

## **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2022**

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## **Trustees Annual report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 as 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 costs 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 seek 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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: *Abdullahi*

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 Lergat* 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

		Restricted Funds	Total Mar-22	Total Mar-21
<b>Receipts</b>	Note			
Donations and grants	4	94,204	94,204	114,428
<b>Total receipts</b>		<u>94,204</u>	<u>94,204</u>	<u>114,428</u>
<b>Payments</b>				
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
<b>Total payments</b>		<u>74,332</u>	<u>74,332</u>	<u>65,747</u>
<b>Surplus/(deficit)</b>		19,871	19,871	48,681
Total funds brought forward		<u>98,822</u>	<u>98,822</u>	<u>50,141</u>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<u>118,693</u>	<u>118,693</u>	<u>98,822</u>

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 March 2022

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

Approved by the Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Date: 04/12/2022 Farahnaq



## **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
	<b>94,204</b>	<b>114,428</b>