



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01/01/2024

Period start date To

31/12/2024

Period end date

Charity name: Association of the Bulgarian Community in Medway

Charity registration number: 1151138

## Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>The objectives of the charity are: to promote the benefit of the Bulgarian citizens in Kent and the Medway area by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) the advancement of education and training;</li><li>(b) the provision of recreational facilities in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving their conditions of life;</li><li>(c) to advance education of the public on all aspects of the Bulgarian history and culture.</li></ul>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>In 2024 ABCiM supported the following activities:</p> <p><b>In relation to Objective a)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Classes for adults: ABCiM continued with its adults' folk dancing class which was open to people from all abilities for fitness. The class brings together people from across Kent who have a shared love of Bulgarian folklore and dance.</li><li>- Classes for children: The charity runs the Medway Bulgarian School - a Saturday school for children, which in 2024 was providing education to around 270 students from year R to</li></ul>

		<p>year 8 in Bulgarian language, literature, history and geography. This education is recognized by the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and children returning to Bulgaria do not need to sit exams in these subjects but can go direct back to school.</p> <p>There were 4 folk dance classes for children, split into age groups.</p> <p>There were also three group piano classes, which gave the opportunity to children to get some general understanding about music, learn some notes and play simple pieces.</p> <p><b>In relation to objective b)</b>  ABCiM organised the celebration of several national holidays - the National Independence day in March, the day of the Cyrillic alphabet and Bulgarian language and culture in May; and the day of the champions of preservation of national identity and culture in November.</p> <p>We also had a Christmas concert and school fair in December, with a raffle, bazar, Father Christmas grotto.</p> <p>We organised a martenitsas' bazar for the national celebration of the forthcoming spring on 1 March.</p> <p>The association also disseminated information to members about local events, concerts, sports clubs, etc. of interest to the community.</p> <p><b>In relation to objective c)</b>  ABCiM provided materials and presentations to local community groups. The danse class took part in events organised by the Mayor of Medway.</p> <p>We lent national costumes to people who participated in work and school cultural events.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity	Para 1.18	When planning these activities, the trustees had due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance.

Commission on public benefit		
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### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	N/A
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	N/A
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	We value greatly the contribution by our volunteers, who have supported the work of the charity as Teaching Assistants and members of the Parent's association.
Other		

## Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>In 2024 around 270 children were attending courses at the Medway Bulgarian school. Around 50 adults also benefitted from the adult folk dancing classes offered by the association.</p> <p>The Bulgarian school has benefitted people spread across a large geographic area. It has an important social benefit, not only for education, but wider - it brings people, who could otherwise be isolated and poorly informed - together, allows them to exchange information, share experiences and support each other.</p> <p>The charity has disseminated important information about local events, throughout the year though its Facebook pages and by email.</p>

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	

Other		
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## Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	At the end of the period, the charity was in a good financial position.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	We do not hold reserves
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	We do not hold any reserves.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	The money is fully spent on the activities. The aim is to provide the services at a minimum cost to the community to allow as many people as possible to benefit.
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	There are no uncertainties at present

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	<p>The principal sources of funding are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Course registration fees</li> <li>- Grants – the only grant in 2024 was the one received from the Bulgarian Ministry of Education</li> <li>- Fundraising at community events</li> </ul>
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	N/A
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	<p>Change of the policy of the Bulgarian Ministry of Education could stop or reduce the grant they provide for the school.</p> <p>Unreasonable rise in rent could leave the Charity without premises.</p>
Other		Political and economic changes may affect the living standards and circumstances of Bulgarian families living in Kent.

## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	<b>constitution</b>
How is the charity constituted? (e.g. unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	<b>association</b>
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	<b>Nominated and elected by the members.</b>

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

## Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Association of the Bulgarian Community in Medway
Other name the charity uses	ABCiM
Registered charity number	1151138
Charity's principal address	The Thomas Aveling School Arethusa Road Rochester ME1 2UW

**Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity**

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Desislava Zlateva	Chair		
2	Ralitsa Pavleva	Secretary		
3	David Best	Treasurer		
4				
5				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

[illegible]

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

[illegible]

## Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

### Additional information (optional)

#### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
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#### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Iuliana Best (Chief Executive)

## Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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## Other optional information

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## Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

#### Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	David Best	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer	
Date	22/09/2025	



Association of the Bulgarian Community in Medway

Income and Expenditure Account

Year ended 31 December 2024

INCOME	£	£	
Bulgarian Ministry for Education grant		40,885.33	
Registrations and Contributions		41,796.00	
Other Grants		0.00	
Net Interest		0.00	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>82,681.33</b>	
EXPENDITURE			
Teaching Fees	41,644.00		
Room Hire	14,572.55		
Admin Support	12,307.75		
Books & Costumes/ Prizes	3,968.62		
Office Exps/Sundries & Miscellaneous/IT	3,854.06		
Legal & Prof/Insurance/Bank Charges/Audit	484.04		
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>76,831.02</b>	
<b>EXCESS EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME</b>		<b>5,850.31</b>	
Balances brought forward:	£	£	
Fixed Assets	1,907.99		
Nationwide Building Society	0.00		
Lloyds Bank Account	49,806.43		
Cash in Hand	2.84		
Excess expenditure over income for year	5,850.31		
Balances carried forward:			
Fixed Assets		1,907.99	
Nationwide Building Society		0.00	
Lloyds Bank Account		55,656.74	
Unpresented cheques at year end		0.00	
Cash in Hand		2.84	
	<b>57,567.57</b>	<b>57,567.57</b>	0.00

I confirm that all relevant information and supporting documents have been made available for the preparation of the accounts for the year ending 31 December 2024 and that they present a true reflection of the activities carried out by the association.

Signed  
  
Chair

Signed  
  
Treasurer

Signed  
  
Accountant



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

Association of the Bulgarian Community in Medway

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

31 December 2024

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1151138

**Set out on pages**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024.

**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 Trust'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.

**Signed:**

**Date:**

15<sup>th</sup> Sept 2025

**Name:**

VIKKI FINNERAN FCCA

**Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):**

CHARTERED ASSOCIATION OF CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANTS (ACCA)

**Address:**

11 CARDIGAN CLOSE, HIGH HALSTOW

ROCHESTER

ME3 8NX

**Section B****Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**

**NONE**