



Charity registration number:1169819

The Roma Project
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year
ended 31st March 2021

The Roma Project
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for the year ended 31st March 2021

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The Roma Project
Reference and Administrative Details
for the year ended 31st March 2021

Trustees	Dave Faires - Chairperson Michelle Webb - Treasurer Rosamaria Kostic Cisneros
Secretary	Anca Pop
Principal Office	Oakwood House Cheylesmore Coventry CV1 2HL
Charity Registration Number	1169819
Bankers	Barclays Bank
Independent examiner	Wendy Stanyon

The Roma Project
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31st March 2021

The Trustees are pleased to present the annual report of The Roma Project which was registered as a charitable incorporated organisation number 1169819 on 20th October 2016.

Objectives and activities

The Roma Project, which is based in Coventry, offers free and confidential information, advice and support across the city.

Main activities

We help to identify and claim benefits, to challenge decisions, to advise on strategies for dealing with problem debt, housing, education, to negotiate with creditors and to provide information and support on a range of other social welfare issues.

Our service is delivered from community outreach venues across the city where we offer a mix of 'drop-in' sessions and pre-booked appointments. Our service model is focused on reaching Roma people where they live, in their own neighbourhoods, in areas of greatest need.

By offering high quality advice and information services within the city we will help the Roma people to make informed decisions and choices that affect their lives. We do not seek to create a dependency on our service for assistance; instead we strive to empower people to recognise their rights and entitlements, to claim the benefits they need and to help find realistic solutions to financial problems.

Long-time objectives

- To continue to offer accessible advice and information services in neighbourhoods across the city;
- To seek opportunities for enhancing our service to Coventry Roma community;

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- To help address poverty and inequality by increasing the take-up of benefits and by offering debt advice and casework ;
- To attract additional volunteers to support our service delivery ;
- To play a part in the life of the city through engagement with local initiatives, policy work and campaigns;

Achievements and Performance

We know that we made a real difference for the people who come to see us. We assisted people to secure income that they are entitled to. We helped people to take more control of their finances. We increased income security and stability. Our work has had wider impacts, such as improving health, self-confidence and employability. We opened and resolved over 1994 new case files in 2020/2021. Enquiries about welfare benefits remain the highest category and issues with debt, housing and money advice issues remain the second largest category of work. Settled status enquires have become one of the main issues due to Brexit Settlement Scheme. More than a half of our open cases have been about residence and settled status applications. With the new Coronavirus situation, our organisation had to close down during the first lockdown and our staff had to provide support and assistance through our social media platforms, email and telephone. Due to the pandemic our organisation had to adjust and started to offer support to clients how and where to seek medical advice, how to get tested for the new Coronavirus but also how to stay safe and protect other people. Our service continues to have 1 day drop-in advice sessions per week and 4 days appointment sessions per week, but as mentioned above due to lockdown the number of people contacting our services via telephone, email and through social media platforms has increased.

Financial Review

During the year, the Roma Project was successful in securing funding from the Big Lottery to continue its charitable objectives for 2 more years. Additional funding Big Lottery was granted to ensure the continuance of the project due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

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Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31st March 2021

The trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future (being over 12 months from the date of signing this report) and have therefore, used the going concern basis in preparing these financial statements.

Structure, governance and management

The Roma Project is constituted as a registered charitable incorporated organisation. Trustees of the charity are appointed following a skills-based audit and interview process with recommended appointments subject to election at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). At each AGM, one-third of the trustees must retire from office but are able to seek re-election. The trustees are also able to co-opt board members during the year, using the same skills-based approach.

Trustee's responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law and regulations. Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 21 September 2021 and signed on its behalf by;

Dave Faires

The Roma Project
Independent Examiner's Report
for the year ended 31st March 2021

I report on the accounts of the Roma Project for the year ended 31 March 2020 which are set out on pages 8 to 13.

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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my 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 my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 present 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 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 my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Wendy Stanyon

The Roma Project

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2020 £
Income from:							
Donations	2	550	-	550	4,885	-	4,885
Charitable activities	3	21,628	109,022	130,650	-	90,980	90,980
Other		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Incoming Resources		22,178	109,022	131,200	4,885	90,980	95,865
Expenditure on:							
Charitable Activities	4	(1,700)	104,473	102,773	(2,451)	98,628	96,177
Total Resources Expended		(1,700)	104,473	102,773	(2,451)	98,628	96,177
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		23,878	4,549	28,427	7,336	(7,648)	(312)
Total funds brought forward		52	54,221	54,273	(7,085)	61,670	54,585
Transfers		200	(200)	-	(199)	199	-
Funds Carried Forward		24,130	58,570	82,700	52	54,221	54,273

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year.

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 8.

The Roma Project

Balance Sheet

at 31 March 2021

	Notes	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
Current Assets					
Debtors	6	1,453		-	
Cash at bank and in hand	7	86,561		59,788	
		<u>88,014</u>		<u>59,788</u>	
Current Liabilities					
Amounts due within 1 year	8	(5,314)		(5,515)	
Net Current Assets			82,700		54,273
Total Assets less Current Liabilities			<u>82,700</u>		<u>54,273</u>
Net Assets			<u>82,700</u>		<u>54,273</u>
Financed by:					
Restricted Funds	9		58,570		54,221
Unrestricted Funds	10		24,130		52
			<u>82,700</u>		<u>54,273</u>

The Trustees declare they have approved the accounts above.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees:

Signed _____
Director

The Roma Project

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 March 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net cash provided by/ (used in) operating activities		
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per statement of financial activities)	28,427	(312)
Increase in debtors	(1,453)	-
Decrease in creditors	(201)	(6,428)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	<u>26,773</u>	<u>(6,740)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	59,788	66,528
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	<u><u>86,561</u></u>	<u><u>59,788</u></u>

The Roma Project

Notes to the accounts

For the year ended 31 March 2021

1. Accounting policies

Basis of the preparation of the accounts

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the Financial Reporting Standard 102.

Income

All material incoming resources have been included on a receivable basis – i.e. they are included if the date receivable falls within the period covered by these accounts.

Expenditure

These have been analysed using a natural classification.

Depreciation

There are no assets requiring capitalisation or depreciation.

2. Income from donations

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2020 Total £
Donations	550	-	550	4,885	-	4,885

3. Income charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2020 Total £
The Big Lottery - Reaching Communities	-	78,920	78,920	-	90,980	90,980
The Big Lottery - COVID	21,628	28,800	50,428	-	-	-
Coventry City Council - Community Champions Fund	-	1,302	1,302	-	-	-
	21,628	109,022	130,650	-	90,980	90,980

The Roma Project

Notes to the accounts

For the year ended 31 March 2021

4. Cost of Charitable Activities by Fund Type

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2021 Total	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2020 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Salaries	(4,000)	91,552	87,552	(3,000)	76,615	73,615
Rent	-	1,543	1,543	-	5,020	5,020
Equipment & materials	-	-	-	-	120	120
Polytunnel expenses	-	-	-	-	239	239
Minibus expenses	400	-	400	105	1,592	1,697
Travel expenses	-	-	-	120	50	170
Destitution expenses	446	-	446	-	-	-
Accountancy fees	-	2,500	2,500	-	4,000	4,000
Equipment	-	4,852	4,852	-	-	-
Insurance	1,110	699	1,809	-	1,701	1,701
Meeting expenses	-	225	225	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	341	-	341	320	-	320
Payroll expenses	-	48	48	-	72	72
PPE equipment	-	171	171	-	-	-
Printing and stationery	-	203	203	-	313	313
Subscriptions	-	983	983	-	983	983
Sundry expenses	3	200	203	4	-	4
Telephone	-	881	881	-	552	552
Training	-	516	516	-	7,141	7,141
Volunteer expenses	-	100	100	-	155	155
Webhosting	-	-	-	-	75	75
	(1,700)	104,473	102,773	(2,451)	98,628	96,022

5. Staff Costs and Emoluments

Total staff costs were as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	85,167	45,149
Social security costs	2,385	(28)
	87,552	45,121

Particulars of employees:

The number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2021 No	2020 No
Number of administrative staff	4	4

6. Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Accrued income	1,453	-
	1,453	-

7. Cash at Bank and In Hand

	2021 £	2020 £
Bank and cash balances	86,561	59,788
	86,561	59,788

7. Creditors

	2021 £	2020 £
Other tax and social security	5,314	3,450
Loan from employee	-	1,975
	5,314	5,425

The Roma Project

Notes to the accounts

For the year ended 31 March 2021

8. Restricted Income Funds

	Balance at 31 March 2020 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
The Big Lottery - Reaching Communities	54,221	78,920	(76,387)	1,816	58,570
The Big Lottery - COVID	-	28,800	(26,984)	(1,816)	-
Coventry City Council - Community Champions Fund	-	1,302	(1,102)	(200)	-
	<u>54,221</u>	<u>109,022</u>	<u>(104,473)</u>	<u>(200)</u>	<u>58,570</u>

9. Unrestricted Income Funds

	Balance at 31 March 2020 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
General Funds	52	22,178	1,700	200	24,130
	<u>52</u>	<u>22,178</u>	<u>1,700</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>24,130</u>