

Registered Charity Number
1152996

**AFGHAN COMMUNITY AND
WELFARE CENTRE**

TRUSTEES REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 2024

**AFGHAN COMMUNITY AND
WELFARE CENTRE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2024**

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**AFGHAN COMMUNITY AND
WELFARE CENTRE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024
TRUSTEES' REPORT**

The Trustees/Directors present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Full name of charity is AFGHAN COMMUNITY AND WELFARE CENTRE.

Registered Charity number is 1152996.

Charity's principal address is:

17-19 Wednesbury Road

Walsall

West Midlands

WS1 3RU

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and its company number is 06362689.

The bankers of the charity are Lloyds Bank, St Pauls Street, The Bridge, Walsall WS1 1LG

The charity has been successful in securing funding from Walsall Council (Walsall for All Project). The project is designed to teach and empower newly arrived ladies who have come to Walsall to integrate much better and contribute towards cohesive and more safer communities.

The trustees who served during the financial year were:

Muhammad Zahiar (Director /Chair Trustee)

Mohammed Yousuf Salimi

Abdul Wahab Zadrar

Ghawsuddin Raees

Mohamad Mustaqeem Shah

The Trustees on the date the report was approved were:

Muhammad Zahiar

Mohammed Yousuf Salimi

Abdul Wahab Zadrar

Ghawsuddin Raees

Mohamad Mustaqeem Shah

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STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Afghan Community and Welfare Centre is a not-for-profit charity. The charity is an incorporated body limited by guarantee and with no share capital. Membership is open to the people living and working in the area of benefit who support the interests of the charity.

Management of affairs of the charity is directed by a management committee that meets not less than six times a year.

Charity may appoint and determine the appointment of not less than three trustees who will also be members of the management committee, for the purposes of holding monies and property belonging to the charity. Trustees are chosen from persons who have the requisite skills in managing finances and governance. All Trustees shall have access to training facilities supplied by specialist organisations.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

“To promote the benefit of the citizens in Birmingham, Coventry, Wolverhampton, Walsall and in other parts of the West Midlands through:

- (a) The advancement of education and training;
- (b) The relief of poverty, sickness and distress; and
- (c) The provision of recreational facilities in the interest of social welfare with the aim of improving their conditions of life.

THE MAIN ACTIVITIES

The organisation has provided services and activities to newly arrived individuals, families, migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and families with low income and experiencing deprivation through:

Community Drop-in and information

Community Drop-in and information surgeries are regular services provided by the Afghan Community & Welfare Centre, where practical help and on-going

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support and assistance is offered free of charge to all clients. Information is provided on a range of issues including welfare benefits, education, childcare, health and immigration and other community and council projects.

In addition to the information service, we also offer a confidential mentoring service to our clients. Afghan CWC provides a range of services for all of our clients regardless of their background, religion or culture. We are therefore able to work with clients in a way that promotes cultural exchange and fosters mutual understanding and respect across cultures, ethnic groups and faiths.

We continue to work with a variety of communities including Pashto, Farsi, Arabic and Urdu speaking groups from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Syria, Iran, Romania, Hungary, Norway and other countries. The majority of our clients are excluded from society due to language barriers, which is further compounded by the lack of childcare provision, unemployment, poverty and economic disadvantage. Many of our clients are refugees and asylum seekers. Our main services were:

- Help and support with housing, immigration, health issues, school admissions
- Local area information and tour services
- A culturally sensitive environment where our members can discuss any issues in strict confidence.
- Referral services to other agencies and community groups.
- Parental support services
- Self-development and confidence-building activities.
- Education and employment support services.
- EU settlement application support services
- Universal Credit and other welfare support services.

Afghan families resettlement and Newly Arrived Families Support services

We continue to support Afghan families coming to the UK through the government's ARAP and ACRS schemes. There has been an increased demand for housing from many families, particularly those wishing to move to the Midlands especially in Walsall. We provide direct support to over 20 families in Walsall,

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12 of whom are accommodated by us through private landlords.

We have also increased our long term support for families arriving in the area by offering:

- Initial introductions and invitations to our community social gatherings for both men and women.
- Job search and Employment support
- School admissions and GP registrations
- Support with benefit applications (e.g. Universal Credit, Child Benefit and PIP)
- Housing support
- Community day trips
- Support for wider community engagement and positive integration.
- Ongoing integration support
- English classes
- interpreting and translation services
- Parenting support
- Online safety and child safeguarding awareness.

Holiday activities and food programme (HAF)

We have successfully delivered the bespoke HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) programme for children from newly arrived families during the Easter, summer and Christmas school holidays. HAF is a free and exciting holiday programme for children and young people who are aged 5 to 16 who are eligible for benefit-related free school meals. The programme is funded by the Department for Education through local authorities.

As a result of this programme, we aim for the children who attend to:

- Eat healthily during the school holidays
- Be active during the school holidays

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- Participate in engaging and enriching activities that support the development of resilience, character and wellbeing, as well as improve their wider educational attainment
- Be safe and not socially isolated
- Gain a greater knowledge of health and nutrition
- Be more engaged with school and other local services

Weekly community social gathering

Our weekly community social gathering has been a cornerstone of our community work for the last 15 years, providing a vital space for members of our community to come together, share experiences, make new friends, and receive support. This long standing initiative serves as an essential platform for fostering social connections, promoting integration and offering practical assistance to individuals and families.

The weekly gathering is more than just a social event; it has become a vital community hub. Through these gatherings we have successfully supported newly arrived families, helping them navigate their new environment, access services, and build connections with local resources. It also provides a space for community members to engage with one another, discuss important issues affecting their lives, and organise collective action or support for various needs.

The community social gathering plays a key role in:

- **Creating a welcoming environment** for both newly arrived families and existing community members, helping individuals integrate into their new surroundings and feel a sense of belonging.
- **Providing ongoing support** to families, particularly those who are isolated or struggling to access services. By connecting them with other community groups and local organisations, we have been able to provide much-needed practical help and emotional support.
- **Fostering cross-cultural understanding** by bringing together people from different backgrounds, ethnicities, and experiences. Through these interactions participants develop greater empathy, share knowledge and

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break down cultural barriers.

- **Offering educational opportunities** with sessions on various topics such as health, well-being, employment, financial literacy, and digital skills. These sessions are designed to empower individuals, increase their confidence, and improve their capacity to engage with the wider society.
- **Encouraging civic engagement** by inviting members to participate in community discussions and activities. These gatherings serve as a space for residents to share their views on local issues, contribute ideas, and get involved in decision-making processes that impact their lives.

Over the years, the weekly gathering has become a central **hub** for many of our services. It is where we host information sessions, distribute resources, and coordinate activities for those in need. It is also a place where individuals can come for advice, make referrals to other local services, and access help with housing, health, employment, and more.

Additionally, the gathering provides opportunities for participants to take part in social and recreational activities that not only promote well-being but also build resilience and social cohesion. Whether it's a community meal, a cultural celebration, or a discussion on important topics, these gatherings offer a space for learning, sharing, and mutual support.

Ultimately, the weekly community social gathering is not just about socialising – it is about building a stronger, more cohesive community, helping people feel empowered, connected, and part of something larger than themselves.

Events

At Afghan CWC we are deeply committed to community development, social justice and empowerment, with the primary aim of identifying and addressing barriers to cultural inclusion and social and economic participation for our members. We celebrate **cultural diversity** and actively engage our constituency, as well as the wider community in sharing and exchanging cultural experiences. Through our events, we strive to create a platform where different cultures are celebrated, understood, and respected.

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Throughout the year, we have organised a number of free events designed to bring our community together, foster social cohesion, and promote inclusion. The events include:

- **Eid Celebrations:** Our Eid celebrations provide a space for community members to come together and mark this important cultural occasion. These gatherings offer a chance for individuals and families to celebrate their heritage, enjoy traditional food, share experiences, and connect with others in a community.
- **Connecting Communities Events:** These events are designed to build bridges between different cultural and social groups. They serve as an opportunity for people to come together, share stories, discuss common challenges, and celebrate the richness of cultural diversity in our local area. These gatherings foster mutual understanding, respect, and collaboration.
- **Taste the Cultures of Walsall:** We are proud to be part of the Taste the Cultures of Walsall annual event, which celebrates the diverse cultural fabric of Walsall. This event brings together a wide range of cultural performances, food stalls, and activities, allowing people from all backgrounds to showcase their traditions and learn about others. It is a vibrant celebration of the rich, multicultural community that makes Walsall unique.

These events are more than just opportunities for celebration; they are vital in promoting community cohesion, mutual respect, and social integration. They offer a space for individuals to connect with others, break down barriers, and create lasting relationships across cultural and social divides.

Through these initiatives, Afghan CWC has been able to bring many people together, fostering a sense of belonging and encouraging active participation in the local community. By highlighting and celebrating the diversity within our community, we contribute to a more inclusive, supportive, and harmonious society.

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Community Day Trips

We organise community day trips to seaside destinations and local attractions, offering newly arrived families and socially isolated individuals the chance to enjoy social interaction and explore new places. These trips help reduce social isolation by bringing together people from diverse backgrounds, particularly those with limited opportunities to connect with others.

Acknowledgements: Our funders and partners

On behalf of the Management Committee we would like to express our sincere gratitude to our funders for their continued support:

- Walsall Council
- Solihull Council
- Heart of England Foundation

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to all our community members, whose generous and ongoing financial contributions through regular donations play a vital role in sustaining our work.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT**

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Statement of Financial Activities shows net deficit of £552 for the year and accumulated reserves including restricted and unrestricted at 31 March 2024 amount to £101,354.

The trustees have reviewed the reserves of the charity. As a result of this review it was concluded that in order to allow the charity to be managed efficiently and to ensure that sufficient resources are available to provide uninterrupted services a general reserve fund of at least £5,000/- is required to fund running costs of the charity for the financial year ending 31 March 2025. This compares with unrestricted funds of £9,746 at 31 March 2024.

APPROVAL

This report was approved by the trustees on 16/12/2024 and signed on its behalf by

.....
M Zahiar
(Chair)

**AFGHAN COMMUNITY AND
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

Trustees are required by charity law to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of the surplus or deficit of the charity. In preparing those financial statements the Board is required to:-

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed.

The trustees are also responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

ON BEHALF OF BOARD

..........

M Zahiar
(Chair)

Date ...16.../12/2024...

**AFGHAN COMMUNITY AND
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

We report on the accounts of Afghan Community and Welfare Centre for the year ended 31 March 2024 set out on pages 13 to 17.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and consider that an independent examination is required.

It is our responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Direction 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 we do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS'S REPORT

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

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

(1) which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act
- have not been met; or

(2) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



YOUNIS BHATTI & CO LTD
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
93 Broad Street
Birmingham
B15 1AU

Date 17-12-2024

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**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31 March 2024**

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming resources from Charitable activities:				
Donations received	----	8,064	8,064	8,884
Grants received	20,253	-----	20,253	49,470
Total incoming resources	20,253	8,064	28,317	58,354
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Costs of generating funds:				
Other costs	-----	8,021	8,021	4,830
Charitable activities				
Governance costs	20,848	-----	20,848	27,626
	20,848	8,021	28,869	32,197
Net movement in funds	(595)	43	(552)	26,157
Total funds brought forward	92,203	9,703	101,906	75,749
Total funds carried forward	91,608	9,746	101,354	101,906

**AFGHAN COMMUNITY AND
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BALANCE SHEET
As on 31 March 2024**

	2024	2023
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS	1,984	482
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank account	100,020	102,074
CREDITORS		
Due within one year	(650)	(650)
	-----	-----
Net Current Assets	99,370	101,424
	-----	-----
NET ASSETS	101,354	101,906
	=====	=====
RESERVES		
Unrestricted funds	9,746	9,703
Restricted funds	91,608	92,203
	-----	-----
RESERVES	101,354	101,906
	=====	=====

For the financial year ended 31 March 2024 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

Approved by the trustees on16/12/2024.....and signed on their behalf by:

..........

M Zahiar (Chair)

AFGHAN COMMUNITY AND WELFARE CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS For the year ended 31 March 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation of accounts:

The Financial Statements are prepared under the purpose scope and application of SORP FRS 102.

SORP 60 states Accounts intending to show a true and fair view must be prepared on the going concern assumption.

SORP 61 states in meeting the obligation to prepare accounts showing a true and fair view accruals accounts should comply with:

(a) Statements of Standard Accounting Practice (SSAPs)

(b) Financial Reporting Standards (FRSs)

(c) Urgent Issue Task Force abstracts (UITFs)
and in addition take note of

(d) The interpretation for Public Benefit Entities of the Statement of Principles for Financial Reporting.

Accounting Convention

The financial Statements are prepared under the historical cost convention modified to include the revaluation of certain assets.

2. Surplus/(Deficit) for the financial year

This is stated after crediting:-	2024	2023
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Revenue Turnover from ordinary activities	28,317	58,354
---	--------	--------

and after charging:-

3. Staff Costs and Emoluments	-----	-----
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**AFGHAN COMMUNITY AND
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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
For the year ended 31 March 2024**

4. CREDITORS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
Accruals	650	650

5. ANALYSIS OF THE TOTAL FUNDS

	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds
Tangible Fixed Assets	----	1,984	1,984
Net Current Assets	91,608	7,762	99,370
	-----	-----	-----
	92,203	9,746	101,354
	-----	-----	-----

**AFGHAN COMMUNITY AND
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INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
For the year ended 31 March 2024**

	£	2024 £
INCOME		
Donations received (Unrestricted)		8,064

		8,064
Grants received:		
Walsall Council Grant - (Restricted)	9,003	
Heart of England Grant - (Restricted)	6,500	
Refugee Grant - (Restricted)	3,750	
S.C.V.O Creative Grant - (Restricted)	1,000	20,253
	-----	-----
		28,317
EXPENDITURE		
Project Resources cost	15,730	
IT charges	2,400	
Rent	5,400	
Light & heat	1,372	
Accountancy fees	650	
Telephone	1,429	
Repairs & maintenance	83	
Subscriptions	835	
Bank charges	55	
Rates	338	
Depreciation	577	28,869
	-----	-----
Net Deficit		(552)
		=====