



**Borashabaa Refugee Community
Organisation**
Hull Community Church,
310 Newland Avenue, Hull.
HU5 2NB

Borashabaa Refugee Community Organisation

Report of Trustees for Financial Year April 2023 to March 2024

Contents

1. Overall Objectives and Aim of Charity
2. Achievements and Performance
 - a. Charitable Activities
 - b. Trustees, Employees and Volunteers
3. Sponsors
4. Financial Review
5. Structure, Governance and Management

1. Overall Aims and Objectives of the Charity

Aims

Bora Shabaa supports refugees to fulfil their potential by working to address issues at the earliest stage possible, by offering language support, how to access services such as decent housing, benefits, employment, healthcare and schools for children. We aim to:

RELIEVE FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

To advance education and relieve financial hardship amongst those seeking and granted refugee status and their dependants, so as to advance them in life and assist them to adapt within a new community.

INCREASE AWARENESS

To advance the education of the general public about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.

PROTECT PHYSICAL & MENTAL HEALTH

To preserve and protect the physical and mental health of those granted refugee status and their dependants.

Objectives

Employability skills development: we deliver Informal English classes for speakers of other languages (ESOL) every week. We also provide interpreting and translation.

Women empowerment and entrepreneurship: we provide weekly sewing classes to women who are unemployed as a way of upskilling and empowering them.

Mental health and wellbeing support: mental health walks, cooking classes, arts & crafts activities and gardening classes

2. Achievements and Performance

2a. Charitable Activities

We aim to provide a place for users to meet and make friends with shared experiences. Many users report their feelings of isolation and loneliness as newly arrived members of the Hull community. Users are always free to come at any time to sit and talk to the staff and volunteers as we are here to help and we do not judge people for their circumstances.

Users are welcome to attend for as long as they feel they need to. We are very much a needs-driven charity.

ESOL

The charity continued its work with the University of Hull on the 'Talking Hull' project during the year until the project completion in December 2023. The project was research based to study how adults engage with learning a second language. The Charity is very grateful to the Ideas Forum for funding this project. The output of the research both supported routine ESOL classes and informed the approach that maybe taken to improve outcomes for adults learning a second language. During the year these classes were run initially alongside traditional approach to ESOL teaching, then with the support of volunteer university students and ultimately appointing an individual who could deliver training in-line with the research findings. By the end of the 2023 three two hour ESOL sessions were being delivered weekly. The charity received further funding support from the National Community Support Fund (Big Lottery) in December 2023, part of which allowed the charity to appoint an ESOL Tutor to maintain ESOL classes at the same level and in line with the research learnings.

Sewing

A total of eight sewing machines were available for routine classes by the end of the year with the purchase of 2 additional machines. Service users routinely attend weekly sewing classes.

The additional benefit of social interaction with other Refugees and the positive impact on mental wellbeing are clearly recognised by the charity and service users in all our routine activities.

The Trustees are grateful to the Know Your Neighbourhood fund for their funding allowing the charity to provide adequate materials, the space and equipment to maintain this activity. The Trustees also recognise the time given by volunteers to support tutoring through the year ensuring routine delivery of the sewing activities.

The charity received further funding support from the National Community Support Fund (Big Lottery) in December 2023, part of which will allow the charity to appoint Sewing Tutors and extend the number of hours of sewing lessons offered.

Warm Spaces (Government Initiative October 23 to March 24)

Borashabaa supported the Governments Warm Spaces initiative as a natural fit for many of our service users who were impacted by high fuel costs. The charity used the additional time in a 'warm space' environment to

- Extend the social interaction between more of our service users
- An opportunity to deliver some cooking classes and experience different cultural foods
- The delivery of some Arts & Crafts activities

It was recognised that the warm spaces activity would further improve our impact on the mental well being of our services users beyond the delivery of a warm environment, food and blankets for additional warmth. By the end of the winter period over 70 families had been supported by

the activities delivered. The charity is particularly grateful to the CEO and volunteers who supported this activity often at weekends and into the evening.

Wellness Walks

The walks were arranged in a variety of locations with the focus on outdoor activity and social activity to aid mental wellbeing. The additional benefit was the cross-cultural interaction on plants and wildlife identified and discussed on the walks and recognition by service users of public spaces available that they were not aware of or believed they could access. The Trustees are grateful to the support received from the HEY Smile Foundation whose grant allowed broader and more varied walks to be delivered and aid the service users to be transported to locations beyond the Hull City boundaries. The Trustees also recognise the efforts of the CEO and volunteers in maintaining these activities.

Gardening Classes

Raised beds and space was created with the support of and within the ground of Oasis Church (Borashabar's Landlords). This allowed development of gardening skills and knowledge of plants typically cultivated for home use in the UK and shared knowledge of other crops known to service users that maybe cultivated in the UK. The classes again supported social interaction, mental well being and knowledge sharing. Although the space available was small there was the additional benefit of some useable crops. The Trustees are grateful to the support received from the HEY Smile Foundation whose grant allowed for the development of the space, plants and seeds used in the garden. The Trustees also recognise the efforts of the CEO and volunteers in maintaining these activities.

Other Events and Activities

In what was a challenging year for funding and with a heavy reliance on voluntary support the Trustees are grateful to funders support that has allowed the charity to run events through the year that engaged our service users more broadly.

- International Women's Day
- Fashion Show
- Family Picnic
- Christmas celebration
- Cooking events

2b. Trustees, Employees and Volunteers

Trustees

Maureen Hulme and Mark Hulme were appointed as Trustees. The addition of Maureen and Mark bring additional capacity to the Trustee Board and skill from Education and Commerce.

The Trustees are and continue to be grateful to all the voluntary support they receive and the goodwill from Oasis Church as Landlord, without their support the activities offered to Service Users would not be possible.

Employees and Volunteers

The charity only maintained the CEO as a permanent employee during the year. Short term part time contracts for Administrative support and ESOL tutoring in the first quarter of the financial year came to an end. It is of note that Tresor Kipili continued to support the Administrative role voluntarily for several months unpaid and Trustees would wish to record their thanks for his commitment. Following the receipt of National Community Support Fund (Big Lottery) funding in December 2023 the charity was able to support a contracted ESOL Tutor who was appointed in January 2024 and start the process of appointing part time roles for Administrative and Project Coordination support.

3. Sponsors

The Trustees wish to thank all our Sponsors who have committed not only grants but offered their support and guidance to the Borashabaa charity through a year of change and some retrenchment through significant periods of 2023. Our key sponsors were:

BSA BRITISH SCIENCE AS (Ideas Forum)

FORUM CIO WINTER WARMTH

FORUM CIO ASYLUM GRANT

HANA KYNF PROJECT

HUMBER COMMUNITY A H-CAS; UK Prosperity Fund

THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND (BIG LOTTERY)

THE JO COX FOUNDATION

The Trustees recognise the effort and commitment of the CEO and other volunteers in their persistence in looking for support from funders. Their endeavours will allow the long term development of the charity to deliver it's charitable aims to an increasing number of Asylum Seekers and Refugees who are settling in the Hull area.

4. Financial Review

The charity received £65,071 during the period. The members of the Trustees Board are required to act in accordance with the terms of the Charity's Constitution. They are responsible for keeping proper accounting record which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the group and hence for taking responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. We certify that the receipt and payment account and statement of the balance accurately reflect all funds received and spent by the charity in the year and it's financial

position at the year ending 31st March 2024. The Treasurer submitted for Accounts for review via Abacus Accounting Limited. Abacus Accounting are satisfied with the review and undertake the posting of the Accounts on the Borashabaa Charity Commission webpage.

The charity ended the financial period with sufficient funds to cover ongoing liabilities for a minimum of 4 months. A grant from Big Lottery for a three-period commenced in December 2023. Funding from the UK Prosperity Fund, Know Your Neighbourhood Fund and HEY Smile have been secured for the FY24/25 year.

The charity did not have a policy for holding reserves it did however end the financial year in a significantly more secure funding position than the start of the year. External advice and support is being sort to establish the correct approach to reserve funding in alignment with our main sponsors.

5. Structure, Governance and Management

Trustee meetings have regularly taken place in accordance with our organisation's governance procedures. Meeting schedules are established in advance, and minutes are recorded to document discussions, decisions, and any actions taken. Additionally, attendance records are maintained to ensure transparency and accountability within the trustee body. Our commitment to holding regular trustee meetings underscores our dedication to effective governance and fulfilling our responsibilities as trustees.

Approved on behalf of the Board of Trustees on 11 Dec 2024 and signed on their behalf

M. Hulme

Mark Hulme

Trustee and Treasurer

Borashabaa Refugee Community Organisation

Receipts and payments account for year ending 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	2024	2024	2024
Receipts	£	£	£
BSA BRITISH SCIENCE AS	0	6872.00	6872.00
FORUM CIO WINTER WARMTH	0	11000.00	11000.00
FORUM CIO ASYLUM GRANT	0	2300	2300.00
HANA KYNF PROJECT	0	6124.00	6124.00
HUMBER COMMUNITY A H-CAS; UKSPF	0	7941.00	7941.00
BIG LOTTERY Main Grants	0	30834	30834.00
THE JO COX FOUNDATION	1000	0.00	1000.00
BAG SALES	290	0.00	290.00
REFUNDS	379.27	0	379.27
Other Donations	294.00	0	294.00
Balance prev year	5107.97	0.00	5107.97
Total Receipts	7071.24	65071.00	72142.24

Payments

Main Event Costs	£7,409.47
Sewing Classes Tutor & Materials	£583.02
ESOL Hull Uni Researcher Cost	£7,800.00
IT Equip Purchase	£427.99
IT Classes	£485.10
Website and Marketng	£1,193.40
Staff and Payroll cost	£23,687.69
Rent and Additional Room Costs	£7,339.09
Staff and Volunteer Expense	£1,795.68
Office costs, refreshements and overheads	£978.06
Payment Subtotal	£51,699.50

Opening balance 01/04/2023	£5,107.97
Petty Cash	£46.70
Cash in bank 31/03/2024	£20,407.00

Surplus of the year **£15,345.73**

Notes

Main Events - International Womans Day, Wellness Walks, Warm Spaces, Arts & Crafts and Christmas Party, Sewing Social Event.

Routine Activities - ESOL Classes, Sewing Classes, Gardening, Cooking, Warm Spaces (including cooking and arts&crafts)



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