March 2022	-	776	776
	=====	=====	=====

**11. DEBTORS**

	<u>2023</u> £	<u>2022</u> £
Trade debtors	4,728	4,225
Grant debtors	-	14,528
Other debtors	5,000	-
Prepayments and accrued income	3,410	3,105
	13,138	21,858
	=====	=====

**12. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year**

	<u>2023</u> £	<u>2022</u> £
Trade creditors	32,664	19,149
Other creditors	120	120
Taxation and social security	7,405	-
Accruals	3,334	5,388
Third Party Funds	220	3,920
Grants received in advance	-	56,807
	43,743	85,384
	=====	=====

**SHPRESA PROGRAMME****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2023****13. ANALYSIS OF ASSETS**

	<u>Fixed Assets</u>	<u>Current Assets</u>	<u>Current Liabilities</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds	-	185,953	-	185,953
Unrestricted Funds	1,665	420,062	(43,743)	377,984
	<u>1,665</u>	<u>606,015</u>	<u>(43,743)</u>	<u>563,937</u>
	=====	=====	=====	=====

**14. MOVEMENT OF FUNDS**

	<u>At 1 Apr</u>	<u>Incoming</u>	<u>Outgoing</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>At 31 Mar</u>
	<u>2022</u>	<u>Resources</u>	<u>Resources</u>		<u>2023</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted Funds:</b>					
Access Reach Fund	-	16,720	16,720	-	-
Awards for All	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
Barking and Dagenham	-	10,000	6,393	-	3,607
BBC Children in Need	2,486	51,829	36,161	-	18,153
BBC Money Heroes	-	-	-	-	-
BBC Small grant	-	2,836	2,836	-	-
TFL Reaching Communities	-	33,783	-	-	33,783
Connect Newham Befriending	-	6,883	6,883	-	-
Outreach Project	-	-	-	-	-
East End Community Fund	-	6,000	1,875	-	4,125
GLA - Intergenerational / Walking and	(446)	2,000	1,554	-	-
Cycling Programme	-	-	-	-	-
Henry Smith	1,356	51,250	41,064	-	11,543
Languages Campaign	64,729	-	-	-	64,729
Lloyds Banking Group	-	27,250	27,250	-	-
London Youth	-	2,500	2,500	-	-
Mopac VAWG	-	49,877	49,877	-	-
My London Programme	-	7,334	7,334	-	-
Newham Heritage	7,213	-	7,213	-	-
Our Newham Money	-	5,000	5,000	-	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation MiCLU	-	33,042	33,042	-	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	-	30,000	4,943	-	25,057
The Jack Petchey Foundation	-	10,500	7,200	-	3,300
TNL (MiCLU led)	-	36,932	36,932	-	-
TNL Reaching communities	-	68,140	68,140	-	-
TNL uplift	-	19,168	7,511	-	11,657
Trust for London	-	27,001	42,703	15,702	-
University of Liverpool	10,593	-	10,593	-	-
Violence Reduction Unit – Stronger	2,805	53,045	56,314	464	-
Futures Programme	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<u>88,736</u>	<u>561,089</u>	<u>480,038</u>	<u>16,166</u>	<u>185,953</u>
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<b>Unrestricted Funds:</b>					
Designated Funds:					
Working Capital	150,000	-	-	-	150,000
General Funds	152,280	112,807	20,937	(16,166)	227,984
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<u>302,280</u>	<u>112,807</u>	<u>20,937</u>	<u>(16,166)</u>	<u>377,984</u>
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u>391,016</u>	<u>673,896</u>	<u>500,975</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>563,937</u>
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====



## SHPRESA PROGRAMME

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2023

#### 14. MOVEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)

##### Purposes of Restricted Funds:

LB Barking & Dagenham	A contract for providing services to deliver a targeted programme of support for women from the Albanian-speaking community to reduce exploitation and domestic abuse.
BBC Children in Need Main Grant	These funds are part of a three-year grant to run Croydon's unaccompanied minors "Working together to develop resilience" project.
BBC Children in Need Small Grants	These provide funds for Supplementary school sessions to young people who live in low income households and have experienced a range of traumatic experiences, to increase their self-esteem, encourage positive relationships and engage them with school.
BBC Money Heroes	This provides funds to deliver money management sessions to disadvantaged children so they can improve life skills through developing their understanding of financial management.
Big Lottery Fund Reaching Communities - "Still changing our futures" project	These funds are used for a five year project providing women with volunteering opportunities. It incorporates opportunities for women to break their isolation and learn new skills through training in communication skills, policies and working safely, the education system and many more. It has assisted volunteers to find work placements and enrol on accredited courses and has provided support to better assist their needs.
City Bridge	These funds cover operational costs for the delivery of ESOL classes for isolated and vulnerable Albanian -speaking women
Connect Newham (led by Age UK)	This fund covers provision of an online befriending project, training of volunteers and matching with beneficiaries as well as monitoring impact on mental health scores.
GLA - Young Londoners Fund	These funds are used to work with Young People to help them fulfil their potential, particularly those at risk of getting caught up in crime. It supports a range of education (including Asdan qualifications, cultural and other activities (Heritage etc.).
GLA - Walking and Cycling	Funds to establish a walking group specifically aimed at bringing together speakers of different age groups, to improve familiarity with local areas and increase physical fitness and mental through gentle outdoor exercise.
The Henry Smith Charity	Funding the salary and the running costs of the project providing support to women and girls in the Albanian-speaking community in London.
Languages Campaign Lloyds	This fund represents various donations towards the Albanian Language Campaign.  This is a three year grant to fund the salary of URAS Transition Advocate Worker and associated overhead and management support costs
MOPAC VAWG Grassroot Fund	This fund provides holistic support, therapy and training to Albanian-speaking women in Newham, Redbridge, Barking & Dagenham, Enfield and Haringey to reduce the likelihood of re-victimisation and improve their life chances.
My London Programme	This fund provides engagement with young people typically underrepresented on youth forums and leads them through a 6-month programme of education in social action, leadership and development.

**SHPRESA PROGRAMME****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2023****14. MOVEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)**

New Europeans UK	This fund engages and supports EU citizens, and non EU family members on the EU Settlement Scheme.
Newham Heritage	To run "We played our Part" project , keeping heritage in the community, inspiring people and creating legacy
Paul Hamlyn Foundation - MiCLU led Partnership	MiCLU led partnership project funded by PHF The Shared Ground Fund, addressing challenges in the area of migration and integration, providing advocacy capacity and training and capacity building sessions with Albanian speaking children and young people.
Respond and Adapt Programme	This supports our organisation in providing the vital services required during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, and to share and adapt our practice in response to the crisis.
The Jack Petchey Foundation	These funds were used to run different activities and events for young people and their parents so they could show their achievements and present what they have learnt in front of a wider audience. It also helped to build up confidence, improve presentation and leadership skills of these young people.
The Renewal Programme	To support Newham residents with "on the ground" EUSS, representative attendance at all consortium meetings and promote stay settled in Newham.
Trust for London	This is a two year grant towards holistic services to enable members of Albanian speaking community who are in exploitative or precarious employment to move into better work.
University of Liverpool	To train and support 10 young unaccompanied asylum seekers (YUAS) in research methods and ethics for the purpose of this project, support them and facilitate access to up to 80 YUAS respondents as part of the research.
Violence Reduction Unit - Stronger Futures Programme	To work with young people from the Albanian speaking refugee and asylum seeker community and provide specialist counselling, youth leadership programme, supplementary school and youth diversionary activities.

**15. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

There are no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2023 (2022: £Nil) was paid to Andre Demushi, son of a board member, for training provided to sessional staff).

**16. CAPITAL**

The company has no share capital being limited by guarantee. There are 5 members of the company each of whom has undertaken to contribute up to £1 in the event of the company being wound up.

## SHPRESA PROGRAMME

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2022

## 17. COMPARATIVES for FUND MOVEMENTS

These show fund movements in the year to 31 March 2022.

	<u>At 1 Apr</u> <u>2021</u> £	<u>Incoming</u> <u>Resources</u> £	<u>Outgoing</u> <u>Resources</u> £	<u>Transfers</u> £	<u>At 31 Mar</u> <u>2022</u> £
<b>Restricted Funds:</b>					
Barking and Dagenham	-	19,964	19,964	-	-
BBC Children in Need	5,630	35,817	38,961	-	2,486
BBC Money Heroes	-	1,000	1,000	-	-
BBC Small grant	41	10,326	10,367	-	-
Big Lottery Fund Reaching Communities (Make it Happen)	9,146	37,829	46,975	-	-
City Bridge	6,037	10,833	16,870	-	-
Connect Newham Befriending Outreach Project	-	5,000	5,000	-	-
GLA - Intergenerational / Walking and Cycling Programme	464	2,250	3,160	-	(446)
GLA - Young Londoners Funds	-	35,675	35,675	-	-
Henry Smith	-	40,000	38,644	-	1,356
Languages Campaign	64,729	-	-	-	64,729
Lloyds Banking Group	-	25,000	25,000	-	-
London Youth	-	7,320	7,320	-	-
Mopac VAWG	-	49,364	49,364	-	-
My London Programme	-	5,000	5,000	-	-
New Europeans	-	2,300	2,300	-	-
Newham Heritage	-	8,000	787	-	7,213
Paul Hamlyn Foundation MiCLU	-	19,143	19,143	-	-
Respond and Adapt	2,547	-	2,547	-	-
The Jack Petchey Foundation	1,000	7,950	8,950	-	-
The Renewal Programme	-	8,000	8,000	-	-
Trust for London	-	21,850	21,850	-	-
University of Liverpool	-	35,493	24,900	-	10,593
Violence Reduction Unit - Stronger Futures Programme	-	27,321	24,516	-	2,805
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>89,594</b>	<b>415,435</b>	<b>416,293</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>88,736</b>
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<b>Unrestricted Funds:</b>					
<b>Designated Funds:</b>					
Working Capital	150,000	-	-	-	150,000
<b>General Funds</b>	<b>106,102</b>	<b>53,116</b>	<b>6,938</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>152,280</b>
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>256,102</b>	<b>53,116</b>	<b>6,938</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>302,280</b>
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>345,696</b>	<b>468,551</b>	<b>423,231</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>391,016</b>
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====