



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	01	04	2023		31	03	2024

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	AI-ASHARAF COMMUNITY WELFARE ASSOCIATION
Other names charity is known by	
Registered charity number (if any)	1179893
Charity's principal address	VOLUNTARY ACTION ISLINGTON 200A PENTONVILLE ROAD LONDON Postcode N1 9JP

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Role (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	MANA FATIMA AL-SHARIF ABBAS AL-SHARIF (Previously Mana Abbas)	CHAIR		
2	SHEKHA SHARIF ALI	VICE CHAIR		
3	ABDARAHMAN SHARIF	TREASURER	16/11/2024	
4	SAMIR MUHDAR	ADMINISTRATOR	16/11/2024	

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Islington Ward Lead Councillor	UNA O'HALLORAN	Islington Town Hall, Upper St, N1 2UD
Islington Ward Councillor	SARA HYDE	Islington Town Hall, Upper St, N1 2UD
Islington Ward Councillor	PAUL COVERY	Islington Town Hall, Upper St, N1 2UD
We Are Cally Community Development Officer	HANNAH BROOK	Islington Council, 222 Upper Street, N1 1XR
Development Manager	TSIGEREDA TEKLETSADIK	Voluntary Action Islington, N1 9JP
Local Wellbeing Manager	CLIFF JOSEPH	Voluntary Action Islington, N1 9JP
Chair	MULKI QANI	Somali Speakers Women's Group, N1 9JP

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

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Association
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

'Al-Asharaf Community Welfare Association' strongly believes that working together is the only way to succeed. We supported the forming and establishment of 'Somali Speakers Women's Group' in 2000 and have continued to cooperate with them ever since, forming a strong partnership. Likewise, in 2008, we built a solid partnership with 'Help on Your Doorstep'.

It was our pleasure to help facilitate and initiate the partnership between Somali Speakers Women's Group and the newly established Somali Embassy in London. We encouraged them to participate in the 'Somali Professionals – Networking' programme.

Over the years, we have also established solid partnerships with local businesses in Caledonian Road. From them: Khan Food Centre and Cally Pound Plus.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

Providing relief for those living in Bemerton Estate and the surrounding areas, focusing on '**Health & Wellbeing**'. In particular, but not exclusively, those of 'Al-Asharaf' origin, as well as those in need (e.g. elderly, ill health/disabled and those in financial hardships).

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

By implementing 'Bright Start & Bright Future's' principles, we run our weekly activities:

- 'Stay and Play' activities for parents and children (for building self-confidence)
- Lunch clubs
- Sewing clubs
- Homework clubs

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

In accordance with our organisation's focus on '**Health & Wellbeing**' – we continued our services of supporting families afflicted with mental health. We achieved this by establishing a link between families and **Camden Crisis Resolution** – liaising between them.

Moreover, we also intervened in marital disputes between young parents by attempting reconciliation – along with recommending 'Couples Therapy' & mediation sessions.

We also assisted elderly residents that were seeking support during the '**Cost of Living**' crisis, by filling out forms – as well as accompanying them with GP/hospital visits.

We also assisted young parents in securing nursery places for their children.

Our volunteers also organised and ran regular 'faith-based' celebrations at Finsbury Park Mosque.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Our biggest achievement to date was celebrating our 25-year anniversary, during our AGM – which took place on the 16th of November 2024 at Finsbury Park Mosque. This remarkable event was attended by a list of honourable guests – namely:
The Mayor of Islington Anjna Khurana
Councillor Paul Convery
David Norman (Bright Start Islington)
Marie Morgan-Lloyd (Community Engagement and Wellbeing – Islington Council)
Cliff Joseph (Local Wellbeing Manager – Voluntary Action Islington)
James Wooldridge (Voluntary Action Islington)
Hannah Brook ('We Are Cally' Community Development Officer)

Certificates were presented to our hardworking volunteers, in appreciation of their efforts over the years. During the event, elections took place to nominate new trustees.

Following our successful AGM, we were invited to the Charity Commission's Annual Public Meeting which took place on the 26th of November 2024.

We would also like to extend our sincerest gratitude to our leading politicians, namely the Mayor of London Mr Sadiq Khan and Ms Emily Thornberry – who have supported us throughout the years.

Section D

Achievements and performance

It has always been a pleasure to be umbrellaed under Voluntary Action Islington. They have sheltered us over the years, providing us with a base of operation. They have continuously supported us with drafting our policies and action-plans. Thus, we felt honoured that our AGM report was presented by one of their valued members – James Wooldridge. As well as a huge thank you to Tsigereda Tekletsadik (Development Manager, VAI) for her ongoing support every week.

Likewise, as our primary objectives are based on health & wellbeing, many relevant programs were spearheaded by Cliff Joseph (Local Wellbeing Manager, VAI).

We confidently believe that we can extend our efforts and services into neighbouring regions.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Monthly contributions into the company's account, by the trustees, ensure sufficient reserves in place.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

N/A

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The main funding came primarily from the trustees themselves, as well as the community members. With this communal effort, we managed to successfully continue our services throughout the year.

We are incredibly grateful to the Islington Council who provided us with a lot of funding support over the years – facilitating for us to continue our services.

Likewise, we would like to thank Barclays Business team for their continuous support throughout the years ever since opening our account. In particular, we would like to extend our gratitude to Olivia Woodward and her colleagues who facilitated the completion of our mandate forms. We would also like to thank the Barclays Islington Green branch, in particular Matthew for their assistance regarding our finances. We operate on a cashless basis; using only cheques and debit transactions.

Section F

Other optional information

History:

1998 – ‘Asharaf Welfare Association’ initiated in Manor Garden - before moving to Islington’s West Library Hall. After years of community growth, we relocated to Bemerton Children’s Centre, before transferring to Copenhagen Primary School (on Saturdays)

2009 – Subsequently, we ‘rebranded’ to ‘Al-Asharaf Women & Children Association’, before finally changing to ‘Al-Asharaf Community Welfare Association in 2018.

We are currently addressed at Voluntary Action Islington, whilst holding our events at Jean Stokes Community Centre.

Section G

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity’s trustees

Signature(s)	Mana Fatima Al-Sharif Abbas Al-Sharif	
Full name(s)	Mana Fatima Al-Sharif Abbas Al-Sharif	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	12/1/2025	