SOMALI COMMUNITY PARENTS ASSOCIATION (SOCOPA)

England & Wales · Charity number 1152565

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2013-06-24
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	19 Brunswick Street Leicester Leicester LE1 2LP
Phone	01162628632
Email	SOCOPA@HOTMAIL.CO.UK
Website	www.socopa.org.uk

Activities

Objects: FOR ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSE FOR PEOPLE PRIMARILY FROM SOMALIA NOW LIVING IN THE PARTICULARLY LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND PEOPLE LIVING IN SOMALIA, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY:(A)THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION;(B)THE RELIEF OF FINANCIAL NEED, UNEMPLOYMENT AND SICKNESS:AND(C)THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR RECREATION OR LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE.

Activities: We provide community based services in the area of:-Study supportDrop in sessionBilingual supportCreative English for adultsInformation advice and Guidance (IAG)Job clubVolunteering Leisure activitiesParenting skills

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Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Accommodation/housing, Economic/community Development/employment, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND PEOPLE LIVING IN SOMALIA
- Leicester City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£167,469	£162,920	-	-
2024-03-31	£115,066	£110,634	-	-
2023-03-31	£80,770	£97,816	-	-
2022-03-31	£94,204	£74,332	-	-
2021-03-31	£114,428	£65,747	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Jama Mohamoud Bsc Hons.	Chair	2026-04-21
Farhan Ali		2026-04-21
Sadiya Ismail Sheikh Mohamed		2026-04-21
Zuheb Mukhtar		2026-04-21

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SOMALI COMMUNITY PARENTS ASSOCIATION (SOCOPA)

England & Wales - Charity number 1152565

Accounts

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st March 2025

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Executive Summary

This Trustees' Annual Report summarises SOCOPA's activities, governance, service impact, referrals, and finance for the year ended 31st March 2025. SOCOPA supported 3,346 unique client requests across welfare advice, education, digital inclusion, advocacy, and targeted referrals to specialist partners.

The trustees, who are also known management committee prepares their annual report for the purposes of Charity Commission law, and the independently examined financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2025.

Public Benefit Statement

The trustees confirm compliance with the Charities Act 2011 and have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. SOCOPA advances education, relieves hardship, and promotes wellbeing among Somali and East African communities in Leicester.

Governance and Management

Somali Community Parents Association became Charitable Incorporation Organisation (CIO) on 24 June 2013. SOCOPA is governed by its constitution and overseen by a Board of Trustees responsible for strategy, compliance, and financial oversight. The Chief Executive manages day-to-day operations, staff, volunteers, partnerships, and service delivery.

Trustee Board

The following trustees served during the financial year:

- Mr Jama Mohamoud – Chair
- Mr Farhan Ali – Treasurer
- Mr Noor Hussein – Secretary
- Mrs Ubah Egal-Mullon – Trustee (resigned 03/10/2024)

Senior Management Team

- Mr Abdikayf Bashir Farah – Chief Executive

Responsible for organisational leadership, programme oversight, compliance, strategic development, and partnership management.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name: Somali Community Parents Association CIO (SOCOPA)

Charity registered Number: 1152565

Registered Office and Operational Office

19 Brunswick Street
Leicester
LE1 2LP

Bankers HSBC Bank
2-6 Gallowtree Gate
Leicester LE1 1DA

Independent Examiners
Shabbeer & Co Limited
62 Harring worth Road Leicester LE5 6TL

Our Vision

Justice and fairness for Somali and East African communities enabling them to thrive and contribute to UK society.

Our Mission

SOCOPA enables individuals from Somalia and East Africa to overcome the barriers they encounter as they integrate into UK society. We achieve this by:

- Providing a welcoming environment and safe space where people can connect, seek support and have their immediate needs met.
- Delivering skills training and tuition to enable young people and adults to fully engage with education and employment opportunities.
- Offering advice and advocacy that enables clients to access and resolve issues with service providers from all sectors.
- Confronting the policies and procedures that create inequality, poverty and discrimination.
- Organising cultural events that promote our heritage and educate others about our community's contribution to wider society.

Our Services and Activities

- Our services and activities are delivered to those from Somalia and East African communities in and around Leicester City and Leicestershire. During the 2024/25 financial year 3,347 unique individuals accessed support from SOCOPA. Services are split into five main areas:

1) Youth programs and sports

- SOCOPA provides a safe space for young people to participate in sports and recreational activities, offering them opportunities to have fun and divert their attention away from negative influences.



2) **Providing a safe space and meeting immediate needs**

- SOCOPA provides a drop-in five days/week for people to connect with others, seek support and receive provisions from our foodbank to meet immediate needs.



3) Skills training and tuition

- SOCOPA enable young people and adults to fully engage with education and employment opportunities. Support includes ESOL provision,
- Homework clubs, English and maths tuition,
- Life skills training including digital, youth engagement activities, and employment support (e.g. mock interviews and CVs).



5) **Advice and Advocacy**

- SOCOPA stands alongside those facing challenges with service providers, we support with issues such as homelessness and housing, welfare benefits, education, immigration status, health and disability.



6) **Cultural events and educating wider society**
   - SOCOPA activity ranges from hosting cultural nights and attending community festivals to delivering school assemblies and presentations



Achievements and Performance
SOCOPA drop-in support.



Executive Summary

This report provides an analysis of all client requests recorded by the Somali Community Parents Association (SOCOPA) between 01 April 2024 and 31 March 2025. A total of 3,346 unique client requests were recorded during this reporting period. Client needs were captured under both Primary and Secondary Client Request Reason categories, representing different dimensions of the same service interactions. Therefore, totals across both lists are identical. The combined sum of all categories (6,692) represents double-counting and is included for transparency but does not reflect additional clients.

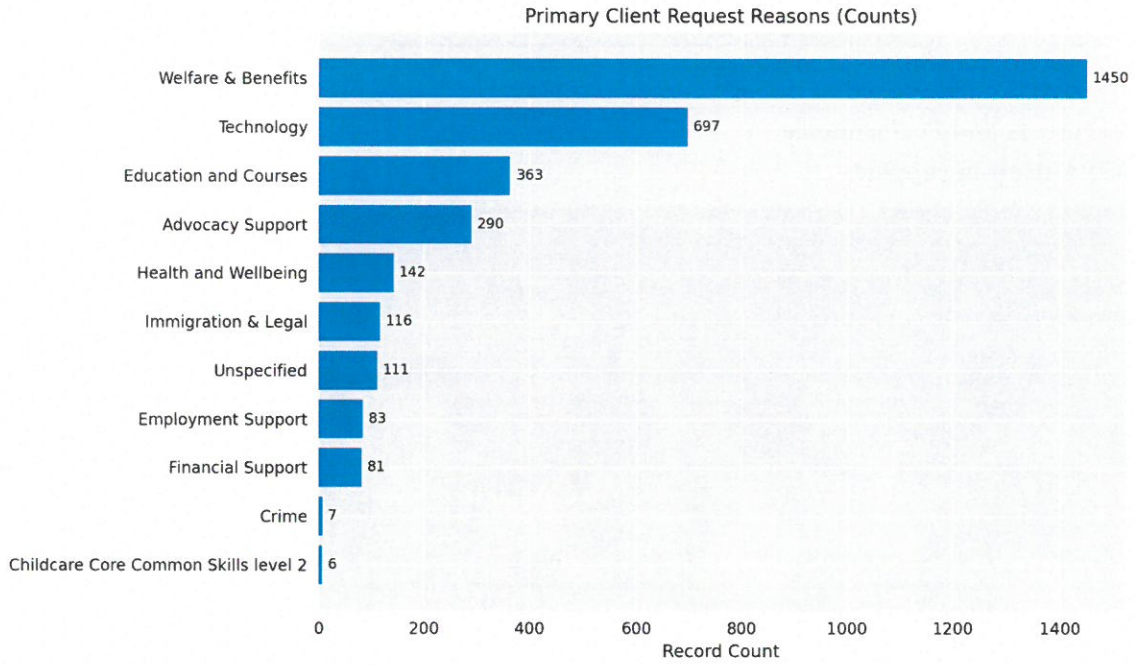
The data demonstrates high demand for Welfare & Benefits support, digital and technology-related help, and education and advocacy services. This reflects broader socio-economic challenges affecting disadvantaged communities in Leicester, including cost of living pressures, digital exclusion, language barriers, and complex welfare system navigation.

Primary Client Request Categories

Primary Client Request Reasons reflect the main issue presented by clients during their engagement with SOCOPA. The top categories were:

- Welfare & Benefits – 1,450 requests (43.34%)
- Technology – 697 requests (20.84%)
- Education & Courses – 363 requests (10.85%)
- Advocacy Support – 290 requests (8.67%)
- Health & Wellbeing – 142 requests (4.24%)

These patterns underline the continuing struggle of vulnerable families who require assistance navigating the welfare system, as well as a high level of digital exclusion.

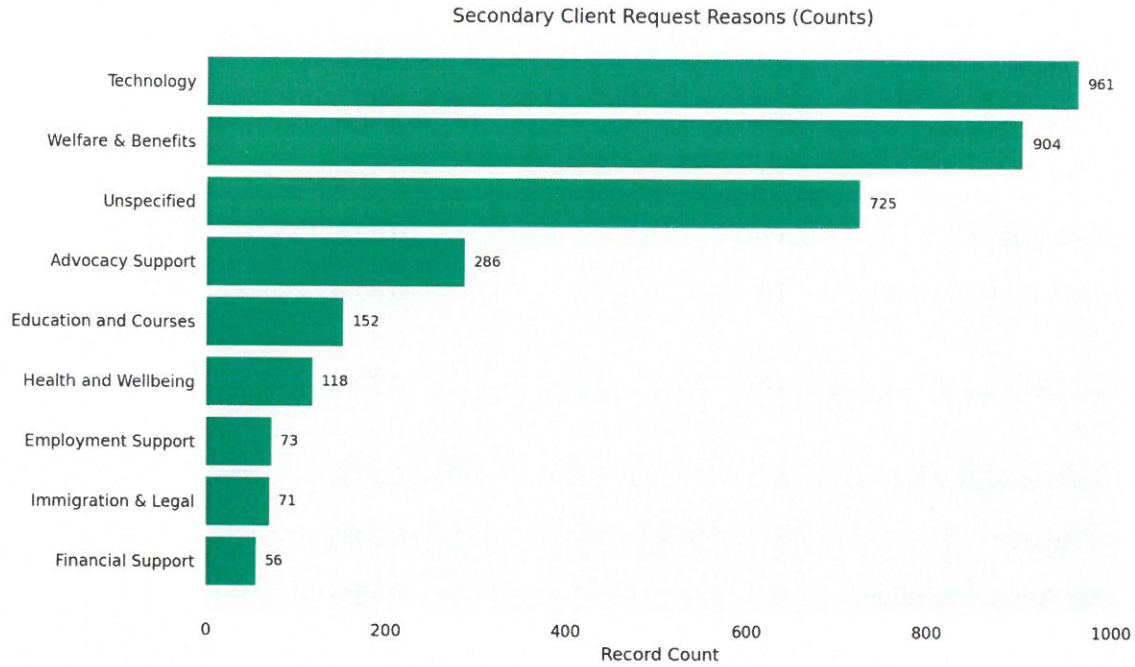


Secondary Client Request Categories

Secondary reasons capture supplementary or underlying issues beyond the primary presenting need. The top categories were:

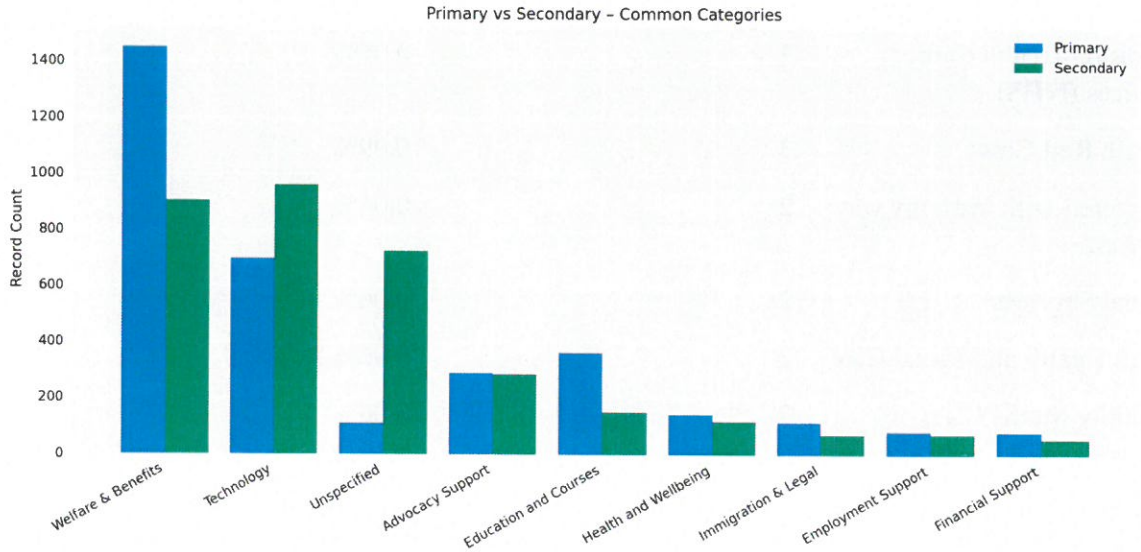
- Technology – 961 requests (28.74%)
- Welfare & Benefits – 904 requests (27.03%)
- Unspecified – 725 requests (21.68%)
- Advocacy Support – 286 requests (8.55%)
- Education & Courses – 152 requests (4.54%)

A high 'Unspecified' figure suggests opportunities for improving case recording processes.



Comparison of Primary and Secondary Needs

Across both classifications, Technology and Welfare & Benefits remain dominant themes, highlighting the need for ongoing funded support in both areas. Client issues are often interconnected, with digital barriers affecting access to welfare, education, and legal processes.



Referrals and Pathways (01 April 2024 – 31 March 2025)

During the reporting period, SOCOPA recorded a total of 3,346 client requests. Of these, 3,138 (93.78%) were resolved internally and 208 (6.22%) required referral to external agencies. This demonstrates SOCOPA's role as a gateway organization, ensuring that clients are triaged appropriately and linked with relevant statutory or community services.

External referral destinations (sorted by volume):

Destination	Referrals	% of all requests
English Class	79	2.36%
Open Hand Charity	34	1.02%
Other	12	0.36%
New Europeans UK	11	0.33%
Leicester City Homeless Team	10	0.30%
Law and Community Advice Services	10	0.30%
The Race Equality Centre	9	0.27%
Citizen Advice	8	0.24%
Leicester Adult Education College	6	0.18%
GP	5	0.15%
Afro Innovation Group-Leicester	3	0.09%
The Bridge Homelessness to Hope	3	0.09%
Inclusion Health Care services (NHS)	3	0.09%
British Red Cross	3	0.09%
registered with learn my way platform	2	0.06%
Dental Services	2	0.06%
Adult Health and Social Care	2	0.06%
Multiply Maths Class	2	0.06%
BBC Children in Need Emergency Essentials Programme	1	0.03%
Migrant Help	1	0.03%
MP Liz Kendall-Leicester West	1	0.03%
Police	1	0.03%

Key Observations

- Most cases (93.78%) were resolved internally, showing strong internal case capacity.
- External referrals (6.22%) were primarily for education, specialist support, or homelessness services.
- Low numbers of statutory referrals indicate effective early intervention within SOCOPA.
- Referral coding remains consistent with minimal 'Other' categorization.

Charity Commission Reporting Requirements

This analysis supports SOCOPA's annual reporting obligations to the Charity Commission by documenting the charity's activities, demonstrating public benefit, and evidencing demand for our services. In particular, the data shows that SOCOPA continues to meet the needs of disadvantaged and marginalised communities by providing free, accessible support in welfare, advocacy, digital inclusion, education, and wellbeing. The evidence presented in this report aligns with Charity Commission guidance on demonstrating outcomes, transparency, and accountability.

Conclusion

The 2024–2025 data confirms that SOCOPA plays an essential role in supporting Somali and East African communities in Leicester. The high number of client requests and concentration of needs in critical areas demonstrate the ongoing importance of our services. This report is respectfully submitted to the SOCOPA Board of Trustees and prepared for inclusion in the annual Charity Commission filing.

Our small acts of advocacy help our clients travel a step further to achieving their goal - accompanying someone on a trip to a clinic and speaking as a professional to another professional on their behalf sometimes makes all the difference (e.g. in education and in health issues). With occasional back-up from our staff, clients develop confidence, see engagement with services modelled and usually long-term outcomes are better than expected. For example, client M has a daughter with significant ADHD issues, and our advisor was able to communicate difficulties effectively alongside a mother who did not speak English as a first language and M commented she was taken seriously and was treated well because of this.

8. Client Stories

Client Story: Hawa's Progress from Digital Poverty to Confidence

"In some cases, the road to self-sufficiency can be surprisingly short. Hawa's story is a great example of how quickly someone can begin to thrive when given the right resources and support.
Hawa, Somali, 37, first registered in July '24 for help due to digital poverty. While registering, she discovered other things we do and so started our ESOL classes the same day. Typically, as a new arrival, she made 21 visits to our Drop-In centre over her first 4 months in the UK needing bilingual support with Universal Credit, Child Benefit, navigating the NHS – but we've only seen her once in January 25 whereas in September and October we were assisting her weekly! On arrival under the UK pre-settlement scheme, she already had conversational English but little confidence. ESOL class on a Wednesday fitted with her work timetable so she attended 10 autumn classes before our pre-employment training morning where she got a new job! Now, in January 25, she's attending Adult Education mainstream classes with confidence. While we see her less in drop-in sessions, hopefully we'll see her on some social occasions or as a volunteer as her children mature."

Client Story: Akifa's Journey to Empowerment Through ESOL

"This year, we had the privilege of supporting a 30-year-old Sudanese mother who made incredible strides in her language learning and career goals.
Akifa, aged 30, Sudanese, with indefinite leave to remain had 2 pre-schoolers, one of whom attends nursery near SOCOPA. Again, through our digital support services, she heard of our ESOL women's classes and attended 31 lessons between February '24 and September '24. We accommodated her other youngster in class, although this was not ideal. This meant she could experience success. In August 2024, we encouraged and accompanied her to register and attend an assessment with Leicester Adult Education for ESOL classes at her level. Without our input she likely would not have been informed or had confidence enough to register. She hopes to be a teacher within the Sudanese community and help others learn English. She is pursuing Nanny training with us as one step to achieve this goal."

Client Story: Saleh's Commitment to Community and Learning

"Sometimes, a client's story isn't just about personal success; it's about the ripple effect that success has on those around them. Saleh's journey shows how one individual can uplift an entire community. Saleh, a Yemeni asylum seeker, 31, married with a wife and children in Yemen, came to SOCOPA within two weeks of arriving in the UK (Sept. 2024). Already an English speaker, he was frustrated by the lack of English lessons to bring him up to speed so he could find a job in his first year in the UK. Sim cards again were the first connection with SOCOPA, but the Friday afternoon ESOL classes led him to attend also on Wednesday and Thursdays topping over 31 attendances in the period Sep 24-Dec 24. Textbooks subsidized by SOCOPA with associated app help learners to make exceptionally good improvements in a brief period. Saleh's outgoing nature meant he encouraged many other Yemenis to attend with him. His small, committed group of friends really transformed the learning of many asylum seekers who were demotivated and struggling with their hotel accommodation and encouraged many Sudanese students to attend. Saleh and four friends volunteered and cheerfully helped at SOCOPA events for our winter warmer programme relishing the opportunity to do something meaningful to help others. Being an asylum seeker in the UK can mean a long time without feeling useful or being able to work. Volunteering gives focus, energy, and a sense of belonging. With our advocacy, they all now are attending OPEN HANDS ESOL classes which gives them opportunity to study in small classes at their own level. Most of them are now recognised as refugees and we are assisting with pre-employment support."

How We Are Changing What We Do

- **Managing Expectations:** Rising living costs have led to unrealistic demands; we now prioritize clear communication about our limits.
- **Promoting Independence:** We guide clients through the welfare system and provide skills like job readiness and financial management to reduce dependency.
- **Addressing Cultural Challenges:** We counter entitlement and fear of missing out through ongoing dialogue, ensuring support is fair and tailored.
- **Operational Improvements:** Our Drop-In Centre has been redesigned for privacy and professionalism, with appointment-based 1:1 support on Thursdays and Fridays.
- **Team Engagement:** After delays, our first staff appreciation event is scheduled for early February to strengthen morale and volunteer relations.

Plans for future periods

1. Provide a safe and accepting community space where clients can build trust and self-confidence and receive support to meet immediate needs.

2. Strengthen and grow services that meet the needs of our community.

3. Provide leadership to the Somali and East African communities and bring about positive change to the policies and procedures that disadvantage them.

4. Promote Somali and East African culture and educate people about our contribution to wider society.

5. Establish a sustainable funding model that provides sufficient funds to deliver our mission.

Current facilities:

Our two-roomed office at the Quba Centre doubles up as a training and meeting room (we have occasional access to another large room). We have neither reception nor kitchen nor toilet facilities but share with other tenants in the building. We regularly rent space in the council-run neighbourhood centre and in other venues across St Matthew's, but this both increases staff and facilities costings and limits our activities.

Requirements:

- A reception area where advice clients and other visitors can wait in comfort rather than being turned away because of confidentiality.
- A good-sized room to meet clients in confidence.
- 2 training/ teaching rooms each large enough to hold up to 20 students (ideally these rooms could convert to one large room for larger gatherings and community events)
- A good-sized community kitchen and eating area for up to 20 people.
- A creche that can support childcare provision if parents are accessing support or attending meetings.
- Monitored washroom facilities.
- Disabled access

We aim to address mental health challenges and trauma linked to war and refugee experiences by working with education and health professionals to better support affected children and adults. Our initiatives include targeted youth programs to tackle educational underachievement and related issues, as well as support for refugees and asylum seekers settling in Leicester. To strengthen family relationships, we will bridge cultural gaps between immigrant parents and UK-born youth.

Volunteers

We are grateful for the many hours' volunteers have spent listening and encouraging the parents and young people and working with our workers. Without their time, energy, and expertise we would not have been able to achieve so much; as an organization we appreciate their valuable contribution. Our strengths lie in our volunteer's support, parent's involvement, and community participation. We have a team that monitors grants that are available, fundraise and aid SOCOPA in drafting grant proposals. We now have 14 volunteers in our different programmes that have contributed their valuable time and skills to support our work that we do for the community.

Finance

This section summarises SOCOPA's financial position for the year. The trustees present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025. The board of trustees are satisfied with the performance of the charity during the year and the position on 31st March 2025 and consider that the charity is in a strong position to continue its activities during the coming year, and that the charity's assets are adequate to fulfil its obligations. The charity will continue to seek further funding to deliver its objects.

Reserves policy

The Trustees aim to hold sufficient free reserves after designated funds to cover between six and twelve months of core operating costs.

The charity's reserves policy is to hold six to twelve months of operating expenses in unrestricted funds. It is felt this level of reserves is necessary because it can often take many months for grant applications to be processed. The Trustees have established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds after deducting designated funds for capital purchases and amounts invested in tangible fixed assets (free reserves) held by the charity should be between six and twelve months of the resources expended.

Based on core operating costs for the year, the Trustees consider an appropriate level of free reserves to be in the range of approximately £65,000 to £129,000, which equates to six to twelve months of expenditure. At this level, the Trustees believe the charity would be able to continue its current activities in the event of a significant drop in funding. The Trustees will continue to review the level of reserves on an annual basis.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Key risks include funding sustainability, safeguarding, data protection, volunteer capacity, and premises stability. Controls include trustee oversight, policies and training, secure IT systems, DBS checks, supervision, and diversified funding strategy.

The trustees regularly assess SOCOPA's key risks and are satisfied that appropriate systems are in place to mitigate them. They review these risks on an ongoing basis and consider the current level of free reserves sufficient to provide resilience in the event of adverse conditions.

Trustees' Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved this report and confirm that it complies with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity Commission's reporting requirements. This report is submitted on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

Trustee sign: _____ Date: 13/12/2025

Independent Examiner's Report

SOMALI COMMUNITY PARENTS ASSOCIATION C.I.O.
(SOCOPA)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SOMALI COMMUNITY PARENTS ASSOCIATION C.I.O.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Somali Community Parents Association C.I.O ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('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 2011 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

3. the financial statements do 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.

SHABBEER AHMED LORGAT (AFA MIPA, ACPA, CIMA Dip MA)
Independent Examiner

For and on behalf of Shabbeer & Co Limited
62 Harringworth Road, LEICESTER, LE5 6TL

Date: 12 December 2025

Financial Statements Year ended 31st March 2025

SOMALI COMMUNITY PARENTS ASSOCIATION C.I.O. (SOCOPA)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Incoming Resources					
Donations, legacies and Grants	2	66,140	101,329	167,469	115,066
Other income		-	-	-	-
Total incoming resources		66,140	101,329	167,469	115,066
Resources expended					
Costs of activities in furtherance of charitable objects	3	47,862	77,670	125,531	82,342
Premises costs	3	4,340	7,138	11,478	8,194
Management and administration	3	9,389	16,521	25,910	20,099
Total resources expended		61,591	101,329	162,920	110,634
Net incoming resources		**4,549**	**-**	**4,549**	**4,432**
Total funds brought forward		106,079	-	106,079	101,647
Total funds carried forward		110,628	-	110,628	106,079

SOMALI COMMUNITY PARENTS ASSOCIATION C.I.O.
(SOCOPA)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes		2025 £		2024 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	5		790		*360*
Current Assets					
Debtors		1,019		9,861	
Cash at bank and in hand		150,217		141,750	
		151,236		151,611	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	(9,946)		(4,864)	
Deferred Revenue		(31,451)		(41,027)	
		(41,398)		(45,891)	
Net current assets			**109,838**		**105,719**
Total assets less current liabilities			**110,628**		**106,079**
Funds					
Unrestricted funds:					
Free reserves			75,628		71,079
Designated funds:					
Specific future capital purchase			35,000		35,000
			110,628		**106,079**

Trustees' Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved this report and confirm that it complies with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity Commission's reporting requirements. This report is submitted on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

Approved by the Board on: 13/12/2025

Signed: _____

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act.

1.2 Going Concern

The charity is mainly reliant upon donations and grant income to raise revenue to meet future expenditure. The Trustees consider that it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis. This assumes that the charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) will be successful in its fundraising activities. The financial statements do not include any adjustments that would result if insufficient funds are raised. In formulating this assessment the Trustees have taken into consideration the impact of the global cost of living crisis on the charity's ability to raise funds.

1.3 Taxation

As a charity, Somali Community Parents Association CIO (SOCOPA) is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act or s256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

1.4 Incoming Resources

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity, it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured.

Income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.

1. 5 Fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life. The following rates and methods are used:

Plant & Equipment: 25% straight line
Fixtures & Fittings: 25% straight line
IT Equipment: 25% straight line

All equipment, fixtures, and fittings with an original cost of less than £400 are written off in the year in which the expenditure was incurred. This is based on the principle that due to the nature of SOCOPA's activities, there is no expectation that the cost of these assets will be recovered through future revenues.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.5 Resources expended

Expenditure is recognized once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

2. Donations, legacies and grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Leicester Adult Education College - LCC	33,000	-	33,000	31,500
Awards for All	-	-	-	2,639
Barnados	1,000	-	1,000	1,000
Big Issue Invest	-	-	-	5,000
Community Matters Foundation		5,259	5,259	2,863
General Donations and Sundry Income	4,365	-	4,365	330
Good Things Foundation	275	-	275	1,000
Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust	-	19,976	19,976	19,976
Leicestershire Police	-	9,965	9,965	-
Lloyds Bank Foundation	27,500	-	27,500	10,417
Positive Youth Foundation	-	-	-	3,333
Reaching Communities England	-	66,129	66,129	21,611
Sphere Science	-	-	-	2,931
Street Games UK	-	-	-	9,966
Voluntary Action Leicester	-	-	-	2,500
	66,140	**101,329**	**167,469**	**115,066**

SOMALI COMMUNITY PARENTS ASSOCIATION C.I.O.
(SOCOPA)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
3. Analyses of resources expended				
Costs of activities in furtherance of charitable objects				
Employment costs				
Gross wages and salaries	35,013	57,603	92,615	60,639
Casual staff	4,185	6,885	11,070	8,224
Organisers Renumeration, Volunteers	2,962	4,833	7,796	7,887
Staff training and welfare	1,130	1,768	2,898	1,935
Employer's pension	852	518	1,369	-
Chartable expenditure	1,760	2,895	4,655	-
Events	702	1,098	1,800	84
Facilities hire	1,258	2,070	3,328	3,573
	47,862	77,670	125,531	82,342
Premises costs				
Rent	3,368	5,542	8,910	7,960
General and water rates	27	42	68	67
Repairs and renewals	945	1,555	2,500	167
	4,340	7,138	11,478	8,194
Management and administration				
Bank charges	45	73	118	115
Computer and software	739	1,216	1,955	578
Depreciation	69	113	182	61
Insurance	161	265	426	463
Legal and professional fees	5,139	8,061	13,200	12,617
Miscellaneous	376	618	994	1,809
Motor vehicle expenses	41	64	104	110
Printing and stationery	1,771	2,770	4,540	511
Subscriptions	32	52	84	-
Telephone and internet	390	642	1,033	702
Travelling, hotels and accommodation	627	2,646	3,273	3,135
	9,389	16,521	25,910	20,099

SOMALI COMMUNITY PARENTS ASSOCIATION C.I.O.
(SOCOPA)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
4. Staff Costs and Employees		
Wages and salaries	103,685	68,863
Other staff related costs	7,796	7,887
Pension costs	1,369	-
	112,850	76,750

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 during the year.

5. Tangible fixed assets	**Computer equipment**
Cost	
At 01 April 2024	360
Additions	673
At 31 March 2025	1,033
Depreciation and impairment	
At 01 April 2024	61
Depreciation charged in the year	182
At 31 March 2025	243
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2025	790
At 31 March 2024	360

5. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Trade Creditors	- 144	-
Accruals	6,256	4,864
Taxation and social security	2,949	-
Other Creditors	884	
	9,946	4,864

SOMALI COMMUNITY PARENTS ASSOCIATION (SOCOPA)

England & Wales - Charity number 1152565

Accounts

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st March 2024

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Trustees Annual report for the year ending 31st March 2024

The trustees, who are also known management committee prepares their annual report for the purposes of Charity Commission law, and the independently examined financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2024.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name: Somali Community Parents Association CIO (SOCOPA) Charity registered Number: 1152565. Registered Office and Operational Office is

19 Brunswick Street
Leicester
LE1 2LP.

Trustee Board:

1. Mr Jama Mohamoud Chairman
2. Mr Farhan Ali Treasurer
3. Mr Noor Hussein Secretary
4. Mrs Ubah Egal-Mullon Trustee (Mrs. Ubah Egal-Mullon has resigned from the Trustee on 5th August 2024.

Senior Management Team:

1. Mr Abdikayf Bashir Farah Chief Executive

Bankers HSBC Bank
2-6 Gallowtree Gate
Leicester LE1 1DA

Independent Examiners
Shabbeer & Co Limited
62 Harring worth Road Leicester LE5 6T

Charitable Aims and Objectives

This organization is established to deliver services and support for charitable purposes, primarily targeting people of Somali heritage in the UK and those living in Somalia (East Africa). The main objectives are:

a) Advancement of Education

- Providing community-based education, such as homework clubs, out-of-school learning programs, and ESOL classes.
- Raising community awareness and delivering essential life skills training.

b) Prevention or Relief of Poverty

- Offering practical support, services, and facilities to individuals and families in need, both in the UK and Somalia.
- Providing advice and assistance to help families improve their living conditions.

c) Recreation and Social Welfare

- Creating and maintaining recreational facilities to promote social welfare and enhance the quality of life for beneficiaries.

This comprehensive approach aims to uplift the East African community by addressing their educational, financial, and social needs.

SOCOPA is rooted in the community it serves. Our offices are in St Matthew's in Leicester and many of our programmes serve the community there as well as attracting people from across the city. **SOCOPA exists to meet the needs of Somalis, East Africans, and anyone building a home in Leicester.** Our community faces many challenges, such as inequality, poverty, language barriers and isolation. SOCOPA works for **the betterment of the community** through a range of services including English classes, youth clubs, skills training and culture nights and drop-in sessions with bilingual advisors.

Overall, our most successful and rewarding work has been helping people address the complex needs identified in above. Alongside this we have been able to secure funding from various sources including Lloyds Foundation, The National Lottery Reaching Communities, and Leicester/shire NHS Partnership Trust.

The introduction of a new system for capturing data, using the Salesforce customer relationship management platform, has made a big difference in how we use data, register clients and manage their information. All staff have access to the information and can now input/ update the content (whereas before we did not use a centralised system). We are able to easily capture a range of data that we didn't have access to before - for example primary and secondary purposes of visit.

Our focus on supporting clients' digital skills (through providing IT access, training and developing a stronger local profile in this area for adults), as well as providing SIM cards for those in hardship, has made a real difference to clients.

One of our most successful projects has been delivering English (ESOL) classes and social gathering for people who are asylum seekers, refugees, new arrivals and encouraging them to learn the language and securing jobs for some of these people as well as helping them to access further education at local colleges. Further, the Multiply Maths project (funded by the City Council) has offered clients Entry level 1, 2 and 3 in Maths alongside English classes. Having a qualification or certificate of achievement in these two subjects significantly increases clients' chances of finding employment.

We have developed a triaging system and stronger working relationships with other focussed ESOL providers (e.g. Adult Education, Open Hands charity and The Race Equality Centre) so that we can direct students effectively to classes at their level. This next academic year we hope to run an additional specific class for those who have no literacy in association with another local group.

We are looking to raise funds for additional staff so we can employ another welfare support worker with a focus on housing and employment. Additional capacity in these areas would make a big difference. We did trial having an experienced local housing/homelessness charity

worker in our drop-in sessions one day a week but this did not work out - probably because of a lack of understanding of the East African culture and our clients' lack of trust in that professional approach.

Improvements in our communications will help us to raise further funds and spread the word that we are here and making an impact. Through our communications consultant we are beginning to re-design our on-line services and we expect to see the impact of this in the coming months. Connected to this is how we use technology, and our Salesforce system can be extended and developed further. However, we need to do this at the right speed and to take everyone in the organisation together at the same time.

Achievements and Performance

SOCOPA Drop-In Services: Empowering Communities Through Support and Advocacy

we have observed a significant increase in the number of individuals seeking support through our drop-in centre, ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes, and weekly social meetings.

Currently, over 4,500 people access our community support and services annually. These include our drop-in centre, ESOL English classes, weekly open-access social meetings, and a range of outreach and educational programs.

Their needs vary – we offer a range of assistance, and some come for long term systemic and ongoing issues where their needs are for clear communication and guidance.

This includes a growing number of asylum seekers from diverse nationalities who are drawn to the essential services we provide. These include:

- **Free SIM Cards with Data**: Offered to individuals on low incomes, enabling them to stay connected.
- **Regular English Classes**: Tailored for new arrivals and asylum seekers to support their integration and language development.

Addressing Homelessness

We have also witnessed an increase in the number of homeless individuals seeking support. Through our trained bilingual advisors, we assist them in accessing welfare and housing services, providing a pathway toward stability and dignity.

Fostering Social Connections and Job Readiness

Our weekly social gatherings provide a welcoming environment for women to connect, exchange experiences, and build supportive relationships. These gatherings also offer practical assistance with job applications, empowering participants to improve their employability and feel more integrated into the community.

Access to Mainstream Services and Digital Support

We help individuals overcome barriers to accessing mainstream services by helping with:

- Digital tasks such as printing, photocopying, scanning, and translating documents.
- Reading and responding to official correspondence, ensuring clients can navigate complex processes confidently.
- Calling various welfare agencies and utilities companies.

Support with Debt and Utility Arrears

The rising cost of living has resulted in an increasing number of clients struggling with council tax, rent, and utility bill debts. Many receive threatening letters from landlords or utility providers, which can cause immense anxiety and confusion.

This is where SOCOPA plays a vital role:

- Our bilingual advisors assist clients in understanding and responding to these letters.
- We act as intermediaries, contacting landlords, local authorities, and utility companies on their behalf. On average, it takes 45 minutes to reach these agencies, which adds significant strain on our resources but remains a critical part of our service.
- Using our Salesforce CRM system, we work with clients one-on-one to develop personalized support plans, providing follow-up calls to ensure progress and resolution.

Breaking Down Barriers

Many of the individuals we support face significant challenges, including:

- Unfamiliarity with the Host Country: Struggling to navigate systems they are new to.
- Language Barriers: Making communication difficult.
- Digital Exclusion: Lack of access or knowledge to utilize digital tools.
- Lack of Confidence: Hesitation in approaching mainstream services.

Enhancing Our Impact Through Training and Strategic Communication

Recognizing the importance of showcasing our work and engaging effectively on social media, we sought support to enhance our digital presence. With funding from Lloyds Foundation and guidance from their regional manager, we were connected with a consultancy that helped us develop a comprehensive communication strategy.

Through this partnership:

- Training: Six members of our team, including staff, trustees, and volunteers, received in-depth training on leveraging social media platforms.

- Outcomes: As a result, we have significantly improved our social media presence, created impactful content, and developed messaging templates to ensure consistent and engaging communication.

Building Skills to Serve Our Community

To better meet the needs of our clients, we have invested in the professional development of our staff and volunteers by offering training in critical areas, including:

- Welfare and Benefits Support: Empowering our team to provide guidance on complex welfare issues.
- Counselling and Mental Health Support: Equipping them with skills to address the emotional and psychological needs of vulnerable individuals.
- Safeguarding: Ensuring the safety and well-being of vulnerable adults and children in our community.

Addressing Housing Challenges

Many of our clients live in substandard private rental accommodations, facing issues such as:

- Damp and Mould: Poorly maintained homes that negatively impact tenants' health and well-being.
- High Energy Costs: The expense of heating these homes in winter disproportionately affects low-income tenants and those relying on benefits, such as Universal Credit.

In response, we have partnered with Green Doctor Charity, an organization committed to improving home energy efficiency and comfort. This collaboration allows us to:

- Refer Clients for Home Visits: Green Doctor representatives provide practical advice and assistance during these visits.
- Distribute Warm Packs and Energy-Efficient Lighting: These resources help reduce costs and improve living conditions for tenants.

Our Commitment

Through these initiatives, we continue to demonstrate our dedication to improving the quality of life for our clients. By investing in staff and volunteer training, building strategic partnerships, and addressing critical housing issues, we strive to empower individuals and foster a more resilient and inclusive community.

ESOL/ English Classes - sparking learning from arrival – bridging the gap

SOCOPA Friday afternoon 2pm ESOL class is effective time for men who take Friday as their day of rest. From employment on a casual or temporary basis (delivery /taxi /warehousing) - perhaps the only time they can attend a class. From the first it presents as a Beginners class but by using video / dialogue / native speakers and graduated materials the class has something for everybody.

But for asylum seekers 2pm Friday class has become the vital first step in connecting with their host society as we now receive asylum seekers within a few days of them arriving in Leicester – current students recommend the class where there are teachers and 1:1 conversation practice and provision of a subsidised text book (on payment of half cost) with a learn-at-home app access and teacher-led reinforcement. The average time in the class 8 – 10 weeks for asylum seekers who are moved away from Leicester; others who live in Leicester longer come weekly over the course of many months and attend an average of 36 classes a year. However, few leave the 2pm Friday Whatsapp group on which teachers send up to date videos with simple English practice and reinforce the Friday lesson even when they live in another city!

Main current attendees 35 students – 40% Sudanese, 25% Iranian, 10 % Afghan, 10% Yemeni, 15% v other African and Middle Eastern nationalities.

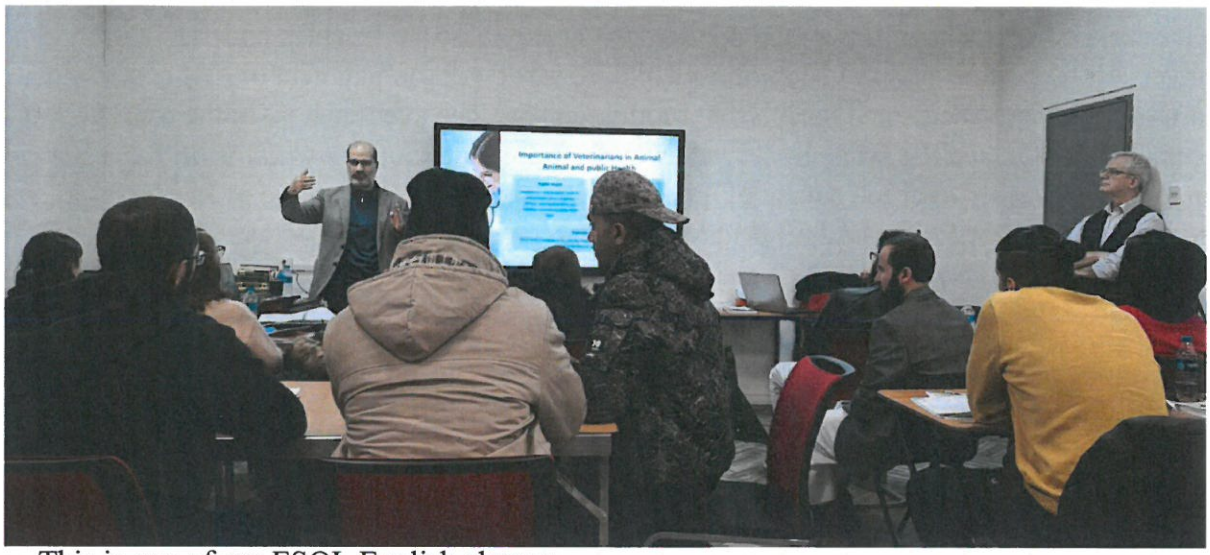
Women also attend the class (women who work on other days, who attend other classes but welcome the practice and the welcome).

Wednesday and Thursday morning classes attract more women from East African communities, Iranians, Afghans who are not yet accessing classes as well as men from the Friday class who have time to attend.

Community - water, fruit and biscuits complement the learning as well as access to the Drop-in Centre staff's expertise in common problems – this class creates community for a population which knows little welcome. Our accurate recordkeeping recognised by local agencies and job centres – providing a service that WhatsApp recommendations for extra learning include articles, reinforcement

Small group class for illiterate women (those who have never had literacy in their own language and those who have not started to speak or write in English at all). Slow painstaking progress with our volunteers.

From the start our aim is to get people into mainstream classes where they will flourish and we maintain records and advocate for them to access other classes – attending registration days, encouraging attendance at assessments, checking on progress. In this we partner with other organisations – Leicester Adult Education, Leicester College, TREC and Open Hands English classes.



This is one of our ESOL English classes.

In August 2024 we have seen particular success in helping 8 Somali women leave the 'safety' of Somali community-run ESOL classes to join mainstream classes and learn alongside other nationalities and majority native speakers. The previous year's cohort 4 students were the forerunners and 3 of these are now accessing mainstream classes at both Leicester College and Open Hands and are well on the way to competent English speaking and having greater employment opportunities.Practice with native speakers is something we want to foster more by encouraging increasing numbers of volunteers to come for chat lessons.



Asylum seekers ESOL English class.

Support families with SEN children

Most weeks five staff hours are spent with specific and professional advice for families with SEN children helping them navigate the pathways to support helping them to work with an alongside professional bodies apply for EHCP, choose right schools, set up effective communication and relationship between parent and school.

Community Family Events & Volunteer Training

During the Easter break of 2023, SOCOPA hosted a series of family community events, fostering a spirit of unity and celebration among community members. These events were complemented by targeted training sessions for our volunteers, focusing on community organizing. This dual approach has enabled us to strengthen our community engagement and enhance the effectiveness of our initiatives, such as the Hiddo group and the SOCOPA Youth Programme.



Educational Initiatives

The continuation of our science program signifies SOCOPA's commitment to educational excellence. Our young volunteers have been instrumental in leading science club sessions, where participants engage in experiments and presentations that unravel the complexities of science in a fun and accessible manner.



Tuition/Science

Maths and English Classes

Our regular tuition classes in Maths and English are an essential component of our educational program. These classes focus on improving students' skills in these core subjects, catering to diverse abilities to ensure each student receives personalized support and opportunities for growth.

Community Language and Cultural Programs

We also offer community language classes alongside cultural arts programs, including folklore dances, tailored for children and young people within our community. These programs aim to preserve cultural heritage and encourage creative expression among the younger generation.

Comprehensive Science Tuition

Collaborative Sessions with Researchers: *Through partnerships with researchers from Leicester and Cambridge University, we provide students with the chance to engage in scientific research and explore advanced methodologies. These sessions are crucial in cultivating a hands-on, in-depth understanding of scientific concepts and principles.*



Overall Impact

The relaunched SOCOPA Youth Programme stands as a beacon of youth empowerment and community development. The structure, funding, and awards highlight its success and the profound impact it has on the youth. By offering a range of activities and fostering an environment of learning and growth, the program not only enhances the physical and mental well-being of its participants but also instils in them values such as teamwork, discipline, and leadership. The program's ability to cater to different age groups with varied interests further amplifies its inclusivity and appeal within the community.



Cultural Celebrations & Health Initiatives

The Somali Festival in Leicester was yet again a centrepiece event, showcasing Somali culture and heritage, and strengthening connections within the diaspora. Additionally, our Mind Body Soul events have brought health professionals into the heart of our community, facilitating invaluable networking and support among NHS members, mental health services, and charity organizations.



Community Support Groups

SOCOPA has initiated fathers' and mothers' coffee mornings, providing vital social spaces for community members to connect and support each other. These gatherings, along with our continued support for the elderly through the distribution of warm blankets and heat pads, underscore our holistic approach to community well-being.

Hiddo Group's Cultural Contribution



Hiddo Events: SOCOPA Hiddo is a group of mothers in the community who have got together and have concluded that one of the biggest issues we face today as a community is

they younger generations are losing touch with the culture and heritage. They focus specifically on mothers and girls, doing their cultural events where they invite mothers and girls to come together, eat, socialise, and do traditional dancing. Cultural Performances: The Hiddo Group's participation in events like the Babington school culture day (20/03/2023) plays a vital role in celebrating and preserving Somali culture within the community. Their performances are not just entertaining but also educational, offering insights into Somali traditions and heritage.

Plans for future periods

Barriers: SOCOPA is at the heart of overcrowded St Matthew's, a distinct neighbourhood close to Leicester city centre but cut off from it by major roads. The area is diverse but predominantly of

Somali origin. Overcrowding is a serious issue: 15% of households have a density of 1.5 people per room compared with 3% in Leicester and 1% in England as a whole. 65% of the population of St. Matthew's is typically employed in lower skilled jobs or has not worked at all, compared with 42% in Leicester and 30% in England as a whole.

Current facilities: Our one-roomed office at the Quba Centre doubles up as a training and meeting room (we have occasional access to another large room). We have neither reception nor kitchen nor toilet facilities but share with other tenants in the building. We regularly rent space in the council-run neighbourhood centre and in other venues across St Matthew's but this both increases staff and facilities costings and limits our activities.

Requirements:

- A reception area where advice clients and other visitors can wait in comfort rather than being turned away because of confidentiality.
- A good-sized room to meet clients in confidence.
- 2 training/ teaching rooms each large enough to hold up to 20 students (ideally these rooms could convert to one large room for larger gatherings and community events)
- A good-sized community kitchen and eating area for up to 20 people.
- A creche that can support childcare provision if parents are accessing support or attending meetings.
- Monitored washroom facilities.
- Disabled access

Research into mental health problems and trauma arising from war and refugee status, development work with education and health professionals to enable them to support school children and adults more effectively at risk from trauma and related health problems targeted youth provision to address educational underachievement and other youth problems identified as well as working with new arrivals, refugees and asylum seekers who need support with settling in to life in Leicester.

There are current issues regarding violent crimes within the community that we are hoping to establish root causes of these problems. To address this, we are planning on strengthening family relationships by bridging the cultural gaps between Parents who have immigrated from abroad and the youth that were born and raised here in the UK.

Structure, Governance and Management

Somali Community Parents Association was registered as a charity in February 2009 and converted to a Charitable Incorporation Organisation (CIO) on 24 June 2013.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

The Trustees are charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the charity model constitution. Under the requirements of the constitution the trustees are appointed for a period of three years after which they must be re-appointed at the annual General Meeting. Trustees seeks to ensure that Trustees body includes people with knowledge and experience of working with communities.

Trustee induction and Training

Somali Community Parents Association CIO has a Board of 4 members who meet quarterly and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. The Board has an established project advisory working group which meets when required. A scheme of delegation is in place and the day-to-day management of the charity rests with the senior management team, volunteers, and Sessional workers. The Chief Executive is responsible for ensuring the sound management and monitoring of the activities and programmes and reporting to the trustees and funders and financial management.

Volunteers

We are grateful for the many hours' volunteers have spent listening and encouraging the parents and young people and working with our workers. Without their time, energy, and expertise we would not have been able to achieve so much; as an organization we appreciate their valuable contribution. Our strengths lie in our volunteer's support, parent's involvement, and community participation. We have a team that monitors grants that are available, fundraise and aid SOCOPA in drafting grant proposals. We now have 13 volunteers in our different programmes that have contributed their valuable time and skills to support our work that we do for the community.

Financial Review

The trustees present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024. The board of trustees are satisfied with the performance of the charity during the year and the position on 31st March 2024 and consider that the charity is in a strong position to continue its activities during the coming year, and that the charity's assets are adequate to fulfil its obligations. The charity will continue to seek further funding to deliver its objects.

Reserves policy

The charity reserves policy is to hold six to twelve months operating expenses in unrestricted funds. It is felt this level of reserves is necessary because it can often take many months for grant applications to be processed. The trustees have established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets (free reserves) held by the charity should be between 6 and 12 months of the resources expended, which equates to £35,000 to £55,000 in general funds. At this level the Trustees feel that they would be able to continue current activities of the charity in the event of a significant drop in funding.

Investment Policy

The charity does not produce a sufficient surplus to invest, as priority must be given to building our unrestricted reserves.

We have expanded significantly to develop a strong income stream from Trusts, foundations, and our members. We are developing range of unrestricted income venue hire, and donations are a significant contribution to our development. We have put in place a range of methods to ensure we can continue to obtain further income from the private sector, individuals, and grant-making institutions.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which SOCOPA is exposed and are satisfied that those systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Investment Policy The charity does not produce a sufficient surplus to invest, as priority must be given to building our unrestricted reserves.

The trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining the free reserves at the levels stated above will give sound resources in the event of the adverse conditions. In order minimize our fixed costs we started delivering some our major programmes and activities at St Matthews Neighbourhood Centre which is a shared space owned by the Leicester City Council. During the Covid-19 pandemic, we had to review our risk assessment policy and adopt the central and local government guidelines, implementing social distancing, face masking and hand equipment sanitisation.

Approved by the Management Committee and signed on its behalf by

Trustee sign: _____

Date: 12 - 12 - 2024

Independent Examiner's Report

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SOMALI COMMUNITY PARENTS ASSOCIATION C.I.O.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Somali Community Parents Association C.I.O ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('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 2011 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

3. the financial statements do 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.

SHABBEER AHMED LORGAT (AFA MIPA, ACPA, CIMA Dip MA)
Independent Examiner

For and on behalf of Shabbeer & Co Limited
62 Harringworth Road, LEICESTER, LE5 6TL

Date: 12 December 2024

Financial Statements Year Ending 31st March 2024

SOMALI COMMUNITY PARENTS ASSOCIATION C.I.O.
(SOCOPA)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Incoming Resources					
Donations, legacies and Grants	2	50,511	64,555	115,066	80,749
Other income		-	-	-	21
Total incoming resources		50,511	64,555	115,066	80,770
Resources expended					
Costs of activities in furtherance of charitable objects	3	34,295	48,046	82,341	75,261
Premises costs	3	3,413	4,781	8,194	9,745
Management and administration	3	8,371	11,728	20,099	12,810
Total resources expended		46,079	64,555	110,634	97,816
Net incoming resources		4,432	0	4,432	(17,046)
Total funds brought forward		101,647	-	101,647	118,693
Total funds carried forward		106,079	- 0	106,079	101,647

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes		2024		2023
			£		£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	5		360		-
Current Assets					
Debtors		9,861		153	
Cash at bank and in hand		141,750		112,731	
		151,611		112,884	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year					
Creditors : Short Term		(4,864)		(1,100)	
Deferred Revenue		(41,027)		(10,137)	
		(45,891)		(11,237)	
Net current assets			**105,719**		**101,647**
Total assets less current liabilities			**106,079**		**101,647**
Funds					
Unrestricted funds			106,079		101,647
			106,079		**101,647**

Approved by the Board of the Charity Trustees on 12-12-2024 and signed on their behalf:

.....

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act.

1.2 Going Concern

The charity is mainly reliant upon donations and grant income to raise revenue to meet future expenditure. The Trustees consider that it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis. This assumes that the charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) will be successful in its fundraising activities. The financial statements do not include any adjustments that would result if insufficient funds are raised. In formulating this assessment the Trustees have taken into consideration the impact of the global cost of living crisis on the charity's ability to raise funds.

1.3 Taxation

As a charity, Somali Community Parents Association CIO (SOCOPA) is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act or s256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

1.4 Incoming Resources

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity, it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured.

Income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.

1. 5 Fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life. The following rates and methods are used:

Plant & Equipment: 25% straight line
Fixtures & Fittings: 25% straight line
IT Equipment: 25% straight line

All equipment, fixtures, and fittings with an original cost of less than £400 are written off in the year in which the expenditure was incurred. This is based on the principle that due to the nature of SOCOPA's activities, there is no expectation that the cost of these assets will be recovered through future revenues.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.5 Resources expended

Expenditure is recognized once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

2. Donations, legacies and grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Leiecester Adult Education (Multiply)	31,500	-	31,500	6,000
Awards for All	-	2,639	2,639	7,778
Barnados	1,000	-	1,000	1,024
Big Issue Invest	-	5,000	5,000	15,000
Community Matters Foundation	-	2,863	2,863	8,870
Covid 19 Grants	-	-	-	10,000
General Donations and Sundry Income	330	-	330	3,577
Good Things Foundation	1,000	-	1,000	-
Leicester City Council Grants	-	-	-	6,000
Leicestershire and Rutland Community Foundation	-	19,976	19,976	18,311
Lloyds Bank Foundation	10,417	-	10,417	-
Positive Youth Foundation	3,333	-	3,333	1,250
Reaching Community	-	21,611	21,611	-
Sphere Science	2,931	-	2,931	2,960
Street Games UK	-	9,966	9,966	-
Voluntary Action Leicester	-	2,500	2,500	-
	50,511	**64,555**	**115,066**	**80,770**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
3. Analyses of resources expended				
Costs of activities in furtherance of charitable objects				
Employment costs				
Gross wages and salaries	25,256	35,383	60,639	53,103
Casual staff	6,710	9,401	16,111	12,267
Staff training and welfare	806	1,129	1,935	1,951
Chartable expenditure	-	-	-	515
Events	35	49	84	-
Facilities hire	1,488	2,085	3,573	7,426
	34,295	48,046	82,341	75,261
Premises costs				
Rent	3,315	4,645	7,960	7,040
General and water rates	28	39	67	134
Repairs and renewals	70	97	167	2,572
	3,413	4,781	8,194	9,745
Management and administration				
Bank charges	48	67	115	86
Computer and software	241	337	578	1,092
Depreciation	26	36	61	-
Insurance	193	270	463	459
Legal and professional fees	5,255	7,362	12,617	5,957
Miscellaneous	753	1,055	1,809	2,566
Motor vehicle expenses	46	64	110	-
Printing and stationery	212	298	511	1,042
Subscriptions	-	-	-	101
Telephone and internet	292	409	702	892
Travelling, hotels and accommodation	1,305	1,829	3,134	615
	8,371	11,728	20,099	12,810

SOMALI COMMUNITY PARENTS ASSOCIATION (SOCOPA)

England & Wales - Charity number 1152565

Accounts

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

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Trustees Annual report for the year ending 31st March 2023

The trustees, who are also known management committee prepares their annual report for the purposes of Charity Commission law, and the independently examined financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2023.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name: Somali Community Parents Association CIO (SOCOPA)

Charity registered Number: 1152565

Registered Office and Operational Office

19 Brunswick Street
Leicester
LE1 2LP

Trustee Board:

1. Mr Jama Mohamoud Chairman
2. Mr Farhan Ali Treasurer
3. Mr Noor Hussein Secretary
4. Mrs Ubah Egal-Mullon Trustee

Senior Management Team:

1. Mr Abdikayf Bashir Farah Chief Executive

Bankers HSBC Bank
2-6 Gallowtree Gate
Leicester LE1 1DA

Independent Examiners
Shabbeer & Co Limited
62 Harringworth Road Leicester LE5 6TL

Aims and objectives.

For any charitable purpose for people primarily from Somalia now living in the UK particularly Leicester, Leicestershire and people living in Somalia, in particular but not exclusively by:

(a) The advancement of education.

(b) The relief of financial need, unemployment, and sickness; and welfare with the object of improving their conditions of life.

(c) The provision of facilities for recreation or leisure time occupation in the interest of social welfare with the object of improving their conditions of life.

SOCOPA is a charitable Incorporated Organisation based in Leicester. It is established to provide community-based services and give support to the Somali community (BME) in the UK and the people living in Somalia. It engages with children and young people which provides them with study support, after school activities, recreational programmes such as table tennis and football. It also provides language classes for adults (ESOL) who have language barriers by working with local colleges such as Leicester Adults Education, Leicester College and recruiting volunteers who can teach English language more culturally appropriate. We also provide bilingual support, pre-employment support, advice and information, counselling, and family mediation through our drop sessions on daily basis.

We also support fathers to be actively involved in their children's education and development.

We provide advice and assistance to families to improve their living standards and cope with the difficulties that come from being unemployed and on low income.

We provide support and assistance to parents and young people who are isolated or have difficulty in accessing services. We encourage family cohesion through workshops and disseminating information. We encourage parents to be actively involved in their children's education. We initiate and give the community the opportunity to develop youth provisions and positive attitudes that promote integration

Achievements and Performance

SOCOPA drop-in support.

Our drop-in support sessions, open to the community Monday to Wednesday from 10 AM to 2:30 PM, provide essential practical support and advice on various issues. Specializing in bilingual assistance, we help with phone calls, letters, form completion, and benefits management. This year, we've augmented our team with two female staff members, serving a remarkable *642* clients, a significant increase from last year's 361, with a noteworthy 70% female clientele. This growth underscores our vital role in the community.

SOCOPA youth Programme

Relaunch and Organizational Structure

The SOCOPA Youth Programme experienced a significant relaunch, spearheaded by a team of dynamic young individuals who took an initiative-taking approach in restructuring the program. This relaunch was marked by the establishment of key roles within the team, including a treasurer, chairperson, head of disciplinary, and head of roles. Such a structured approach demonstrates the program's commitment to organizational efficiency and youth leadership development.

Sponsorship and Funding

A notable achievement of the relaunched programme was securing sponsorship from Sytner Group, recognized as the largest company in Leicester. This sponsorship was a significant endorsement, reflecting the program's credibility and the value it brings to the community. Additionally, the program received funding from the Violence Reduction Network and BBC Children in Need. These financial supports underscore the program's contribution to societal well-being and youth development.

Peak Attendance and Awards

The program reached a peak attendance of 60 participants, indicating its popularity and the positive impact it has on the community. It was honoured with the AAA Foundation award for the best sports group in Leicestershire, a testament to its excellence in sports and youth engagement.



Qualifications and Activities

Participants of the program achieved Level 2 qualifications in multi-sports, reflecting the program's emphasis on providing quality education and skill development. The program is meticulously scheduled to cater to different age groups, with activities taking place every Saturday from two to four. The younger kids, aged 8 to 12, start with an hour of football followed by table tennis and board games. In the second hour, these activities are switched for the older kids, aged 13 to 17, providing them with football and then moving to table tennis and board games. This structured yet diverse approach ensures that all age groups are engaged and benefit from both physical and mental stimulating activities.

Overall Impact

The relaunched SOCOPA Youth Programme stands as a beacon of youth empowerment and community development. The structure, funding, and awards highlight its success and the profound impact it has on the youth. By offering a range of activities and fostering an environment of learning and growth, the program not only enhances the physical and mental well-being of its participants but also instils in them values such as teamwork, discipline, and leadership. The program's ability to cater to different age groups with varied interests further amplifies its inclusivity and appeal within the community.

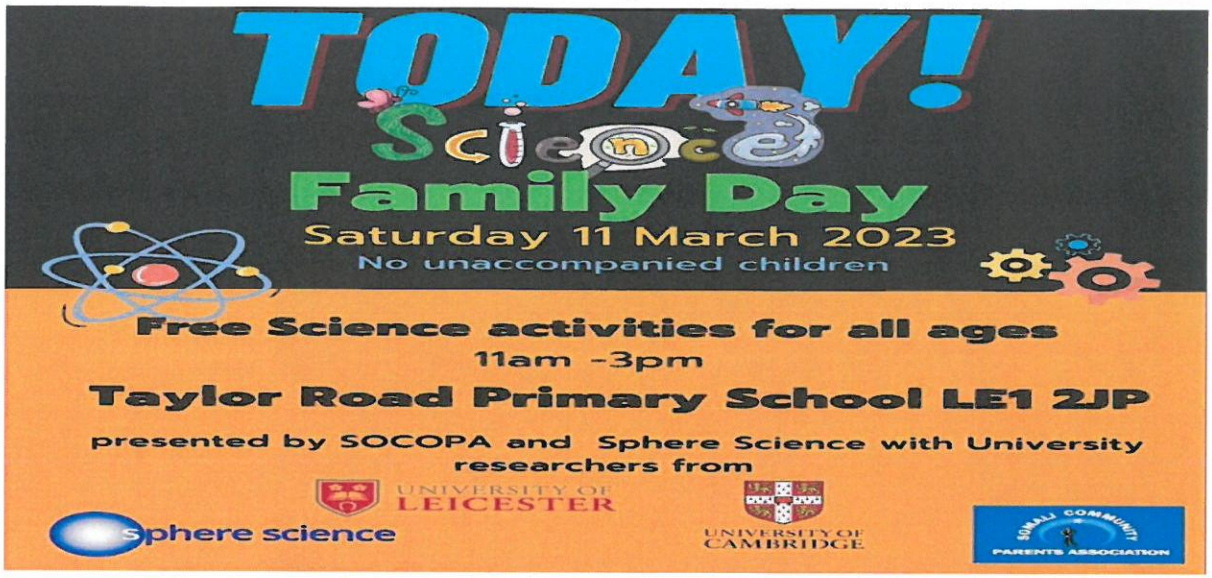
Tuition/Science

Maths and English Classes

These regular tuition classes in Maths and English form an essential part of the educational program. They focus on enhancing students' skills in these fundamental subjects, catering to a range of abilities to ensure each student receives targeted support and development

Comprehensive Science Tuition

Collaborative Sessions with Researchers: Partnering with researchers from Leicester and Cambridge University, these sessions offer students a unique opportunity to delve into scientific research and methodologies. This initiative is pivotal in fostering a practical and in-depth understanding of scientific principles.



Science Family Day : An integral part of the science tuition, this event allowed children attending the science classes to demonstrate their learning. It displayed the effective application of scientific concepts acquired in their classes.

Additional Science Activities: These activities, designed to complement the formal tuition, provide direct learning experiences. They further enrich students' understanding and enthusiasm for science, making the subject more accessible and engaging.

Family Activities

The organisation has been instrumental in hosting a variety of family activities, encompassing cultural events, educational trips, and community support initiatives. These activities are crucial in enhancing family bonds, cultural awareness, and community well-being.

Easter Holiday Activities

Seasonal Celebrations: The organization planned special activities during the Easter holidays, providing a platform for families to come together and celebrate. These activities included a mix of fun, educational, and creative engagements suitable for all ages, fostering a sense of community and shared joy.

Trip to Dixon Farm

Educational Excursion: This trip offered families a unique opportunity to experience farm life, learn about agriculture, and understand the origins of their food. Such trips are instrumental in educating children and adults alike about nature, sustainability, and rural life.

Gardening Projects

Community Gardening: Initiatives like the gardening project on Crafton Street green space and the December 2022 gardening activity with children and families promote environmental awareness and community involvement. These projects provide firsthand experience in sustainable practices and foster a sense of responsibility and stewardship for the environment.

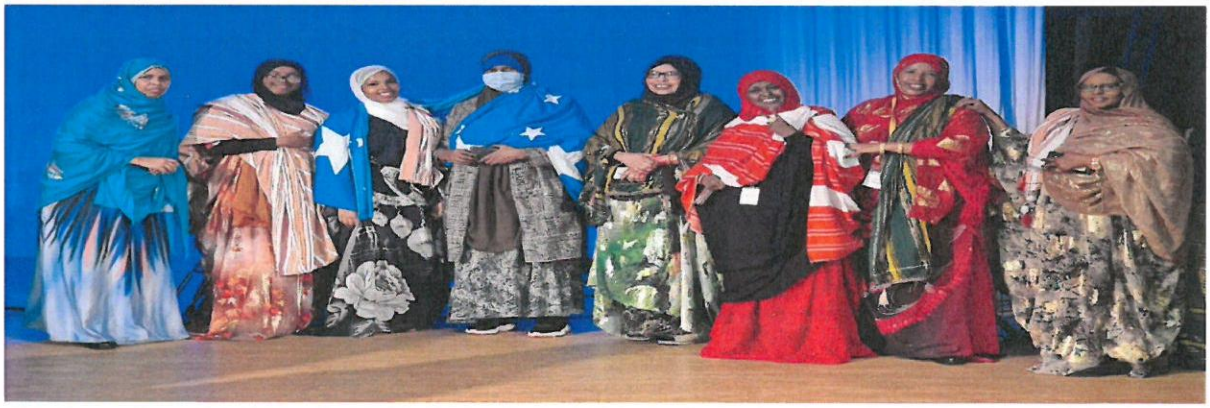


Engagement and Learning: Gardening activities are not just about planting; they are opportunities for intergenerational learning and engagement, teaching valuable skills and promoting physical and mental well-being.

Warm Packs for Elders

Support and Comfort: The distribution of warm packs, including heated throw blankets and radiator heat reflectors, was a thoughtful initiative to support the elderly during colder months. It reflects the organization's commitment to the well-being of all community members, especially the most vulnerable.Holistic Care: The event also featured advice from Help the Aged, offering insights on staying warm and healthy. This holistic approach to elder care is commendable, as it addresses both physical comfort and overall well-being.

Hiddo Group's Cultural Contribution



Hiddo Events: SOCOPA Hiddo is a group of mothers in the community who have got together and have concluded that one of the biggest issues we face today as a community is they younger generations are losing touch with the culture and heritage. They focus specifically on mothers and girls, doing their cultural events where they invite mothers and girls to come together, eat, socialise, and do traditional dancing. Cultural Performances: The Hiddo Group's participation in events like the Babington school culture day (20/03/2023) plays a vital role in celebrating and preserving Somali culture within the community. Their performances are not just entertaining but also educational, offering insights into Somali traditions and heritage.

Somali Festival (28-29 Oct 2022): Cultural Celebration: This festival was a major event for the community, displaying Somali culture through music, dance, food, and arts. It provided a platform for families to connect with their heritage and for others to learn about and appreciate Somali culture.

Inclusivity and Integration: The festival's inclusive nature promoted a sense of belonging and unity within the community, encouraging participation from diverse backgrounds and fostering mutual respect and understanding.

Through these varied activities, the organization has successfully created opportunities for family bonding, cultural exchange, community support, and environmental stewardship. These initiatives reflect a deep commitment to nurturing familial relationships, celebrating diversity, and enhancing the quality of life within the community.

Partnerships

SOCOPA has established several significant partnerships to enhance its community impact. These collaborations span various sectors, including education, law, policing, international relations, and health. Each partnership is characterized by a mutual commitment to supporting the community, particularly focusing on immigrant families and youth.

Freeths Collaboration

SOCOPA partnered with Freeths, a law firm, to revitalize its office space. This partnership involved painting the office in a refreshing light blue colour, symbolizing a rejuvenation of the community space, and highlighting the support from local businesses.

Refugee Welcome Schools Initiative

In a significant educational endeavour, SOCOPA collaborated with 13 schools across the county to become accredited as refugee-welcome schools. This initiative demonstrates a commitment to creating an inclusive and supportive environment for refugee students and their families, fostering a sense of belonging and community integration.

Collaboration with Police Forces

SOCOPA's engagement with local police forces, particularly the visit from Chief Constable Rob Nixon, signifies a strong relationship with law enforcement. This partnership is crucial in building trust within the community, addressing safety concerns, and fostering a collaborative environment for addressing community issues.

Partnership with East Africa University

The involvement of the Governor and Vice Governor of East Africa University Bossaso in SOCOPA's activities highlights a significant international partnership. This connection provides a vital link to educational resources and cultural exchange, benefiting both the local and the East African communities.

Mind Body Soul Collaboration

The Mind Body Soul initiative underscores SOCOPA's focus on holistic well-being. This partnership involves activities or programs aimed at promoting mental, physical, and spiritual health within the community, addressing the diverse needs of its members.

Somali Diaspora Drought Response

In response to the Somali drought crisis, SOCOPA collaborated with Global Somali Diaspora for the Somali Diaspora Drought Response. This partnership involved online fundraising and community mobilization, reflecting SOCOPA's commitment to global humanitarian efforts and its strong ties with the Somali diaspora.

Parenting Program with Centre for Fun and Families and Dr. Fadumo Osman

A cornerstone of SOCOPA's family support services, this partnership focuses on delivering parenting programs in association with the Centre for Fun and Families. Dr. Fadumo Osman, a world leader in

parenting programs for first-generation immigrants, plays a pivotal role. These programs are tailored to address the unique challenges faced by immigrant families, particularly those adjusting to dual-cultural living and raising children in an unfamiliar environment.

Each of these partnerships illustrates SOCOPA's multifaceted approach to community support and development. By collaborating with a diverse range of organizations and experts, SOCOPA enhances its ability to address the varied needs of its community, particularly focusing on immigrant families and youth

Awards Won

Yahye Abdi - Leicestershire Charity Employee of the Year (17/11/2023)

Yahye Abdi's significant contributions to charity work in Leicestershire were recognized with this prestigious award. This achievement underscores the impactful work and dedication of individuals within the organization.

Inspirational Community Mentor Awards for the Whole SOCOPA Youth Programme (27/11/2023)

The entire SOCOPA Youth Programme was honoured with the Inspirational Community Mentor Awards. This accolade highlights their status as the top sports group in Leicestershire, acknowledging their exceptional mentoring and positive influence on the community.

ITV News Coverage of the Parenting Programme

Overview of Coverage: ITV's Central News conducted interviews with graduates of SOCOPA's recent parenting course for a good news story at St Matthew's Neighbourhood Centre. This media attention displays the program's success and impact.

Details of the Parenting Programme: The course, titled "Living with Teenagers," was conducted in association with the Centre for Fun (CFF) and facilitated by bilingual instructors. It aimed to address challenges faced by families experiencing dual culture living, particularly those adjusting from a nomadic lifestyle to raising children in Leicester.

Impact on Participants: One of the mothers who attended the course shared her transformative experience. She learned the importance of being specific in communication, leading to improved relationships with her children and reduced stress. This testimonial highlights the course's effectiveness in fostering positive family dynamics.

Plans for future periods

Barriers: SOCOPA is at the heart of overcrowded St Matthew's, a distinct neighbourhood close to Leicester city centre but cut off from it by major roads. The area is diverse but predominantly of

Somali origin. Overcrowding is a serious issue: 15% of households have a density of 1.5 people per room compared with 3% in Leicester and 1% in England as a whole. 65% of the population of St. Matthew's is typically employed in lower skilled jobs or has not worked at all, compared with 42% in Leicester and 30% in England as a whole.

Current facilities: Our one-roomed office at the Quba Centre doubles up as a training and meeting room (we have occasional access to another large room). We have neither reception nor kitchen nor toilet facilities but share with other tenants in the building. We regularly rent space in the council-run neighbourhood centre and in other venues across St Matthew's but this both increases staff and facilities costings and limits our activities.

Requirements:

- A reception area where advice clients and other visitors can wait in comfort rather than being turned away because of confidentiality.
- A good-sized room to meet clients in confidence.
- 2 training/ teaching rooms each large enough to hold up to 20 students (ideally these rooms could convert to one large room for larger gatherings and community events)
- A good-sized community kitchen and eating area for up to 20 people.
- A creche that can support childcare provision if parents are accessing support or attending meetings.
- Monitored washroom facilities.
- Disabled access

Research into mental health problems and trauma arising from war and refugee status, development work with education and health professionals to enable them to support school children and adults more effectively at risk from trauma and related health problems targeted youth provision to address educational underachievement and other youth problems identified as well as working with new arrivals, refugees and asylum seekers who need support with settling in to life in Leicester.

There are current issues regarding violent crimes within the community that we are hoping to establish root causes of these problems. To address this, we are planning on strengthening family relationships by bridging the cultural gaps between Parents who have immigrated from abroad and the youth that were born and raised here in the UK.

Structure, Governance and Management

Somali Community Parents Association was established in 2005 and registered as a charity in February 2009 and converted to a Charitable Incorporation Organisation (CIO) on 24 June 2013.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

The Trustees are charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the charity model constitution. Under the requirements of the constitution the trustees are appointed for a period of three years after which they must be re-appointed at the annual General Meeting. Trustees seeks to ensure that Trustees body includes people with knowledge and experience of working with communities.

Trustee induction and Training

Somali Community Parents Association CIO has a Board of 4 members who meet quarterly and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. The Board has an established project advisory working group which meets when required. A scheme of delegation is in place and the day-to-day management of the charity rests with the senior management team, volunteers, and Sessional workers. The Chief Executive is responsible for ensuring the sound management and monitoring of the activities and programmes and reporting to the trustees and funders and financial management.

Volunteers

We are grateful for the many hours' volunteers have spent listening and encouraging the parents and young people and working with our workers. Without their time, energy, and expertise we would not have been able to achieve so much; as an organization we appreciate their valuable contribution. Our strengths lie in our volunteer's support, parent's involvement, and community participation. We have a team that monitors grants that are available, fundraise and aid SOCOPA in drafting grant proposals. We now have 13 volunteers in our different programmes that have contributed their valuable time and skills to support our work that we do for the community.

Financial Review

The trustees present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023. The board of trustees are satisfied with the performance of the charity during the year and the position on 31st March 2023 and consider that the charity is in a strong position to continue its activities during the coming year, and that the charity's assets are adequate to fulfil its obligations. The charity will continue to seek further funding to deliver its objects.

Reserves policy

The charity reserves policy is to hold six to twelve months operating expenses in unrestricted funds. It is felt this level of reserves is necessary because it can often take many months for grant applications to be processed. The trustees have established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets (free reserves) held by the charity should be between 6 and 12 months of the resources expended, which equates to £35,000 to £55,000 in general funds. At this level the Trustees feel that they would be able to continue current activities of the charity in the event of a significant drop in funding.

Investment Policy

The charity does not produce a sufficient surplus to invest, as priority must be given to building our unrestricted reserves.

We have expanded significantly to develop a strong income stream from Trusts, foundations, and our members. We are developing range of unrestricted income venue hire, and donations are a significant contribution to our development. We have put in place a range of methods to ensure we can continue to obtain further income from the private sector, individuals, and grant-making institutions.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which SOCOPA is exposed and are satisfied that those systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Investment Policy The charity does not produce a sufficient surplus to invest, as priority must be given to building our unrestricted reserves.

The trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining the free reserves at the levels stated above will give sound resources in the event of the adverse conditions. In order minimize our fixed costs we started delivering some our major programmes and activities at St Matthews Neighbourhood Centre which is a shared space owned by the Leicester City Council. During the Covid-19 pandemic, we had to review our risk assessment policy and adopt the central and local government guidelines, implementing social distancing, face masking and hand equipment sanitisation.

Approved by the Management Committee and signed on its behalf by

Trustee sign: Sama Date: 20/12/2023

Independent Examiner's Report

SOMALI COMMUNITY PARENTS ASSOCIATION C.I.O.
(SOCOPA)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SOMALI COMMUNITY PARENTS ASSOCIATION C.I.O.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Somali Community Parents
RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('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 2011 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

3. the financial statements do 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.

SHABBEER AHMED LORGAT (AFA MIPA, ACPA, CIMA Dip MA)
Independent Examiner

For and on behalf of Shabbeer & Co Limited

Date: 15 November 2023

Financial Statements Year Ending 31st March 2023

SOMALI COMMUNITY PARENTS ASSOCIATION C.I.O. (SOCOPA)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Incoming Resources					
Donations, legacies and Grants	2	30,790	49,959	80,749	94,204
Other income		21	-	21	-
Total incoming resources		30,811	49,959	80,770	94,204
Resources expended					
Costs of activities in furtherance of charitable objects	3	36,822	38,439	75,261	55,990
Premises costs	3	4,768	4,977	9,745	4,865
Management and administration	3	6,267	6,543	12,810	13,478
Total resources expended		47,857	49,959	97,816	74,332
Net incoming resources		(17,046)	-	(17,046)	19,871
Total funds brought forward		118,693	-	118,693	98,822
Total funds carried forward		101,647	-	101,647	118,693

SOMALI COMMUNITY PARENTS ASSOCIATION C.I.O. (SOCOPA)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Current Assets		
Prepayments	153	-
Cash at bank and in hand	112,731	118,693
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
Creditors : Short Term	(1,100)	-
Deferred Revenue	(10,137)	-
Current Assets less Current Liabilities:	**101,647**	118,693
Total Assets less Total Liabilities:	**101,647**	**118,693**
Funds		
Unrestricted funds	101,647	118,693
	101,647	**118,693**

Approved by the Board of the Charity trustees on 20/12/2023 and

signed: Sana.

SOMALI COMMUNITY PARENTS ASSOCIATION C.I.O.
(SOCOPA)

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

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act.

1.2 Going Concern

The charity is mainly reliant upon donations and grant income to raise revenue to meet future expenditure. The Trustees consider that it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis. This assumes that the charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) will be successful in its fundraising activities. The financial statements do not include any adjustments that would result if insufficient funds are raised. In formulating this assessment the Trustees have taken into consideration the impact of the global cost of living crisis on the charity's ability to raise funds.

1.3 Taxation

As a charity, Somali Community Parents Association CIO (SOCOPA) is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act or s256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

1.4 Incoming Resources

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity, it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured.

Income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.

SOMALI COMMUNITY PARENTS ASSOCIATION C.I.O.
(SOCOPA)

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.5 Resources expended

Expenditure is recognized once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

2. Donations, legacies and grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total	2022 Total £
Awards for All	-	7,778	7,778	-
Barnados	1,024	-	1,024	6,793
BBC Children In need	-	-	-	44,377
Big Issue Invest	-	15,000	15,000	-
Community Matters Foundation	-	8,870	8,870	-
Covid 19 Grants	10,000	-	10,000	5,000
General Donations and Sundry Income	3,577	-	3,577	4,762
Leicester City Council Grants	6,000	-	6,000	-
Leicester City Council Parenting Programme	-	-	-	5,000
Leicestershire and Rutland Community Foundation	-	18,311	18,311	-
Leicestershire Voluntary Reaching People	-	-	-	10,806
Multiply Maths Community	6,000	-	6,000	
Positive Youth Foundation	1,250	-	1,250	7,500
Sphere Science	2,960	-	2,960	-
Violent Reduction Network	-	-	-	9,966
	30,811	**49,959**	**80,770**	**94,204**

SOMALI COMMUNITY PARENTS ASSOCIATION C.I.O.
(SOCOPA)

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

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
3. Analyses of resources expended				
Costs of activities in furtherance of charitable objects				
Employment costs				
Gross wages and salaries	25,981	27,122	53,103	42,646
Casual staff	6,002	6,265	12,267	5,002
Staff training and welfare	954	996	1,951	1,650
Chartable donations	252	263	515	-
Events	-	-	-	600
Facilities hire	3,633	3,793	7,426	6,092
	36,822	38,439	75,261	55,990
Premises costs				
Rent	3,444	3,596	7,040	4,800
General and water rates	65	68	134	65
Repairs and renewals	1,258	1,313	2,572	-
	4,768	4,977	9,745	4,865
Management and administration				
Bank charges	42	44	86	30
Computer and software	534	558	1,092	1,108
Insurance	225	235	459	611
Legal and professional fees	2,915	3,043	5,957	4,629
Miscellaneous	1,255	1,311	2,566	-
Printing and stationery	510	532	1,042	1,797
Subscriptions	49	51	101	808
Telephone and internet	436	456	892	1,333
Travelling, hotels and accommodation	301	314	615	3,161
	6,267	6,543	12,810	13,478

SOMALI COMMUNITY PARENTS ASSOCIATION (SOCOPA)

England & Wales - Charity number 1152565

Accounts

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

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Trustees Annual report for the year ending 31st March 2022

The trustees, who are also known management committee prepares their annual report for the purposes of Charity Commission law, and the independently examined financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2022.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name: Somali Community Parents Association CIO (SOCOPA)

Charity registered Number: 1152565

Registered Office and Operational Office

19 Brunswick Street
Leicester
LE1 2LP

Trustee Board

Jama Mohamoud Chairman

Mr Farhan Ali Treasurer

Mr Noor Hussein Secretary

Mrs Ubah Egal-Mullon Trustee

Senior Management Team

Mr Abdikayf Bashir Farah Chief Executive

Bankers HSBC Bank
2-6 Gallowtree Gate
Leicester LE1 1DA

Independent Examiners
Shabbeer & Co Limited
62 Harringworth Road Leicester LE5 6TL

Aims and objectives

For any charitable purpose for people primarily from Somalia now living in the UK particularly Leicester, Leicestershire and people living in Somalia, in particular but not exclusively by:

(a) The advancement of education.

(b) The relief of financial need, unemployment, and sickness; and welfare with the object of improving their conditions of life.

(c) The provision of facilities for recreation or leisure time occupation in the interest of social welfare with the object of improving their conditions of life.

SOCOPA is a charitable Incorporated Organisation based in Leicester. It is established to provide community-based services and give support to the Somali community (BME) in the UK and the people living in Somalia. It engages with children and young people which provides them with study support, after school activities, recreational programmes such as table tennis and football. It also provides language classes for adults (ESOL) who have language barriers by working with local colleges such as Leicester Adults Education, Leicester College and recruiting volunteers who can teach English language more culturally appropriate. We also provide bilingual support, pre-employment support, advice and information, counselling, and family mediation through our drop sessions on daily basis.

We also support fathers to be actively involved in their children's education and development.

We provide advice and assistance to families to improve their living standards and cope with the difficulties that come from being unemployed and on low income.

We provide support and assistance to parents and young people who are isolated or have difficulty in accessing services. We encourage family cohesion through workshops and disseminating information. We encourage parents to be actively involved in their children's education. We initiate and give the community the opportunity to develop youth provisions and positive attitudes that promote integration

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Showing impact of our work: it is not straightforward for us to collect qualitative data from beneficiaries directly. As part of our drop-in work, we map connections with people by visit, by postcode and by frequency and nature of visit. We demonstrate best our impact through case studies – e.g., case studies of young people who have accessed our services and we have seen improvement in their performance at school, have comments from parents/ and or schools, seen an increase in motivation / aspiration and have evidence of appreciation of input. We have trialled recently some softer measures which indicate benefit traditionally used by charities to evidence their impact which looks at perceived benefit to wellbeing in terms which matches a Western viewpoint using such questions as: quote questions. Case study – using majority culture impact questionnaire With two isolated women (single, age bracket 55-60, new users to our service – recently not working due to increased lack of mobility following illness / repeated operations) who have walked under a mile to access services and were looking for economic support with input to provision in their flats, a bilingual support worker gently asked them if they would consider answering a questionnaire which would be used to measure the output of our services. They were advised that they might consider the questions invasive. Both are of an age which they consider to be old (within their home culture) within which they consider their life to be past and themselves to be old and not needing any longer to 'push themselves to take an active part in life'. This attitude springs from the different culture and can be challenged gently but impacts on mental attitudes to recovery from operations that in the host population are seen to be 'routine' and can be recovered from. Any research in Europe we can link to. This attitude is seen by our workers to impact negatively on people's attitudes (refusing to eat well/sensibly; exercise; work; engagement in social activities; withdrawal). Both responded to the questions as having no relevance to them or their situation: their perception was that these questions were suggesting that they could not cope with their lives (as Muslims their perception is that the condition of their lives is ordered by God, and they should submit to that) and traditionally acknowledging levels of stress or distress not only compromises their religious tenets but challenges traditionally held beliefs concerning mental health. One lady repeatedly said: "I have pain but that is what makes life difficult nothing else. I can cope with pain."

SOCOPA drop in session

In our drop-in service, we helped 1200 individuals with translation, letter writing, signposting, debts, and general information. We found that many of our clients were worried about their finances and isolated during drop-in sessions. Additionally, we noticed that people always talk about culture and heritage during waiting times because they felt familiar with the people around them, so we decided to host family cultural and heritage events that were a big hit with all ages. In addition to teaching the children about their culture, the mothers shared their skills in food, dancing, arts and crafts, and crocheting with other families.

Every other Monday, we hold coffee mornings for vulnerable and isolated women identified through the project. We identified issues facing our clients, including employment rights, housing law, internet safety, budgeting, understanding payslips, marriage counselling, health complications, and the importance of self-care, financing and debts, poor housing, mental health, and physical health. The project has greatly affected our clients, particularly those who frequently use our services.
As a result of cultural and heritage events and coffee mornings, individuals feel less isolated and part of a community. They have been sharing skills and teaching each other. Some of them have developed their time management and planning skills because of their involvement in the planning and running of cultural events. In addition to sharing their skill sets and teaching others, some of them have also facilitated sessions. It has become a more collaborative process as they come up with what workshops and events to run.

Supplementary School Homework support

Our supplementary school classes aim to give additional educational support to children within the Somali community, especially where the children of parent who feel like they struggle to support their children's education at home. The supplementary classes are funded by BBC Children In Need and Awards for All, and it has been great support for children who are from low-income families, refugees, new arrivals to enhance and complement their educational attainment. It has helped children to learn English, Maths, Science etc in an environment which is calm with the access of tutors', support, and supplementary learning resources. We have also identified and give support on a one-to-one basis to children with additional needs and their families.

We have 60 children that attend our regular classes, ranging from year 2 to year 11. With additional children receiving specialised English as a second language classes if needed. Our teachers assess the children based on their individual need and create extra classes when needed. Through these sessions we also identify children that may have extra educational needs or behavioural needs and book them in with their parent for a 1 on 1 with our volunteer SEN teacher where they can discuss the concerns and come up with a plan together for the child.

The solutions involve ongoing 1 on 1 sessions between the child and the SEN teacher.

Hiddo iyo Daqan

A group of Somali women in a parenting class formed a support group after realizing they shared a desire to pass on their culture and traditions to their children. They began meeting for events like raffia and basket making, and eventually formed the Hiddo iyo Dhaqan group, which has participated in events and performances to showcase their culture. These events have helped to build confidence and connections among the women and have provided a space for them to teach their children various skills and traditions.

Somali proverbs for our children



In spring and autumn terms weekly on a Saturday for our primary and secondary tuition group we spent 15 minutes of tuition time teaching Somali proverbs – it was great to see the kids interacting with their Somali heritage, exploring ideas from their roots and returning to tell their parents what they had learnt in the Somali language as well as in lessons engaging in some active and creative responses to the age-old proven wisdom of the nomad!

English Language Lessons for Adults

Our adult English lessons are run by volunteer native English speakers and run 30+ hours a week. These lessons are focused on giving English language classes to people within the community that do not qualify to get the lessons from local colleges and aim to get the speakers enrolled when they do qualify.

The tutors also build a good connection with the students and results in them sometimes asking for their help with letters they get sent (e.g benefits)

We have ongoing connections with Leicester Adult Education and local colleges to enrol our students on their courses.

70 Learners supported

SOCOPA Confidential Support



SOCOPA confidential is a completely confidential service that helps support people within the Somali community who suffer from drug addiction in a culturally appropriate way. We have established links with Masjid Quba, Masjid Uthaymeen and Somali Development Services for them to become referral partners to this new service and partners is bringing drug awareness as well as addiction awareness to the Somali Community.

To launch the service we held an event in collaboration with Masjid Quba. We invited agencies such as Spinney Hill Recovery, Turning Point, Leicestershire police and mental health agencies to talk to members in the community about their services.

Holiday activities and food



The Holiday activities and food programme was a 4-week programme where we delivered fun activities, sports, and meals for 4 hours, 4 days a week. The idea is to take some stress off families during the summer break in the for of providing childcare and one of their meals throughout the day.

We did activities such as basket weaving, clay making, Boxercise, Football, Badminton, and board games. The food we provided was sourced from the local business in the St Matthews area, mostly from a Somali restaurant but we also treat them to fast food.

Eid was on one of the days we were planning to run the session so we prepared Eid gifts and gift bags for the children.

In total 36 children attended

Acknowledgement

We are grateful for the dedication and the support our volunteers, Staff and Donors have given us and without their financial support, time, and expertise, it will have been impossible for us to reach out and support many socially disadvantaged families, children and young people. Who have taken part and received advice, material, and emotional support in different programs that we have delivered for our community and service users in very difficult time, that we all had to combat the pandemic Covid-19? which has affected us all indiscriminately, child, old, women and men, rich and poor.

This has been a test for us all and we have started to organise our community and create WhatsApp groups so we can stay connected virtually and continue giving emotional and material support to the members of our community who have lost their loved ones on this tragedy or got ill on this pandemic and must isolate themselves at home. we have offered them practical and emotional support such us aiding them with shopping/groceries, as well as how to access health care and get advice and support. We had to also supported them to apply for covid-19 grants and benefits virtually.

Plans for future periods

Barriers: SOCOPA is at the heart of overcrowded St Matthew's, a distinct neighbourhood close to Leicester city centre but cut off from it by major roads. The area is diverse but predominantly of

Somali origin. Overcrowding is a serious issue: 15% of households have a density of 1.5 people per room compared with 3% in Leicester and 1% in England as a whole. 65% of the population of St. Matthew's is typically employed in lower skilled jobs or has not worked at all, compared with 42% in Leicester and 30% in England as a whole.

Current facilities: Our one-roomed office at the Quba Centre doubles up as a training and meeting room (we have occasional access to another large room). We have neither reception nor kitchen nor toilet facilities but share with other tenants in the building. We regularly rent space in the council-run neighbourhood centre and in other venues across St Matthew's but this both increases staff and facilities costings and limits our activities.

Requirements:

- A reception area where advice clients and other visitors can wait in comfort rather than being turned away because of confidentiality
- A good-sized room to meet clients in confidence.
- 2 training/ teaching rooms each large enough to hold up to 20 students (ideally these rooms could convert to one large room for larger gatherings and community events)
- A good-sized community kitchen and eating area for up to 20 people.
- A creche that can support childcare provision if parents are accessing support or attending meetings
- Monitored washroom facilities
- Disabled access

Research into mental health problems and trauma arising from war and refugee status, development work with education and health professionals to enable them to support school children and adults more effectively at risk from trauma and related health problems targeted youth provision to address educational underachievement and other youth problems identified as well as working with new arrivals, refugees and asylum seekers who need support with settling in to life in Leicester.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Somali Community Parents Association was established in 2005 and registered as a charity in February 2009 and converted to a Charitable Incorporation Organisation (CIO) on 24 June 2013.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

The Trustees are charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the charity model constitution. Under the requirements of the constitution the trustees are appointed for a period of three years after which they must be re-appointed at the annual General Meeting. Trustees seeks to ensure that Trustees body includes people with knowledge and experience of working with communities.

Trustee induction and Training

Somali Community Parents Association CIO has a Board of 4 members who meet quarterly and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. The Board has an established project advisory working group which meets when required. A scheme of delegation is in place and the day-to-day management of the charity rests with the senior management team, volunteers, and Sessional workers. The Chief Executive is responsible for ensuring the sound management and monitoring of the activities and programmes and reporting to the trustees and funders and financial management.

Volunteers

We are grateful for the many hours' volunteers have spent listening and encouraging the parents and young people and working with our workers. Without their time, energy, and expertise we would not have been able to achieve so much; as an organization we appreciate their valuable contribution. Our strengths lie in our volunteer's support, parent's involvement, and community participation. We have a team that monitors grants that are available, fundraise and aid SOCOPA in drafting grant proposals. We now have 11 volunteers in our different programmes that have contributed their valuable time and skills to support our work that we do for the community.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The trustees present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021. The board of trustees are satisfied with the performance of the charity during the year and the position on 31st March 2021 and consider that the charity is in a strong position to continue its activities during the coming year, and that the charity's assets are adequate to fulfil its obligations. The charity will continue to seek further funding to deliver its objects.

Reserves policy

The charity reserves policy is to hold six to twelve months operating expenses in unrestricted funds. It is felt this level of reserves is necessary because it can often take many months for grant applications to be processed. The trustees have established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets (free reserves) held by the charity should be between 6 and 12 months of the resources expended, which equates to £25,000 to £35,000 in general funds. At this level the Trustees feel that they would be able to continue current activities of the charity in the event of a significant drop in funding.

Investment Policy

The charity does not produce a sufficient surplus to invest, as priority must be given to building our unrestricted reserves.

We have expanded significantly to develop a strong income stream from Trusts, foundations, and our members. We are developing range of unrestricted income venue hire, and donations are a significant contribution to our development. We have put in place a range of methods to ensure we can continue to obtain further income from the private sector, individuals, and grant-making institutions.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which SOCOPA is exposed and are satisfied that those systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Investment Policy The charity does not produce a sufficient surplus to invest, as priority must be given to building our unrestricted reserves.

The trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining the free reserves at the levels stated above will give sound resources in the event of the adverse conditions. In order minimize our fixed costs we started delivering some our major programmes and activities at St Matthews Neighbourhood Centre which is a shared space owned by the Leicester City Council. During the Covid-19 pandemic, we had to review our risk assessment policy and adopt the central and local government guidelines, implementing social distancing, face masking and hand equipment sanitisation.

Approved by the Management Committee and signed on its behalf by

Trustee: _____ Date: 04/12/2022

Independent Examiner's Report

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SOMALI COMMUNITY PARENTS ASSOCIATION CIO FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

I report on the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2022, which are set out on pages 6 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is required.

It is my responsibility to:

. examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
. to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145 (5) (b) of the Charities Act), and
. to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirement:
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Shabbeer Ahmed Lorgat AFA MIPA, ACPA, CIM Dip MA

Shabbeer & Co Limited
62 Harringworth Road
Leicester
LE5 6TL

Date: 04 December 2022

Receipts and Payments Accounts

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 March 2022

	Note	Restricted Funds	Total Mar-22	Total Mar-21
Receipts				
Donations and grants	4	94,204	94,204	114,428
Total receipts		94,204	94,204	114,428
Payments				
Audit and accountancy		414	414	525
Bank charges		30	30	-
Computer hardware and software expenses		1,108	1,108	6,885
Events and fund raising		600	600	1,000
Facilities hire		6,092	6,092	1,440
Grants expenditure		-	-	2,270
Insurance		611	611	-
Learning materials and photocopying		1,541	1,541	648
Legal and professional fees		3,865	3,865	2,983
Postage, printing and stationery		256	256	482
Publicity and web development		350	350	1,906
Rent, rates, heating and lighting		4,865	4,865	5,093
Repairs and renewals		-	-	3,664
Staff recruitment		-	-	33
Staff training and welfare		1,650	1,650	998
Subscriptions		808	808	158
Telephone and internet		1,333	1,333	594
Travel and subsistence		3,161	3,161	595
Volunteer's costs		1,900	1,900	2,950
Wages and NI		45,748	45,748	33,523
Total payments		74,332	74,332	65,747
Surplus/(deficit)		19,871	19,871	48,681
Total funds brought forward		98,822	98,822	50,141
Total funds carried forward		**118,693**	**118,693**	**98,822**

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 March 2022

	Mar-22 £	Mar-21 £
Monetary Assets		
HSBC	118,693	50,141
Petty Cash	-	-
Total monetary assets	**118,693**	**50,141**
Liabilities		
	-	-
	-	-
Net assets	**118,693**	**50,141**

Approved by the Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Date: 04/12/2022 Farhumah

1 . Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below

(a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared on a receipts and payments basis which summarises the movement of cash in and out of the organisation. In this context 'cash' includes cash equivalents, such as bank accounts where cash can be readily available to pay debts as they fall due. This format of accounts is available to non companies charities with gross annual income of £250,000 or less.

(b) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objective of the CIO.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the granting body.

(c) Incoming resource

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

(d) Resources expended

All expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

1. Trustee Remuneration and Related Party Transactions

No members of the Management Committee received any remuneration during the year.

No Trustee or other person related to the Charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered by charity during the year.

2. Taxation

As a charity, Somali Community Parents Association CIO (SOCOPA) is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act or s256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

No tax charges have arisen in the Charity.

3. Grants and donations

	Mar-22	Mar-21
Anti Tribalism Movement (ATM)	-	14,000
Barnados	6,793	16,720
BBC Children in Need	44,377	32,185
Citizens UK	-	3,000
Covid 19 Grants	5,000	18,000
General donations and sundry income	4,761	1,496
Leicester City Council Parenting Programme	5,000	-
Leicestershire and Rutland Community Foundation	-	9,177
Leicestershire Voluntary Reaching People	10,806	-
Positive Youth Foundation	7,500	-
The Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha Foundation (LCFC)	-	15,000
Violent Reduction Network	9,966	4,850
	94,204	**114,428**

SOMALI COMMUNITY PARENTS ASSOCIATION (SOCOPA)

England & Wales - Charity number 1152565

Accounts

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Charity registered Number: 1152565

Registered Office and Operational Office

19 Brunswick Street
Leicester
LE1 2LP

Trustee Board

Jama Mohamoud Chairperson

Mr Abdiwali Omar Warsame Treasurer

Mr Noor Hussein Secretary

Mrs Ubah Egal-Mullon Trustee

Senior Management Team

Mr Abdikayf Bashir Farah Chief Executive

Bankers HSBC Bank
2-6 Gallowtree Gate
Leicester LE1 1DA

Independent Examiners
Shabbeer & Co Limited
62 Harringworth Road Leicester LE5 6TL

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We also support fathers to be actively involved in their children's education and development.

We provide advice and assistance to families to improve their living standards and cope with the difficulties that come from being unemployed and on low income.

We provide support and assistance to parents and young people who are isolated or have difficulty in accessing services. We encourage family cohesion through workshops and disseminating information. We encourage parents to be actively involved in their children's education. We initiate and give the community the opportunity to develop youth provisions and positive attitudes that promote integration

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

SOCOPA drop in session

Our drop-in support sessions are open to any member of the community Monday – Wednesday, 11AM – 3PM. These drop-in sessions are available to give the community practical support and sign posting for any issue they may be experiencing. The most common service given is bilingual support in the form of making phone calls on client's behalf, explaining letters, or completing forms and dealing with benefits. 403 people have ongoing support through our drop in support session

Barnardo's See, Hear, and Respond program

Therapeutic support for family and children through partnership work with Barnardo children's Charity.

During the coronavirus pandemic, we have been commissioned by Barnado under their See, Hear, respond campaign to deliver 1 to 1 therapeutic sessions and children's groups for people within the BAME community. These sessions were focused on supporting families with mental health, physical

health, internet safety and strengthening the family unit.

Through this partnership we identified families that were in crisis situations and assisted them in getting the fridges, ovens, laptops, and winter clothing for 20 families.

We were commissioned to deliver to 63 children, but we ended up delivering to 91 children within the local community.

Supplementary school Homework support

Our supplementary school classes aim to give additional educational support to children within the Somali community, especially where the children of parent who feel like they struggle to support their children's education at home. The supplementary classes are funded by BBC Children In Need, and it has been great support for children who are from low-income families, refugees, new arrivals to enhance and complement their educational attainment. It has helped children to learn English, Maths, Science etc in an environment which is calm with the access of tutors', support, and supplementary learning resources. We have also identified and give support on a one-to-one basis to children with additional needs and their families.

We have 60 children that attend our regular classes, ranging from year 2 to year 11. With additional children receiving specialised English as a second language classes if needed. Our teachers assess the children based on their individual need and create extra classes when needed. Through these sessions we also identify children that may have extra educational needs or behavioural needs and book them in with their parent for a 1 on 1 with our volunteer SEN teacher where they can discuss the concerns and come up with a plan together for the child.

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English Language Lessons for Adults

Our adult English lessons are run by volunteer native English speakers and run 30+ hours a week. These lessons are focused on giving English language classes to people within the community that do not qualify to get the lessons from local colleges and aim to get the speakers enrolled when they do qualify.

The tutors also build a good connection with the students and results in them sometimes asking for their help with letters they get sent (e.g benefits)

We have ongoing connections with Leicester Adult Education and local colleges to enrol our students on their courses.

40 Learners supported

Street Doctors

During the pandemic we held a session with the Street Doctors. We gave young people practical emergency first aid training so that they can respond in a critical situation, keeping the injured alive until the paramedics arrive at the scene. The sessions sent over 2 topics: What to do when someone is bleeding and what to do when someone is knocked out.

25 people attended this training.

Benefits Training

Many of our staff encounter people who are struggling with issues regarding benefits, with many individuals being also unaware of their benefits entitlements.

5 of our staff have undergone training to become benefits advisors, including our support staff and our English teaching volunteers.

At Home Family Science Activities over Zoom

In collaboration with Sphere Science, we had researchers from The University of Leicester and The University of Cambridge train some young people to deliver science activities from home over zoom to families who were stuck at home over the COVID 19 pandemic lockdown.

The young people attended a session where they were presented with some of the latest research found by the researchers both universities and went through the activities the parents will receive in the Fun Packs the families will receive. They would then go on to lead groups of families online, guiding them through the activities and teach them some of the ways the activities relate to the research currently being done by the researchers at the universities.

Acknowledgement

We are grateful for the dedication and the support our volunteers, Staff and Donors have given us and without their financial support, time, and expertise, it will have been impossible for us to reach out and support many socially disadvantaged families, children and young people. Who have taken part and received advice, material, and emotional support in different programs that we have delivered for our community and service users in very difficult time, that we all had to combat the pandemic Covid-19? which has affected us all indiscriminately, child, old, women and men, rich and poor.

This has been a test for us all and we have started to organise our community and create WhatsApp groups so we can stay connected virtually and continue giving emotional and material support to the members of our community who have lost their loved ones on this tragedy or got ill on this pandemic and must isolate themselves at home. we have offered them practical and emotional support such us aiding them with shopping/groceries, as well as how to access health care and get advice and support. We had to also supported them to apply for covid-19 grants and benefits virtually.

Plans for future periods

Barriers: SOCOPA is at the heart of overcrowded St Matthew's, a distinct neighbourhood close to Leicester city centre but cut off from it by major roads. The area is diverse but predominantly of Somali origin. Overcrowding is a serious issue: 15% of households have a density of 1.5 people per room compared with 3% in Leicester and 1% in England as a whole. 65% of the population of St. Matthew's is typically employed in lower skilled jobs or has not worked at all, compared with 42% in Leicester and 30% in England as a whole.

Current facilities: Our one-roomed office at the Quba Centre doubles up as a training and meeting room (we have occasional access to another large room). We have neither reception nor kitchen nor toilet facilities but share with other tenants in the building. We regularly rent space in the council-run neighbourhood centre and in other venues across St Matthew's but this both increases staff and facilities costings and limits our activities.

Requirements:

- A reception area where advice clients and other visitors can wait in comfort rather than being turned away because of confidentiality
- A good-sized room to meet clients in confidence.
- 2 training/ teaching rooms each large enough to hold up to 20 students (ideally these rooms could convert to one large room for larger gatherings and community events)
- A good-sized community kitchen and eating area for up to 20 people.
- A creche that can support childcare provision if parents are accessing support or attending meetings
- Monitored washroom facilities
- Disabled access

Research into mental health problems and trauma arising from war and refugee status, development work with education and health professionals to enable them to support school children and adults more effectively at risk from trauma and related health problems targeted youth provision to address educational underachievement and other youth problems identified.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Somali Community Parents Association was established in 2005 and registered as a charity in February 2009 and converted to a Charitable Incorporation Organisation (CIO) on 24 June 2013.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

The Trustees are charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the charity model constitution. Under the requirements of the constitution the trustees are appointed for a period of three years after which they must be re-appointed at the annual General Meeting. Trustees seeks to ensure that Trustees body includes people with knowledge and experience of working with communities.

Trustee induction and Training

Somali Community Parents Association CIO has a Board of 4 members who meet quarterly and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. The Board has an established project advisory working group which meets when required. A scheme of delegation is in place and the day-to-day management of the charity rests with the senior management team, volunteers, and Sessional workers. The Chief Executive is responsible for ensuring the sound management and monitoring of the activities and programmes and reporting to the trustees and funders and financial management.

Volunteers

We are grateful for the many hours' volunteers have spent listening and encouraging the parents and young people and working with our workers. Without their time, energy, and expertise we would not have been able to achieve so much; as an organization we appreciate their valuable contribution. Our strengths lie in our volunteer's support, parent's involvement, and community participation. We have a team that monitors grants that are available, fundraise and aid SOCOPA in drafting grant proposals. We now have 11 volunteers in our different programmes that have contributed their valuable time and skills to support our work that we do for the community.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The trustees present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021. The board of trustees are satisfied with the performance of the charity during the year and the position on 31st March 2021 and consider that the charity is in a strong position to continue its activities during the coming year, and that the charity's assets are adequate to fulfil its obligations. The charity will continue to seek further funding to deliver its objects.

Reserves policy

The charity reserves policy is to hold six to twelve months operating expenses in unrestricted funds. It is felt this level of reserves is necessary because it can often take many months for grant applications to be processed. The trustees have established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets (free reserves) held by the charity should be between 6 and 12 months of the resources expended, which equates to £25,000 to £35,000 in general funds. At this level the Trustees feel that they would be able to continue current activities of the charity in the event of a significant drop in funding.

Investment Policy

The charity does not produce a sufficient surplus to invest, as priority must be given to building our unrestricted reserves.

We have expanded significantly to develop a strong income stream from trusts, foundations, and our members. We are developing range of unrestricted income venue hire, and donations are a significant contribution to our development. We have put in place a range of methods to ensure we can continue to obtain further income from the private sector, individuals, and grant-making institutions.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which SOCOPA is exposed and are satisfied that those systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Investment Policy The charity does not produce a sufficient surplus to invest, as priority must be given to building our unrestricted reserves.

The trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining the free reserves at the levels stated above will give sound resources in the event of the adverse conditions. In order minimize our fixed costs we started delivering some our major programmes and activities at St Matthews Neighbourhood Centre which is a shared space owned by the Leicester City Council. During the Covid-19 pandemic, we had to review our risk assessment policy and adopt the central and local government guidelines, implementing social distancing, face masking and hand equipment sanitisation.

Approved by the Management Committee and signed on its behalf by

Chairperson: Jama Mohanoud

Signed jama mohamoud Date: 09/11/2021

Independent Examiner's Report

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SOMALI COMMUNITY PARENTS ASSOCIATION CIO FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

I report on the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2021, which are set out on pages 6 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is required.

It is my responsibility to:

. examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
. to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145 (5) (b) of the Charities Act), and
. to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirement:
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Shabbeer & Co Limited

Date: 09 November 2021

Shabbeer & Co Limited
62 Harringworth Road
Leicester
LE5 6TL

Receipts and Payments Accounts

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 March 2021

	Note	Restricted Funds	Total Mar-21	Total Mar-20
Receipts				
Donations and grants	4	114,428	114,428	55,568
Total receipts		114,428	114,428	55,568
Payments				
Audit and accountancy		525	525	444
Compter hardware and software expensed		6,885	6,885	-
Consultancy fees		-	-	11,900
Events and fund raising		1,000	1,000	650
Facilities hire		1,440	1,440	6,033
Grants expenditure		2,270	2,270	-
Insurance		-	-	1,242
Learning materials and photocopying		648	648	1,240
Legal and professional fees		2,983	2,983	1,300
Postage, printing and stationery		482	482	663
Publicity and web development		1,906	1,906	192
Rent, rates, heating and lighting		5,093	5,093	4,849
Repairs and renewals		3,664	3,664	125
Staff recuitment		33	33	-
Staff training and welfare		998	998	300
Subscriptions		158	158	250
Telephone and internet		594	594	612
Travel and subsistence		595	595	257
Volunteer's costs		2,950	2,950	2,500
Wages and NI		33,523	33,523	18,753
Total payments		65,747	65,747	51,310
Surplus/(deficit)		48,680	48,680	4,257
Total funds brought forward		50,141	50,141	45,884
Total funds carried forward		**98,821**	**98,821**	**50,141**

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Mar-21 £	Mar-20 £
Monetary Assets		
HSBC	98,822	50,141
Petty Cash	-	-
Total monetary assets	**98,822**	**50,141**
Liabilities		
	-	-
	-	**-**
Net assets	**98,822**	**50,141**

Approved by the Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Date: 09/11/20211 Signed: jama mohamoud

1 . Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below

(a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared on a receipts and payments basis which summarises the movement of cash in and out of the organisation. In this context 'cash' includes cash equivalents, such as bank accounts where cash can be readily available to pay debts as they fall due. This format of accounts is available to non companies charities with gross annual income of £250,000 or less.

(b) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objective of the CIO.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the granting body.

(c) Incoming resource

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

(d) Resources expended

All expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

1. Trustee Remuneration and Related Party Transactions

No members of the Management Committee received any remuneration during the year.

No Trustee or other person related to the Charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered by charity during the year.

2. Taxation

As a charity, Somali Community Parents Association CIO (SOCOPA) is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act or s256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

No tax charges have arisen in the Charity.

3. Grants and donations

	Mar-21	Mar-20
Anti-Tribalism Movement (ATM)	14,000	-
Barnardos	16,720	-
BBC Children in Need	32,185	20,657
Citizens UK	3,000	-
Covid-19 grants	18,000	-
General donations and sundry income	1,496	4,671
Heritage Lottery Fund	-	4,980
Leicestershire and Rutland Community Foundation	9,177	-
Sphere Science	-	8,290
Sports England	-	10,000
The Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha Foundation (LCFC)	15,000	-
Tudor Trust	-	2,000
Violent Reduction Network	4,850	4,970
	114,428	**55,568**