



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 Haringworth 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.

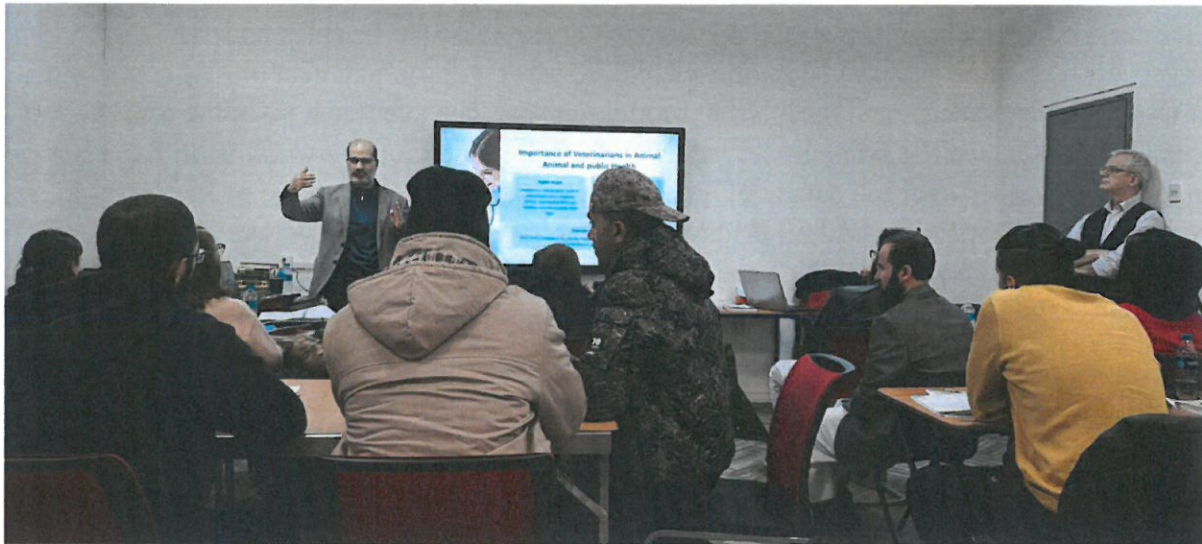
Women also attend the class (women who work on other days, who attend other classes but welcome the practice and the welcome).

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		<u>50,511</u>	<u>64,555</u>	<u>115,066</u>	<u>80,770</u>
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		<u>46,079</u>	<u>64,555</u>	<u>110,634</u>	<u>97,816</u>
Net incoming resources		4,432	0	4,432	(17,046)
Total funds brought forward		101,647	-	101,647	118,693
Total funds carried forward		<u>106,079</u>	<u>- 0</u>	<u>106,079</u>	<u>101,647</u>



**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	
	<u>151,611</u>	<u>112,884</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
Creditors : Short Term	(4,864)	(1,100)	
Deferred Revenue	<u>(41,027)</u>	<u>(10,137)</u>	
	<u>(45,891)</u>	<u>(11,237)</u>	
Net current assets		105,719	101,647
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>106,079</u>	<u>101,647</u>
Funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>106,079</u>	<u>101,647</u>
		<u>106,079</u>	<u>101,647</u>

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

Freemah



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 £
Leicester 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
Charitable expenditure	-	-	-	515
Events	35	49	84	-
Facilities hire	1,488	2,085	3,573	7,426
	<u>34,295</u>	<u>48,046</u>	<u>82,341</u>	<u>75,261</u>
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
	<u>3,413</u>	<u>4,781</u>	<u>8,194</u>	<u>9,745</u>
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
	<u>8,371</u>	<u>11,728</u>	<u>20,099</u>	<u>12,810</u>

