

umo - Walsall

Union of Muslim Organisations

Charity Registration Number; 1137192



REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1137192

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2022

FOR

**UNION of MUSLIM ORGANISATIONS (UMO)
WALSALL**

**UNION of MUSLIM ORGANISATIONS (UMO)
WALSALL**

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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**UNION of MUSLIM ORGANISATIONS (UMO) - WALSALL
REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

TRUSTEES

Bashir Ahmed
Junab Ali
Matloob Hussain
Mohammed Azam
Mahmood Sacha – Chairman of Trustees Board

REGISTERED OFFICE

19 Wednesbury Road,
Mayfield Centre,
Walsall
West Midlands
WS1 3RU

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1137192

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Whitehouse Ridsdale Limited
Chartered Accountants
20 Birmingham Road
Walsall
West Midlands
WS1 2LT

**UNION of MUSLIM ORGANISATIONS (UMO) - WALSALL
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2022**

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022.

AIMS and OBJECTIVES

The charity's purposes as set out in the objects contained in the Constitution are to:

- To provide Training for Imams and teachers at mosques
- Training on Children Safeguarding and regulations on burial and others relevant.
- Advance education
- Protect and preserve good health
- Promote amateur sports
- Promote religious and racial harmony for the public benefit
- Promote equality and diversity for the public benefit
- To organise health events for women

We review our aims, objectives and activities each year. This review looks at what we achieved and the outcomes of our work in the year ended 31 March 2022. The review looks at the success of each key activity and the benefits they have brought to those groups of people we aim to help. The review also helps us ensure that our aims, objectives and activities remained focused on our stated purposes. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aim and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

Introduction

The Union of Muslim Organisations – Walsall, (UMO), is the representative umbrella organisation for the Muslim community of Walsall. The organisation represents all the Mosques and Madrassah's in the borough of Walsall. In addition to this represents many other organisations within the Muslim community that provide services to the Muslim inhabitants of the Borough of Walsall.

UMO co-ordinates and supports the charitable and voluntary efforts of all Muslim organisations in Walsall. Our membership is very wide ranging and embraces many communities and cultures originating from Asia, Africa and the Middle East as well as Europe and our work benefits all communities living in Walsall.

This report sets out the work carried from April 2021 to end of March 2022 by the organisation.

Recent Census in 2021 put the number of people identifying as Muslim in the Borough of Walsall at around 32,000, the overwhelming majority of these having roots in Pakistan, Bangladesh and India. Since the 2011 Census the numbers of Muslims arriving in Walsall with roots outside of South Asia has grown considerably and Walsall now has a sizable community of Muslims from Africa (notably Somalia and West Africa) and from Afghanistan as well as a sizable community of people who identify as Kurdish and more recently asylum seekers from Syria. UMO seeks to work with and disseminate information throughout all these communities. Our key starting point is the Mosques, although we also use our links with cultural organisations and social groups.

The Trustees took the UMO into supported status in August 2017 following the inactivity of the previous management committee leading to lack of income and inability to communicate with the external agencies and the Charity Commission.

The following interim board has been running the organisation since 19th of July 2017. The aim of the trustees is to organise a full Annual General Meeting to return the organisation to the elected Officers as soon as we have updated the Constitution and our financial health has improved.

The UMO has concentrated on supporting the NHS, vulnerable people in our community during the pandemic via Mosques and businesses, cleaning and spraying the Mosques after the government restrictions eased. We then moved on to providing Mosques with Face-masks, Shields and Lateral Flow Test Kits for the congregations. We helped to facilitate the setting up of vaccination hubs in Walsall Mosques and support pop-up mobile vaccination centres in the community followed by Mental Help Support pilots and look to move to normality by working on project work.

The UMO's income exceeded the £25,000 threshold which requires it to submit a trustees report, accounts with an independent inspection and this full report to the Charity Commission. The accounts were filed later than usual and I would like to apologise for this delay.

On behalf of the Trustees, we wish to thank Walsall Mosques and the Interim Board led by Mohammed Arif as an Interim-Chairman for their continued hard work.

Mahmood M Sacha - Chairman of Trustees Board

Interim Board

The following interim-board has been leading the work of UMO.

Mohammed Arif – interim-chairman

Bashir Ahmed

Junab Ali

Matloob Hussain

Mohammed Azam

Mahmood Sacha

Tasleem Loonat

Abdul Shahid

Abdul Kadir Jeewa

Walsall Mosques

Our core membership includes all Walsall's mosques, and we have a strong working relationship with all the imams across the Borough. As well as a committee of volunteers we have a part-time officer who disseminates information via our website and membership network as well as supporting and co-ordinating projects involving our members. From youth initiatives to cross-cultural cohesion projects, we aim to build solidarity between faith communities and non-faith communities alike and focus on reducing isolation and countering the ill effects of poverty and discrimination.

Abu Bakr Masjid (Palfrey)
Aisha Mosque (Palfrey)
Central Mosque Committee and Community Centre (Chuckery) Abu Bakr Masjid (Palfrey)
Aisha Mosque (Palfrey)
Central Mosque Committee and Community Centre (Chuckery)
Dar-us-Sunnah Madani Trust (Caldmore)
Darus Salam Masjid (Darlaston)
Ghausia Qasmia Trust Mosque & Community Centre (Caldmore)
Jalalia Sunni Jami Masjid & Islamic Education Centre (Caldmore)
Karima Institute (North Walsall)
Masjid Al Farouq (Palfrey)
Masjid-E-Umar (Darlaston)
Masjid Hamza (Butts)
Minhaj-ul-Quran (Pleck)
Shah Jalal Mosque (Caldmore)
Walsall Central Mosque (Birchills)
Zia-E-Madina Mosque (Darlaston)

Covid 19 Support

UMO has been in the frontline to support the efforts of its members to engage in community support of their most vulnerable members since the beginning of the first lockdown in 2020. We have organised and delivered a very effective telephone befriending and support service targeting the most vulnerable and isolated groups to supply medicines and food packs. We have facilitated the donation of resources from Muslim businesses including the delivery of food to the Walsall Manor hospital for which UMO were awarded a certificate of recognition from Walsall Hospital NHS Trust.

We further facilitated the delivery of food parcels to the most isolated which has included deliveries to care homes such as Parklands and Acorns Children's Hospice. Where necessary we have assisted in the delivery of badly needed PPE to frontline settings and continued to offer our support in the delivery of medicines and medical equipment to isolated people when this has not been available through the usual means.

We recruited C19 Champions to develop an outreach programme using our current contacts and broadening it out to ensure we have a balance of women and men and information packs in community languages as well as formal and informal training.

Photos of the work

Some examples of this work includes the delivery of supplies to front-line staff, the dissemination of food parcels and running a befriending service for the isolated



Walsall Manor Hospital comfort food delivery



Cooked Food for Children's Acorns Hospice



Foods at a Bloxwich Nursing Home



Thank you to Walsall Council's Registration



Delivery for NHS district nurses

COVID 19 prevention – Champions Phase 1 and Phase 2

We regularly sent out updated information out to all our members and ensure that this is shared via our website and social media. We worked very closely with mosques in particular to ensure they have followed government guidelines in relation to government's COVID 19 legislation, guidelines and good practice, and have run online meetings to disseminate up-to-date information about testing and vaccination for example.

Our partnership work with Walsall Council and Public Health led to a **significant increase of uptake of the vaccine**. We are committed to increasing the uptake of the vaccine across all communities and particularly with communities who have been disproportionately affected by the virus. We saw it as particularly important to make sure that accurate information was widely available and targeted work to dispel myths about the dangers of the vaccine which have been circulating around many of the communities most deeply affected by the virus in Walsall.

One example of the work we have done our Webinar held in early 2021, COVID 19 VACCINATION- YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED, hosted in partnership with the British Islamic Medical association. The webinar, which was specifically intended to raise awareness, as well as dispel myths, about the vaccine included input from Cllr Stephen Cradock, Portfolio holder for Health and Wellbeing, and Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, Imam at Masjid Aisha Mosque, Walsall, as well as inputs from local COVID Specialist GP Dr Adeel Riaz and Islamic scholar and 4th year medical student Maulana Imad.

The webinar gave the public a chance to hear the facts about how the Covid vaccination programme was developed, about the risks and benefits, and particularly of issues relating to the BAME communities of Walsall. It also gave the opportunity for the public to have their questions answered. Should we be successful we believe we are well placed to extend this work by the provision of better targeted resources and the provision of more online content giving accurate information and aiming to dispel myths both about the disease and about the vaccine.

Reduce the impact of the virus.

Since the beginning of the virus in 2020 we worked very hard to reduce the impact of the virus among the communities represented by our members as well as the wider community. In addition to circulating government guidelines and information about best practice through our nominated Covid contacts we worked with Walsall Mosques closely to ensure that they have observed government guidelines relating to places of worship and we have continued to work on many initiatives to reduce the impact of the virus.

UMO was instrumental in facilitating the conversion of Aisha Mosque into a Vaccine centre and we are in negotiation with senior officers in Public Health to allow their premises to be used as lateral testing centres for COVID. 5 mosques signed up to be the base for mobile testing facilities in Caldmore, Palfrey, Chuckery, Birchills and North Walsall. As part of this programme, UMO facilitated mosque members to become Covid 19 testers.

UMO's meeting with Walsall Public Health Officials on Thursday in April 2021, we distributed 150 COVID-19 self-lateral flow Test Kits boxes to Walsall Mosques. The meeting with Paul Gordon, Walsall Council's Director of Resilient Communities, and Jonathan Wilkes and Sebastian Baugh of Public Health was organised to facilitate easier Covid19 testing in Places of Worship and in other areas where infection rates are higher

using Mobile units. The first Walk-in Lateral Flow Test in a Walsall mosque was piloted at Abu Bakr Trust on Friday 9th April 2021. There were 2 mobile units placed in the car-park fronting Wednesbury Road and the walk-in tests were open to all. This was followed by several sessions at Aisha Mosque for testing and C19 vaccination jabs.

UMO wishes to thank Paul Gordon at Walsall Council and their Public Health Officers in particular Jon Wilkes for working in partnership with us to help us to reduce infection rates by making these Covid19 self-tests readily accessible via these testing kits.

Photos of the work



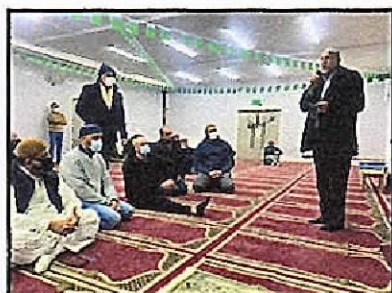
Covid 19 Spray of Walsall Mosques, thanks to Mohammed Farooq from Birmingham



Vaccination Bus in Caldmore Green Covid 19 Jabs at Aisha Mosque Lateral Flow Testing at Abu Bakr Mosque

Mental Health Pilot Project

We developed a pilot project at Aisha Mosque to support people not attending mosques. We believe that this project helped many people suffering from stress and isolation to return to Mosques. We provided funding for a lunch-on club and we are pleased to say that it is self-sufficient and continues. This project encouraged elderly people living on their own, to return to places of worship and help them to overcome mental health and anxiety issues. At Aisha Mosque the numbers of attending has increased from the initial 15 to 20 in the Community Room. Our pilot events in other mosques were successful too. Taster sessions was held Al-aqsa Mosque and Al-Madinah Mosques too. Our thanks to Dr Adeel Riaz, a GP and member of BIMA, British Institute of Medical Association.



M. Arif with Dr Adeel Riaz Vaccination and Mental Health Session at Al-Aqsa Mosque in Stafford St, Walsall

Eid in the Park

Following the easing of the Government restrictions, UMO organised for the first time in Walsall an Eid in the Park at Broadway West Playing Fields for the whole Walsall Community to come together. We invited all Walsall Mosques to join but only Aisha Mosque and Al-Farouq Mosque were able to join us. It was a historic event in July 2021 with one of the hottest day to celebrate the Eid-ul-Adha.



We wanted to bring the families and mosques together and more than 4,000 people came from across Walsall and the surrounding area to the Broadway West Playing Fields in Broadway West Road. There were a lot of people there from different backgrounds and it was great to see Muslims there from Ghana and also from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh and some of the Muslims from emerging parts of the World.

The festival of Eid ul-Adha honours the willingness of prophet Abraham to sacrifice his son Prophet Ismail as an act of obedience to God's command and it is one of the holiest festivals of the Islamic calendar, with millions making the annual pilgrimage to Mecca.



Schools Targeted Inter-faith Relations

A Place Called Home

We will be developing a training package with associated materials for teachers to enable school students to engage with the history and contemporary experience of people living in Palestine. Walsall Kobar Friendship Association in partnership with Union of Muslim Organisations (UMO) invited proposals from individual consultants or organisations who would be interested in carrying out our proposed schools project.

Background

In June 2021 a number of Walsall young people demonstrated peacefully in the town centre regarding the conflict in Palestine. Subsequent conversations with some of those young people, and others not involved, indicated that information they gained came from sources that had biases and which influenced the thinking of the students. This runs the risk of polarised thinking which others can exploit.

This project looked to ensure that safe forums are created to discuss to different points of views constructively. It is apparent that there is a large body of school age young people in Walsall who would benefit from an independent information source. Those involved in the project will be given opportunities to discuss and dialogue both recent and historical events to allow safe spaces to consider the dynamics and consider what they can do as young people to try and influence a positive outcome. This dialogue project will give them critical thinking skills, active listening skills and debating skills that can be used to debate the humanitarian issues conflict can cause within international law and relations in real time learning delivered in an informed facilitated safe space.

This project aims to address this issue by producing a curriculum project and materials which present a balanced view of the facts relating to the history of Palestine and the experience of Palestinians and Israelis over the past century. It aims to empower young people to make choices as to the best way to respond to the issues it raises using appropriate and democratic means. Our aim is to undertake a pilot project with two Walsall schools which will involve us training teachers to deliver the project using the materials which we develop and will support them to deliver the project. Once delivered, this project can be fully evaluated with teachers and students with a view to rolling it out across all Walsall schools and potentially beyond.

A project manager has already been appointed for this project and will oversee the project from beginning to end. A steering group involving key stakeholders will meet regularly throughout the project and will be a reference group for overseeing the project, commissioning the consultant and signing off the various stages of the project. The Consultant – We intend to advertise through established networks to appoint an educational consultant with a track record of similar projects to undertake the whole project.

Stage 1

We would expect the consultant to research into similar projects and to look at best practice across the UK. We are already aware of projects and materials such as Global Learning London: teaching about Palestine & Israel through the lens of human rights (Tower Hamlets Library Service), Defence for Children International: Palestine section, Teach Palestine Project (US - Middle East Children's Alliance). We are also aware of the approach "Connecting Classrooms" facilitated by the British Council which has previously linked schools from the UK with the West Bank.

We would ask the consultant to report back to us and to make recommendations about the best way to produce the materials and of the methodology and approaches to be used, either through utilising what is already available or through developing original materials and or approaches. We would expect the recommendations to be made as a result of research into national practices or projects and in discussion with local stakeholders and the steering group. We envisage the project will use a range of media as well as online resources and investigating the possibility of using "real time" options such as peer to peer class room link-ups (modelled on the British Council's "Connecting Classrooms") video diary exchange etc.

Stage 2

Once we have established the best strategy for Walsall we would commission the production of the materials and the associated training project, from the same consultant (if appropriate).

Materials

We envisage that the commissioning of print or online resources suitable for our pilot. These may be based on existing materials or resources or involve the development of original resources. It is possible that the consultant may be responsible for commissioning these materials "in-house" (i.e. doing it themselves or with a colleague) or working with the project manager to commission an appropriate designer. It is important that materials produced can be designed in a prototype form for the identified budget and we recognise that in this "pilot stage", materials may be indicative or draft.

Training

It is the responsibility of the project steering group to identify two pilot schools. The schools will support relevant staff to undertake the training with the consultant and once completed will deliver the project to school students. We envisage that the Consultant will have a hands-on approach both to the training of the staff and in supporting the delivery of the project to the two pilot schools. Once complete we would evaluate the project through meeting with students, staff and other stakeholders to assess the impact of the project and to present the findings to funders with a view to developing the project into a suitable format for it to be rolled out.

The Schools

We are in the process of identifying two local secondary schools to host our pilot project.

We envisage the materials to be suitable for a range abilities and year levels however we would expect the consultant to identify a target age range with the two schools involved as part of stage one of the project. We are aiming to engage a total of 90 children across both schools in the piloting of the programme.

Please refer to our website and social media links at the bottom of page 15 for further information on these and other projects.

UNION OF MUSLIM ORGANISATIONS - WALSALL
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31st March 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report:

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

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

Independent examiner's statement:

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

the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or

the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

T J Luckin
Whitehouse Ridsdale Limited
Chartered Accountants
20 Birmingham Road
Walsall WS1 2LT

28th April 2023


UNION OF MUSLIM ORGANISATIONS - WALSALL
 RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

	2022	2021
RECEIPTS	£	£
Rents received	4,650	2,800
Grants received:		
Walsall MBC - covid grant	-	6,500
Walsall MBC - schools project	5,750	-
Wolverhampton CC - computer	-	1,511
Walsall MBC - covid projects delivery payment	22,045	-
Refunds:		
covid projects delivery costs	126	-
website costs	-	110
	<u>32,571</u>	<u>10,921</u>
PAYMENTS		
Business rates	676	338
Expenditure on premises	450	595
Administration worker	-	4,680
Computer purchase	-	1,511
Telephone	542	-
Website costs	-	360
Office supplies	121	45
Fundraising assistance and costs	1,430	1,200
Presentations	70	142
Covid projects delivery costs	15,716	-
Catering including mental health awareness project	1,541	-
Insurance	580	-
Safety vests and badges	90	-
	<u>21,216</u>	<u>8,871</u>
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS	11,355	2,050
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	11,300	9,250
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u>22,655</u>	<u>11,300</u>


UNION OF MUSLIM ORGANISATIONS - WALSALL
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

	2022	2021
Statement of assets and liabilities:		
Cash fund -		
Santander UK	22,655	11,300
Other monetary assets:		
Amounts due to the charity -		
Walsall MBC - covid projects delivery payments and grant	4,475	
Liabilities :		
Accrued expenses	917	

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

.....  Mahmood M Sacha Trustee

Date : 28th April 2023

.....  Mohammed Azam Trustee

Date : 28th April 2023

Unity is our Strength

UMO-Walsall, Mayfield Centre,
17-19 Wednesbury Road,
Walsall, WS1 3RU.

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