

# North Somerset Black and Minority Ethnic Network

## Annual Report 2020 to 2021



# Chair Introduction to the Report

The period of our Annual Report mirrors the period covering the three COVID related lockdowns that ran from the end of March 2020 to the end of March earlier this year, a period where we all experienced an unprecedented disruption to our lives.

As a small voluntary organisation, we were equally shaken as we tried to fathom how we would continue with our work. Along with many other charities, we realised that there would be an increase in demand from our communities, the vulnerable and the isolated. To make matters worse, we also learned that COVID had a disproportionate effect on people from BME/BAME groups.

All of this was a very worrying way to start our financial year. However, as Chair of our Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), I am proud to be able to confirm that we were able to rise to the challenge.

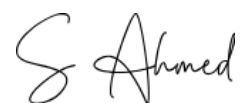
When the lockdowns started, we found new ways to provide support to individuals and groups. We delivered food and ensured people were not left isolated.

We made the transition to online working for NS BME Network, with our well established Wellbeing Cafés moving onto Zoom and attracting new audiences. We were able to secure a grant so we could provide Chromebooks, Zoom Pro licences and online training workshops to other groups and we were also able to restart our English classes online.

Throughout the year, we continued to work with established partners such as North Somerset Council, Weston Town Council, Citizens Advice North Somerset, Voluntary Action North Somerset and many others. We also supported new initiatives such as Weston Town Council's Anti-Racist Pledge and the Anti-Racist Working Group. Thank you to all of you - and many other organisations - for all your help and support.

As we all began to emerge from the final extended lockdown, the need for people to be able to come together again was evident. Communities needed space to meet up again, and the closure of Victoria Church and the loss of the Church Hall as a community venue in Weston was keenly felt. We began a campaign to secure the Church for the community and although this turned out to not be possible, I am very pleased to say that it nevertheless began a process that has recently secured a significant amount of funding, through North Somerset's Community Renewal Fund Bid, to develop a network of Community Hubs for Weston and other towns in North Somerset.

We cannot end without acknowledging the incredible support during this period from Cllr Mark Canniford, as Mayor; Mary-Clare Rodwell as High Sheriff of Somerset and our Patron, Denis Burn, Deputy Lieutenant. Of course all our work relies on volunteers, and my sincere thanks go out to all those who have worked tirelessly to deliver not only the achievements I have outlined above, but also so many other daily acts of kindness and support that I am proud to say have continued to contribute, despite the pandemic, to a productive year that points the way to greater opportunities to support our communities.



Sayd Ahmed

# Activities and Impact

## QUARTER 1 APRIL, MAY, JUNE

Our financial year starts with the nation in lockdown. NS BME Network Office has to close, but core work continues with support for individuals with specific needs, signposting to other agencies, and involvement with other agencies and organisations.

Sayed Ahmed, chair of BME Network and owner of Pappadoms provides essential support through the donation of free meals to NHS Staff, key workers and schools.

Online communications become even more important and online meetings begin using volunteer Zoom accounts. Development of new website continues in online meetings.

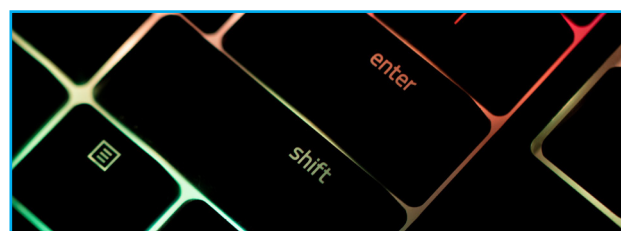
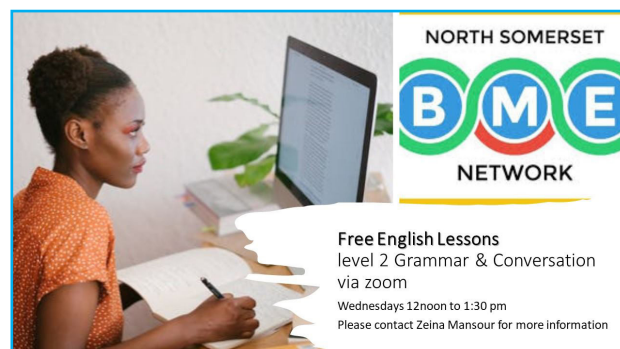
## QUARTER 2 JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER

A dedicated NS BME Network Zoom account is set up and Trustees and Volunteers develop skills to lead Zoom sessions independently.

English classes restart on Zoom and a group visit to Weston Museum is enjoyed as lockdown eases. The Wellbeing Café also relaunches on Zoom. Weekly sessions run by Trustees, volunteers and invited speakers include talks about countries represented in the network, wellbeing talks, local knowledge talks, and talks focusing on specific issues such as the Beirut Disaster, Black History Month, Homelessness, and Plastic Pollution.

Following the explosion in Beirut, NS BME Network launched an appeal and raised much needed funds for organisations providing support on the ground.

A Covid Recovery Application is submitted to The National Lottery Community Fund, with specific focus on the need for digital skills development.





# Activities and Impact

## QUARTER 3

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER

Our Covid Recovery Application is successful. Digital inclusion and connectivity are established as core themes for 2021. Work begins on developing the programme with groups within the NS BME Network.

Following the closure of Victoria Church, we began a campaign to secure new premises for wide community use at affordable rates. Purchasing the church proved not to be an option, but the search for alternatives continued, and preparations began on an Expression of Interest for a feasibility study as part of the planned CRF bid.

NS BME Network and Nailsea Intercultural Dance Association (NIDA) hold seasonal celebrations on Zoom.



## QUARTER 4

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH

The Digital Inclusion and Connectivity project picks up momentum, with involvement from Bangladeshi Association, the Filipino Association, the Weston Association of Malayalees, Nailsea Intercultural Dance Association, North Somerset Refugee Welcome and the Polish Association.

Following Weston Town Council's pledge to be an Anti-Racist Council, NS BME Network support the setting up of an Anti-Racist working group.

NS BME Network agrees to support Weston's Fairtrade Town certification ambition.

Commonwealth day is celebrated with North Somerset Council.

Over 14,000 free meals donated to NHS staff, key workers and over forty schools by Sayd Ahmed, chair of BME Network and owner of Pappadoms.



# Digital Inclusion and Connectivity

COVID made us all more aware of the importance of being able to connect and communicate online. Our Digital Inclusion & Connectivity project, funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, was a significant programme that offered organisations in the network an opportunity to learn from digital professionals.

We were delighted to be able to offer WordPress Courses, taught by Gicella Morales. Participants included the Bangladeshi Association, the Filipino Association, Nailsea Intercultural Dance Association (NIDA), North Somerset Refugee Welcome and the Polish Association.



At the same time the NS BME Network updated their website to WordPress to make it easier for groups to share skills on an ongoing basis, and Trustees and volunteers learned how to update the new site.

We were also able to provide Chromebooks to four community groups and purchased Zoom Pro licences for six groups. It may be difficult to remember now just how hard it was to get started with online meeting tools like Zoom, but learning Zoom skills via Zoom during lockdown certainly proved to be an interesting challenge!



As more of our communications went online, we were all becoming increasingly aware of the importance of getting the message right, as well as knowing how to share it with others.

To help individuals and groups within the network we offered three additional workshops. Marissa Lewis-Pearl and Joyann Boyce of The Social Detail provided Brand Strategy and Social Media Strategy workshops and Bobbi O'Gilvie from Ready to Blog taught us Mailchimp and Newsletter marketing.

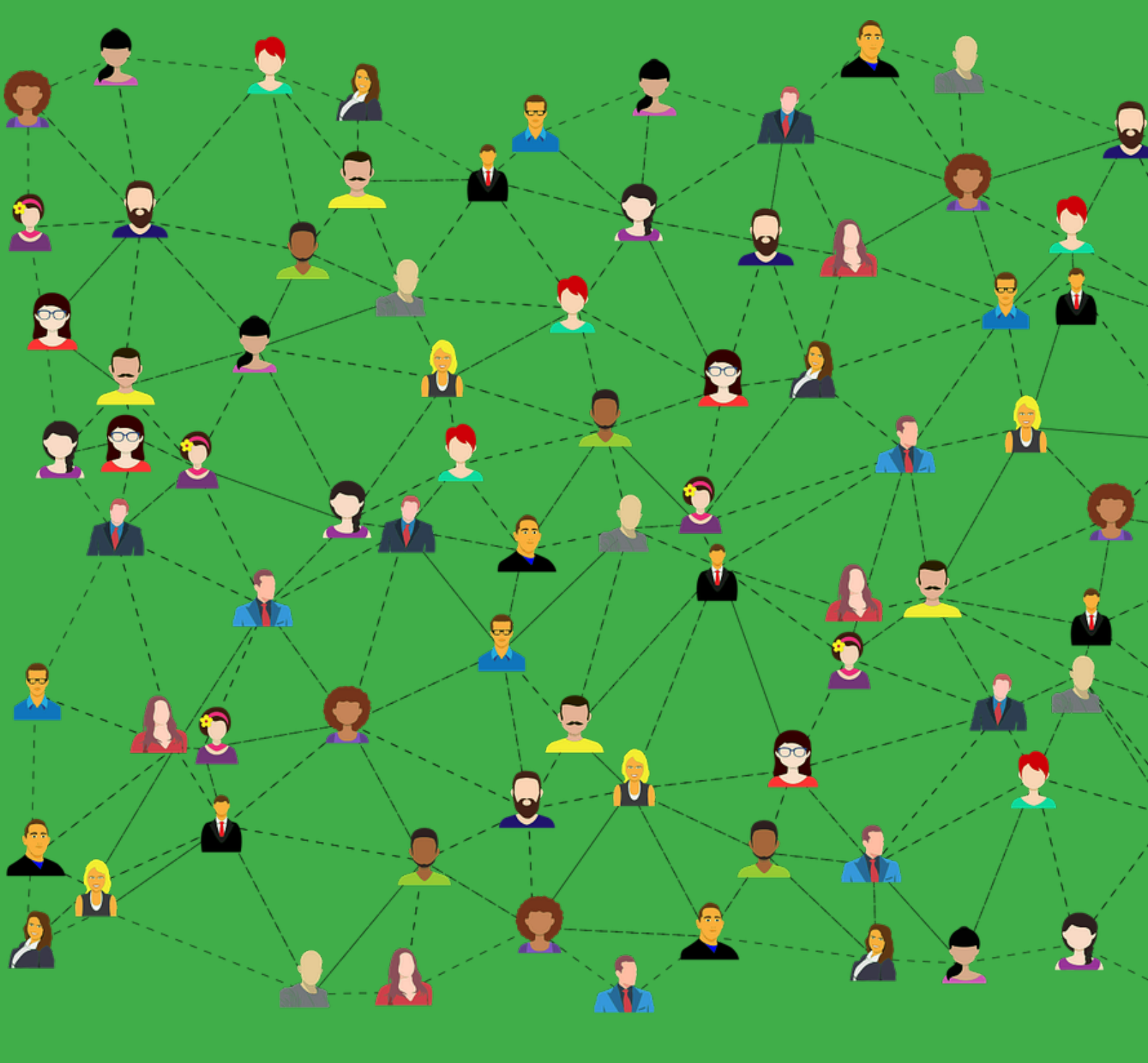
With thanks to:



In partnership with

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY  
COMMUNITY FUND





## With grateful thanks to all our supporters

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12 Orchard Place  
Weston-super-Mare  
BS23 1QP

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[www.ns-bmenetwork.org](http://www.ns-bmenetwork.org)

Reg Charity No: 1162483



**NORTH SOMERSET BLACK AND MINORITY ETHNIC NETWORK CIO**

12 Orchard Place, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1QP

**Registered Charity Number: 1162483**

REPORT AND ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Prepared By:

  
***mah&co***  
certified practicing accountants

# **North Somerset Black and Minority Ethnic Network CIO**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Registered Charity Number: 1162483

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# **North Somerset Black and Minority Ethnic Network CIO**

INFORMATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

**Registered Charity Number: 1162483**

## **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

CHAIRMAN

Sayd Ahmed

ADDRESS

12 Orchard Place  
Weston-super-Mare  
BS23 1QP

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Abu Taher  
AFA/MIPA, ICPA(Fellow)  
**MAHI & CO**  
Certified Practising Accountants  
83-85 Nelson Street  
London E1 2HN

# **North Somerset Black and Minority Ethnic Network CIO**

## **REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

The Management Committee has the pleasure in presenting their report and the Annual Statement of Accounts reviewed by the independent examiner for the year ended 31 March 2021

### **GOVERNING**

The organisation is managed by Management Committee according to the organisation's constitution, elected by the general members to oversee the overall activities and to monitor the day to day running of the organisation.

The main objective of the organisation is to work for the welfare of the ethnic minorities community. To preserve and maintain culture and the heritage and empower the community cohesion.

### **STATUS AND STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION:**

The organization is a Charitable Incorporated Organization(CIO) controlled and managed by the trustees  
The charity trustees are responsible for the general control and management of the the charity  
The trustees gives their time freely and receive no remuneration or other financial benefits.

### **THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The Management committee who serve the Charity during the year were as follows:

Sayd Ahmed  
Dr Mike Kellaway - Marriott  
Mrs Connie Neale  
Zeina Banks  
Aspasia Papadelli  
Zaki Shamseer  
Joan Dunne  
Cllr Ray Armstrong  
Ian Noah

## North Somerset Black and Minority Ethnic Network CIO

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

### STATEMENTS OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

Law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Committee to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, the Committee is required to:

- A) Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- B) Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- C) State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended
  
- D) Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Management Committee is responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

#### INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

According to the provisions of the Charities Act 1993, the Committee has agreed that an audit is not required for this financial year. However, due to provisions of the same act an independent examiner is required.

Mr Abu Taher of Mahi & Co will be appointed as an independent examiner for the ensuing year.

#### APPROVAL

This report was approved by the Trustees on -----and signed on their behalf

Sign:

**Sayd Ahmed**

Chairman

Date:

Sign:

**Dr Mike Kellaway - Marriot**

Trustee

Date

Sign:

**Ian Noah**

Trustee

Date

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS TO THE TRUSTEE OF NORTH SOMERSET BME NETWORK

In accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission we have compiled the Financial Statements comprising Income and Expenditure account for the year ended 31 March 2021 and Statement of Assets and Liabilities as on that date.

The trustees consider that an audit is not required for the year under section 43(2) of the charity Act 1993. The Procedures we have undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit therefore no opinion is given as to



**MAHI & CO**

Certified Practising Accountants  
83-85 Nelson Street  
London  
E1 2HN

Date: 23/03/2022



# North Somerset Black and Minority Ethnic Network CIO

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Un restricted	Restricted	Total	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>					
Donation and Grants	670	-	670	670	9,300
North Somerset DC	10,000	-	10,000	10,000	1,630
National Lottery COVID-19 Fund	-	10,000	10,000	10,000	1,003
South West Community Grant	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	
Other Income	13	-	13	13	
Total Incoming Resources	<u>11,683</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>21,683</u>	<u>21,683</u>	<u>12,936</u>
<b>LESS: EXPENDITURE</b>					
Freelance work			-		1,110
Travel			100		1,563
Energy & water rates			720		975
Rent & room hire			3,000		4,045
Telephone			144		746
Projects and Equipment			7,020		
Postage, printing & stationary			153		50
Advertising & events			37		218
Repairs & renewals			885		-
Insurance			282		306
Training & development			705		-
Accountancy fees			200		240
Meeting expenses & refreshments			24		310
Miscellaneous			377		245
AGM			-		300
			<u>13,647</u>	<u>13,647</u>	<u>10,108</u>
<b>Excess / shortage of Income over Expenditure</b>				<u><b>8,036</b></u>	<u><b>2,828</b></u>

# North Somerset Black and Minority Ethnic Network CIO

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash at Bank & in Hand	10,124	1,976
Debtors		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Creditors	607	495
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>9,517</b>	<b>1,481</b>

### FUNDS:

Balance B/F	1,481	4,002
Income and Expenditure Account	8,036	-2,521
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>9,517</b>	<b>1,481</b>

Sign:

Sayd Ahmed

Chairman

Date:

Sign:

Dr Mike Kellaway - Marriot

Trustee

Date

Sign:

Ian Noah

Trustee

Date

## **1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements have been compiled in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission and with the Statements of recommended Practice.

### **a. Basis of Accounting**

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention of accounting.

### **c. Donations**

Donations are recorded on a receipt basis.

### **d. Unrestricted Funds**

Unrestricted funds are voluntary incomes which are received from funders for which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects.

### **e. Restricted Funds**

Restricted funds are voluntary income which are recognised in the statement of the Financial Activities in the year received for the specific purpose imposed by donor or the terms of specific appeal.

### **f. Income Resources**

All income resources are recognised in the year in which they are incurred.

### **e.Resources Expended**

Resources expended are recognised in the year in which they are incurred.