



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From **22 January 2024** Period start date

To **21 January 2025** Period end date

Charity name: **SADAKA**

Charity registration number: **1171075**

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>Sadaka provides free weekly lunches and basic items for those struggling financially, including the homeless, in Reading. Sadaka provides a welcoming space to enjoy a hot meal, drinks, snacks and a chat, at Fairview Community Centre, 90b Great Knollys Street, Reading RG1 7HL. Sadaka operates every Saturday (10:00am-1:00pm). We also provide free toiletries, second-hand books, fruit / ambient food and signposting to other relevant services to our service users.</p> <p>Alongside our meal services, we also run a Wellbeing programme for our service users, launched in September 2020 (formerly known as StepUp with Sadaka). This comprises creative activities (including workshops with visiting artists) and English language teaching, with a focus on promoting mental and social wellbeing.</p> <p>Sadaka also runs an outreach project to help families with children in Reading with groceries, as children are not able to attend our service on Saturday.</p> <p><u>CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES:</u></p> <p>1) The prevention and relief of poverty and financial hardship in greater Reading by providing: food, clothing and basic household items to individuals in need and supporting other organisations working to prevent or relieve poverty in greater Reading.</p> <p>2) The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by promoting activities to foster understanding between people from diverse backgrounds and in particular, different religions.</p> <p>3) The promotion of religious harmony for the benefit of the public by:</p> <p>(a) Educating the public in different religious beliefs including an awareness of their distinctive features and their common ground to promote good relations between persons of different faiths;</p> <p>(b) Promoting knowledge and mutual understanding and respect of the beliefs and practices of different religious faiths.</p> <p>4) To advance Islam in greater Reading for the benefit of the public, in particular by arranging visits to mosques by school children to enlighten them about the Muslim faith and by such other means as the Trustees may determine.</p> <p>Please Note: Sadaka contacted Charity Commission on 14 Feb 2020 to amend objective 4) to: <i>“To work towards a greater understanding of Islam by demonstrating the public good contributed by its followers, together with people of other beliefs and no beliefs”.</i> But, this request was rejected.</p>

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>In 2024, the charity supported the relief of poverty and financial hardship in Greater Reading by a weekly free, nutritional, warm meal service, provided alongside toiletries and food essentials to those struggling financially.</p> <p>We continued our service to help families in need and female victims of domestic violence (in collaboration with Berkshire Women's Aid [BWA]).</p> <p>We also continued and developed our Wellbeing programme to meet the needs of our service users, providing creative activities and English language teaching in a supportive safe space to support our guests' mental and social wellbeing, with signposting to other services and training courses as needed.</p> <p>Sadaka services are available to all beneficiaries without judgement or bias. The charity is privileged to have trustees, members and volunteers from a diversity of backgrounds, faiths and beliefs, and all are valued equally. Sadaka operates with an ethos whereby "everyone matters" and respect for others is central to all our actions. In 2024, Sadaka reiterated our commitment to an open, supportive and inclusive philosophy.</p> <p>Main Activities in 2024:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Food service <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Saturday meal service <p>We continued with our weekly food service in 2024 to serve an average of 69 people every Saturday. We operated from the Fairview Community Centre. We provided 4300 meals (+5% from previous year). We also handed out essentials such as washing up powder, toiletries, sugar, milk, coffee, biscuits, noodles, soup and more.</p> <p>Main meals are cooked by our volunteers, who have food safety certificates or purchased by Sadaka from local restaurants (once a month). The main meal cost on average £300 when purchased from restaurants, £120 when cooked by a caterer or £100 when cooked by volunteers (with the cost of ingredients such as meat provided by Sadaka).</p> <p>In addition, our volunteers donated vegetarian dishes, fresh fruit and desserts (either home-baked or store-bought) to complete the meals.</p>

		<p>Gift bags were also given out for Eid and Christmas and chocolate eggs for Easter. We also celebrated Chinese New Year for the first time with a themed meal, snacks and decorations.</p> <p>The sessions were coordinated by 5 session leaders and we managed to secure about 20 chefs from our volunteer pool, who cooked / baked for us on a regular basis. We also developed partnerships with local restaurants to provide the main meal once a month (Kobeda Palace, Yaadgaar, and others). Some restaurants donated the full meal, while others provided it at a discounted price.</p> <p>b) Meals for Reading university students</p> <p>In February / March we provided a total of 600 meals to struggling students at Reading University during Ramadan. This included a main meal and snacks.</p> <p>This was a continuation of the initiative from its inaugural year in 2023; we plan to continue and develop it further in the future.</p>
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2) Helping families in need with groceries and women & children fleeing domestic violence

With many Reading families struggling as costs go up and incomes reduce, Sadaka has stepped in and expanded our work with families in need in several ways.

In 2024 Sadaka continued helping families in need (especially single mothers), including women and children who were fleeing domestic violence.

a) Groceries for families in need

We provided grocery shopping for 11 families. A group of volunteers shopped and delivered groceries to each family on a weekly basis, based on lists provided by the families.

Each family was allocated a budget between £30 and £60 a week for a maximum of 4 deliveries.

£2900 was spent on this project in 2024.

The families were all based in Reading and were on benefits or without resources, struggling to make ends meet.

We offered a tailored service by asking them exactly what they needed and delivered it to their doorstep. The service was highly appreciated by all the families.

We also provided clothes vouchers to families supporting a total of 45 children, and provided winter hoodies to 32 children. An additional **£1300** was spent on this. Toiletries and ambient food items were also provided.

Sadaka will continue this project for as long as families need help with the increased cost of living.

b) Emergency food packs to families in a local shelter

We continued to provide emergency food bags to new arrivals at a local refuge.

These are women who are escaping domestic violence, with or without their children. They come to the refuge with no assets and are helped to start a new life.

Over the last year, Sadaka provided 40 food bags, with some women receiving more than one food parcel in cases of delay to their welfare benefits. We also supported them through gifts and clothing vouchers for children.

3) Wellbeing programme

We continued to run Wellbeing sessions every Saturday between 10am and 11.30am at Fairview Community Centre, with the aim of supporting our service users' mental and social wellbeing.

A core feature of these sessions is the creative table, which service users can join for a variety of therapeutic activities; painting, sketching, colouring, creative writing, crochet, word search, puzzles and the like. We also provide a range of donated books which guests are welcome to take. People engage in these activities as they please and talk about what is going on in their lives, with other service users, but also with volunteers over cups of tea and coffee. Guests have told us repeatedly that this gives them a reason to get out of bed on a Saturday morning and helps reduce their isolation.

This year we continued our series of special guest art workshops for our service users by engaging a new guest artist to run them. These allowed our guests to work in a more focused way and try a wider range of artistic forms (printmaking, landscape painting, wire art etc).

An important event in 2024 for Wellbeing was the organisation of a memorial for a much-loved long-time volunteer who sadly passed away. This was held in a side room at Fairview with photos, a memorial book to sign and a space to reflect and

		<p>remember his life; it was well attended by both volunteers and service users.</p> <p>Our English teaching offering has evolved from last year, when we were at a peak of demand with up to 12 students on some weeks. As the Hong Kong community in Reading has become more integrated (including gaining employment), we have found that demand for English lessons has declined; we have also not had any intake of new students. Our response to this has been to maintain the ability to deliver teaching but become more flexible in our offering, such that those students who still do attend are able to access it at an appropriate level (e.g. one-to-one conversation, reviewing their homework from other classes etc). Several of the Hong Kong cohort who first joined us as English students have gone on to become regular and committed volunteers in the meal service.</p> <p>An estimated 65 people accessed these sessions last year, some of them attending almost every week. Typical attendances were around 12-15 service users on any given week.</p> <p>Sadaka regularly updates a printed list of local services which is shared with guests. This includes food services as well as other sources of support, for example housing, welfare benefits, mental health and so on. Many are referred on to other services or organisations; for example, we make regular referrals to Cowshed for those who need clothes, or to places like The Early Charity and New Directions for training and development opportunities.</p>
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Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	N/A
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	N/A
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	N/A
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	<p>All volunteers devote time, effort and care to the service (meal services, training programme, helping families and women & children in need...) with Members contributing a little more outside of Saturday service hours to administration, training and other efforts.</p> <p>In addition, many volunteers make regular donations to Sadaka (food, milk, gift bags...).</p> <p>All volunteers are great ambassadors to help us raise awareness and bring in more volunteers and donations.</p> <p>Sadaka has progressed in up-skilling volunteers and members to take up leadership roles during (Session Leaders) and outside service hours.</p>

Other		The charity will continue to encourage diversity and inclusion at all levels and expand its services to help as many people as possible in Reading.
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Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>Sadaka has served about 4300 meals in 2024, winning much satisfaction from its service users for our freshly cooked hot meals and for providing a warm and welcoming environment since January 2017.</p> <p>We provide hot meals, hot drinks and snacks inside, in a friendly atmosphere. We offer a safe place to our service users to have a meal and a chat. Our chefs are all trained and have a food certificate to cook diverse and balanced meals meeting safety standards.</p> <p>We also make every effort to reach more people and adapt to help people who can't come to us, especially families with kids who struggle with food. Our dedicated volunteers go above and beyond to shop and deliver for families and build a relationship with them in case they need help in the future.</p> <p>Sadaka has become a local brand which other charities and groups are comfortable / seek to work with.</p> <p>In addition to expanding our work with families, Sadaka also evolved and expanded activities to improve the wellbeing of our service users. This has become an indispensable part of the Sadaka offer.</p>

<p>Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity’s work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.</p>	<p>Para 1.20</p>	<p><u>Sadaka’s Achievements:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Sadaka’s biggest achievement was that we continued to provide a hot meal service every Saturday of the year without fail.2. We served 4300 hot meals at our Saturday meal services in 2024, our greatest number ever and a year-on-year increase of 5% (4120 were served in 2023).3. We provided 600 meals to Reading university students during Ramadan, a year-on-year increase of 50% (400 were provided in 2023).4. We strengthened our collaboration with organisations including Clean Conscience, Baby Bank, Berkshire Women’s Aid and various supermarkets. These collaborations allowed us to reach more people in need and secure more donations and volunteers.5. We maintained our financial stability and once more ended the year with a very healthy balance at a time when many other charities are struggling financially.6. Sadaka's Wellbeing programme was accessed by 65 service users during the year.7. We represented Sadaka at a greater number of events than in 2023, both public (e.g. East Reading festival) and volunteer-organised (at schools and businesses), to raise awareness and funds for our services.
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	N/A
Performance of fund-raising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	N/A
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	N/A
Other		N/A

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>Sadaka experienced a 10% fall in income and almost an equal rise in expenses this year. The deficit was met by the healthy reserves held by the charity. While funding efforts continued, due to capacity issues, and because of the strong financial position of the charity, funding was not pursued aggressively.</p> <p>Cash at the end of the year was lower than cash at the beginning of the year, due to this deficit.</p> <p>Fundraising activities and food and clothing expenses for families all reduced this year, mainly due to a low number of volunteers and reduced capacity.</p> <p>The competition for grants stayed tough within the charity sector nationally and all grants received by Sadaka this year were through local sources, including Reading Borough Council. Online donations continued to bring in the majority of income, and included gift aid.</p> <p>The biggest expenditure this year was on meals once again, which is Sadaka's flagship service. This included weekly meals and additional meals during the holy month of Ramadan. The reasons behind this were the increasing number of service users every week and the rising cost of food.</p> <p>This increase was offset by economies made in other cost centers like supplies, refreshments and Wellbeing activities.</p> <p>Storage and insurance costs went up with inflation. Steps have already been taken to reduce these by finding alternative providers.</p> <p>Thanks to restricted grants, we were able to provide additional food items on many weeks as well as the much-requested toiletries and hygiene products. This was a new cost center this year.</p> <p>Sadaka ended the financial year with a healthy amount of unrestricted reserves, providing a level of working capital that protects the continuity of our core work, supports any unexpected opportunities and covers any unforeseen expenditures. This will cover two years of operating costs at this year's levels should the need arise.</p> <p>Sadaka's stable financial position is testament to the efforts of trustees, members and volunteers, who continue to offer valuable time and food donations for our service users. This also signals robust bookkeeping and steady control over finances, at a time when many charities are struggling to stay afloat, and demand for services like ours is at an all-time high.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	To provide a level of working capital that protects the continuity of our core work, supports any unexpected opportunities and covers any unforeseen expenditures. This will cover 6 months of operating costs at last year's levels should the need arise.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	Sadaka maintains £16,300 free unrestricted reserves in a separate bank account.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A

Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	There are no ongoing concerns as Sadaka enjoys a comfortable financial position and sufficient sustainability for upcoming plans and expenditures.
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Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution document
How is the charity constituted? (e.g. unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	See constitution document for full details
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	Sadaka comprises a Board of 6 Trustees, with about 60 active volunteers and 7 Members, in keeping with its CIO Model. Sadaka works with Street Support Network, which is a partnership of charities and statutory organisations working together to end rough sleeping and homelessness in Reading.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Sadaka
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1171075
Charity's principal address	47 ASH ROAD TILEHURST RG30 4SG

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Youssef Alla	Chair		Voted in by serving Trustees
2	Zobia Kalim	Treasurer		Voted in by serving Trustees
3	Fatima Alla-Saouiki	Operations Manager		Voted in by serving Trustees
4	Thomas Williams	Secretary		Voted in by serving Trustees
5	Joe Gibbons	-		Voted in by serving Trustees
6	Shazia Fazal	Events Lead		Voted in by serving Trustees

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity’s objects	N/A
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity’s own as-sets	N/A

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
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Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Exemptions from disclosure

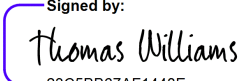
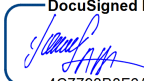
Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

Other optional information

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees’ report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity’s trustees:

Signature(s)	<div>Signed by:  23C5BB07AF1440E...</div>	<div>DocuSigned by:  4C7793B8F0AE4EE...</div>
Full name(s)	Thomas Williams	Youssef Alla
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Secretary	Chair
Date	13 th May 2025	13 th May 2025

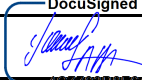


Sadaka			1171075	CC16a
Receipts and payments accounts				
For the period from	22-Jan-24	To	21-Jan-25	

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Grants	-	6,000	-	6,000	5,230
Fundraising platforms	11,721.27	870	-	12,591	17,124
Private donations	1,999	354	-	2,353	987
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	13,720	7,224	-	20,944	23,341
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	13,720	7,224	-	20,944	23,341
A3 Payments					
Meals	6,430	1,575	-	8,005	£6,071
Storage	3,984	-	-	3,984	£3,505
Total families	2,755	196	-	2,951	£3,317
Total venue	3,078	-	-	3,078	£3,076
Families - clothing	-	1,299	-	1,299	£2,056
Supplies	1,218	-	-	1,218	£1,639
Refreshments, ambient food	391	342	-	733	£1,349
Well-being cafe	262	-	-	262	£596
Fundraising	216	-	-	216	£436
Festival gifts	28	340	-	367	£434
Insurance	562	-	-	562	£368
Accounts examination	-	-	-	-	£360
Phone	-	-	-	-	£122
Food safety	-	-	-	-	£48
Volunteer expenses	75		-	75	
Toiletries	-	2,871	-	2,871	-
Sub total	18,998	6,622	-	25,621	23,377
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	18,998	6,622	-	25,621	23,377
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 5,278	602	-	- 4,677	- 36
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	49,900	7,802	-	57,702	57,737
Cash funds this year end	44,622	8,404	-	53,025	57,701

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Restricted	-	1,500	-
	Unrestricted	35,217	-	-
	Unrestricted in reserves	16,308	-	-
	Total cash funds	51,525	1,500	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	Agreement Error	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	Zobia Kalim	Zobia Kalim	17-May-25	
		Youssef Alla	27-May-2025	