

SAMSONS ACADEMY

England & Wales · Charity number 1181882

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2019-02-05

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Samsons Academy Charity
Unit 1
1 Shuttleworth Road
Elms Farm Industrial Estate
Bedford
MK41 0HS

Phone 07494336395

Email info@samsons-academy.org

Website samsons-academy.org

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE IN LIFE AND RELIEVE THE NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH; (A) THE PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL AND LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES PROVIDED IN THE INTEREST OF SOCIAL WELFARE, DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE; (B) PROVIDING SUPPORT AND ACTIVITIES WHICH DEVELOP THEIR SKILLS, CAPACITIES AND CAPABILITIES TO ENABLE THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN SOCIETY AS MATURE AND RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS TO PROMOTE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE INHABITANTS OF BEDFORD AND THE SURROUNDING AREA THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE NEED OF SUCH FACILITIES BY REASON OF THEIR YOUTH, AGE, INFIRMITY OR DISABLEMENT, FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES OR FOR THE PUBLIC AT LARGE IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF LIFE OF THE SAID INHABITANTS TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY PREVENTING PEOPLE FROM BECOMING SOCIALLY EXCLUDED, RELIEVING THE NEEDS OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE SOCIALLY EXCLUDED AND ASSISTING THEM TO INTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY. FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS CLAUSE ÆSOCIALLY EXCLUDEDÆ MEANS BEING EXCLUDED FROM SOCIETY, OR PARTS OF SOCIETY, AS A RESULT OF ONE OF MORE OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS: UNEMPLOYMENT; FINANCIAL HARDSHIP; YOUTH OR OLD AGE; ILL HEALTH (PHYSICAL OR MENTAL); SUBSTANCE ABUSE OR DEPENDENCY INCLUDING ALCOHOL AND DRUGS; DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUNDS OF SEX, RACE, DISABILITY, ETHNIC ORIGIN, RELIGION, BELIEF, CREED, SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER REASSIGNMENT; POOR EDUCATIONAL OR SKILLS ATTAINMENT; RELATIONSHIP AND FAMILY BREAKDOWN; POOR HOUSING (THAT IS HOUSING THAT DOES NOT MEET BASIC HABITABLE STANDARDS; CRIME (EITHER AS A VICTIM OF CRIME OR AS AN OFFENDER REHABILITATING INTO SOCIETY) TO PROMOTE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE INHABITANTS OF BEDFORD AND THE SURROUNDING AREA THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE NEED OF SUCH FACILITIES BY REASON OF THEIR YOUTH, AGE, INFIRMITY OR DISABLEMENT, FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES OR FOR THE PUBLIC AT LARGE IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF LIFE OF THE SAID INHABITANT.

Activities: We work with young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training, young people who are involved in gang related crime, knife crime and county-lines. Young/Older adults who consider themselves to be socially isolated, those with substance misuse and alcohol dependency. All people who have a learning disability or mental health illness or impairment and sexual exploitation or being groomed

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Amateur Sport, Armed Forces/emergency Service Efficiency, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Bedford
- Buckinghamshire
- Central Bedfordshire
- Hertfordshire
- Kirklees
- Luton
- Milton Keynes
- Northamptonshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	-	-	-	-
2024-03-31	£182,008	£183,471	-	-
2023-03-31	£152,313	£146,838	-	-
2022-03-31	£91,785	£123,727	-	-
2021-03-31	£73,650	£51,537	-	-
2020-03-31	£57,000	£52,797	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Arathe Aghera		2020-07-01
Debbie Moliterno		2025-09-02
Guy Moliterno		2023-02-05
Karen Dubarry		2023-02-05
Margaret Anne Constable		2020-11-01
Melanie Stratton		2021-10-05
Mohammed Jillur Rahman		2025-07-01

SAMSONS ACADEMY

England & Wales - Charity number 1181882

Accounts



Trustees End of Year Report

Samsons Academy Charity (1181882) Impact Report December 2022 - December 2023

Foreword from the Chief Operating Officer

The board of trustees (and everyone involved) has worked tirelessly and continuously to strive towards the objectives of Samsons with 2023 seeing a marked increase in those using Samsons' facilities and services. This has been an increase since the last Trustees report due to a wider coverage of classes and the projects taking place in the wider community. We have witnessed interest from the local and national media (including the BBC) in what we do giving us incredible exposure as well as gaining national recognition by placing second in Project of the Year with the National Lottery in 2021. This demonstrates the much needed value we bring to those in the local community and just how important the work we do continues to be.

We have had a number of projects this year that have been successful in delivering the desired benefits to all who have needed our help. The space and services that Samsons provides continues to give anyone who needs a place to discover their true potential as well as continuing in breaking down social exclusion barriers. Samsons is going from strength to strength and providing an invaluable service that is benefiting the community and those attending the various events and courses run us. The past year has proven to be a great year in the life of Samsons and has really shown the massive value and benefits we bring to all who need us.

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Dorian NR Alexis
Chief Operating Officer

Contributions from

tor	Dorian NR Alexis	Chief Operating Officer
	Clare Copleston	Counsellor/Director Meaningful Education/Tu-
	Avi Kalyan	Lead Boxing Coach
	Dan McGowan	Lead Coach McGowan Muay Thai
	Po Chan	Lead Counsellor/Director Therapy With../Tutor
	Naz Ahmed	Lead Tutor SIA
	Zenah Ahmed	Programme Co-ordinator/CEA
	Ava Vidal	Ambassador and CSE
	Harbinder Sangher	Counsellor/Men's Coach

Website samsons-academy.org

Tic Tok

Facebook Samsons Academy UK

Address Samsons Academy Charity, Unit 1, 1 Shuttleworth Road, Elm Farm Ind,
 Bedford
 MK41 0EN

Current Trustees 2022/2024

Mr CJ Duncan	Chair
Mr Yusuf Pickstock	Trustee (Vice)
Dr Lianna B Valerio	Trustee
Ms Maggie Constable	Trustee
Mr R Aghera	Trustee
Mr Ashley Nahar	Trustee
Mr G Moliterno	Trustee
Ms K Dubarry	Trustee

Mrs Melanie Stratton
Ms Sabrina D'Almeio

Trustee
Trustee (Resigned AGM Feb 2024)

Executive Summary

We have been delivering combative sports for 5 years at Samsons Academy Charity. Our boxing coaches have been working with young people around Bedfordshire who have been experiencing issues and problems around accessing educations, employment and training. We have gone through small expansion with regards to staffing. Having engaged with funders to access funding for Community Outreach Advocates, Youth Engagement

2022 and 2023 have been telling years for the academy. Insomuch we have grown in the number of community based projects we have been involved with. But also the number of people we have worked with or come into contact with. We have excelled in our men's health projects seeing the BBC reach out to us about the initiative work we have been carrying out and delivering around Bedfordshire. We have started to reach funders who are prepared to work with us on projects not yet carried out in Bedford. The number of young disenfranchised people we work with has grown to an extent we have allocated a dedicated Engagement Co-ordinator to oversee some of the satellite projects we deliver.

We hope the intervention we have established over the past few years will show you that we are determined to continue to attain our charitable aims and goals. We hope to continue to grow in such a way we maintain a holistic and therapeutic approach to our delivery and always have at the forefront of our minds why we do what we do.

Current Course ran between December 2022 and December 2023

- **RESOLUTION Dying to Belong**
- **Time2Train/Resolution Dying to Belong**
- **Queens Park Community Weekend Boxing Club**
- **Young People's Gaming Event**
- **Band of Brothers Mental Health**
- **Bedfordshire Elite Boxing Academy**
- **McGowan Muay Thai**
- **SIA Training & Development**
- **MMA and BJJ**

This project tends to work with larger groups of young people who have been identified as belonging to or have had contact and exposure to gang related activity. Bedford has had a growing number of young people who have some form of gang affiliation or membership/association.

This course (Time2Train, Resolution & CSE Weekend Programme) are ran for 12 weeks where the cohorts are taught lessons around timekeeping, following instructions, health and safety, marketing and many many other themes you will find in the work-place, team work, leadership and role responsibilities. We were able to run this for a further 6 weeks (Time2Train and Resolution) due to an extension in the funding we received. The cohorts we work with are normally referred to from parents, schools and also self-referrals at times. Some of them undertake this course prior to joining Bedfordshire Elite Boxing Academy which is also based at Samsons Academy. This is where they learn the fundamental skills around boxing, self control, routines and how to work as a team.

Were the projects completed as planned?

Yes, the projects were started and completed on time and all within the allocated budgets.

The CSE projects which are being funded by the Harpur Trust We are working with Ava Vidal, some of you may know from Mock the Week, Have I got New For You and her column in the Telegraph. An entire course has been written to support the Female Empowerment Course as well as the work the charity carries out with CSE. Hey This has been funded by the House of In-

dustry which will support specifically young women and females from Bedford. There is some cross over in the delivery but this is necessary due to the nature of the work being undertaken, the need for delivery with lived experience and the experience of facing these serious issues.

What were the achievements in relation to the aims and objectives of the projects?

When setting up the goals with the young people who are involved with this project, they are asked what type of goals do they want to achieve. Each young person is treated as an individual, all goals and learning objectives are also individual inasmuch that each learner learns at different rates. To ensure they do not feel different from not picking something at a different speed to the others each young person has individual goals to achieve.

LDW is 17 year old male from Bedford, he was mentored throughout his college course after becoming statutorily homeless for a period. He managed to maintain his college placement, attend and sit all of his assessments as well as passing his course with Distinctions. He was given a mentor so that he could meet with them once a week. He is now running a small 3 chair barber shop in Bedford with two other people he met during the course.

One of the Romanian cohort Eddie who came to us as a 14 year old undertaking Time2Train and then RESOLUTION Dying to Belong has this year completed his BSc in Software Engineering. He gained a 2:1 from the University of Leicestershire and has now embarked on completing his MSc in Internet Security.

With Band of Brothers Mental Health, we exceeded our operational and delivery expectations. One of the project outcomes was to train up 100 Men in Bedford. This project has fortunately surpassed our expectations where we have to date trained over 2000 people across Beds, Herts and Bucks using at the Zero Suicide Alliance Programme and ASIST [Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training]

We carried out a successful comedy night on the 13th August 2022, Stand Up To Suicide hosted 3 comedians. Curtis Walker, Annette Fagon and Rudi Lickwood performed for the above mentioned cause. All 3 have offered to become Ambassadors for SUTS Band of Brothers Mental Health Project. The night was about suicide intervention and prevention awareness training.

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The boxing academy continues to meet x3 times a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday's at 7pm until 9pm. Between 55 and 60 young people between the ages of 9 years of age and 30 years of age. Both male and female athletes train together under the responsibility of Avi & Man Kalyan (L3 Coaches) and Len Fuller (L4) All England Boxing Coaches.

The club recently celebrated having two All England Champions in the club winning their titles over a month of boxing competitions around the country. Both come from harder to reach communities and are now lined up to turn semi-pro at the end of 2023. They have been supported with their studies as well as receiving support by one of the counselling team. See outcomes and goals for BEBA.

Alex Goulding another Ambassador has been working with our young male cohort (15 to 23 years of age) on several of these projects delivered. He continues to run the fitness class for the Menopause Marines which has seen an increase in the number of female participants. We have one of the CEA who specialised in menopause, however we have seen new members join as they felt more comfortable with some changes in staff.

Outcomes and Goals

Project: Time2Train

- Increase each cohort's attendance by 10% if they have attendance less than 50%

- Increase attendance by 5% if they have attendance of 60% or less
- All cohorts to maintain a video or written diary for the entirety of the delivered course
- For young people to understand the difference between talking therapies
- Teach them what cuckooing is and how that can affect their communities
- Help them to recognise what 'Patterning' is and ways of avoiding this.
- Support all young people into accessing talking a therapies during the course.
- Support all young people on how to make a referral to the necessary agency
- For young people to be able to understand what constitutes anti-social behaviour and what the affects of county-lines may have on their environment.

Project: RESOLUTION Dying to Belong

- Support NEET student/young people back into education, employment and training
- Get young people to understand the difference between talking therapies
- Support young people through reflective practice

Project: Band of Brothers Mental Health

- Train up 500 Men in the community to use ASIST
- Train up 500 Men on VSA Suicide Awareness Training on-line
- Organise Stand Up to Suicide Mental Health Comedy Night (Summer Show)
- Set up Monthly Men's Meeting Group @ Samsons Academy
- Set up Bereavement Support Group
- Charity Boxing Night at Cuban with FNF

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Project: CSE Weekend Project

- Raise the awareness of CSE in young people both male/female and non-binary
- Explore the themes of 'Patterning, Grooming, County-lines and being exploited
- Explore Safe Plans
- Set up female young persons support network whatsapp/Team or Zoom

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Project: Bedfordshire Elite Boxing Academy

- All students to be trained to level 1 All England Boxing Standard
- Improve communication skills
- Run a mile in under 8 minutes
- Maintain attendance at school and college
- Keep a learning and reflective journal

Project: SIA Training & Development

- Complete the course and pass
- Gain employment from undertaking and passing the course
- Gain 1st Aid qualification
- Apply for SIA License

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Project: The Cassandra Sports Empowerment Project

- Support 30 young females into sport and education
- Provide sporting equipment for them
- Help them track their journey

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What the barriers or challenges did you face in implementing the projects?

During the delivery of the course, we found that over 70% of the cohort had attendance which exceeded 60%. This has been consistent since the previous year which shows continuity with delivery and our referral system.

We had 3 young people whose attendance was less than the pass rate for the course. We had to work with them to increase their attendance and adherence to the course aims. Some of the other barriers encountered were peer pressure not to conform, missing sessions or not completing their personal journals as agreed. This was made easier for some who stated that their literacy skills were not sufficient enough for them to carry out this part of the course. They were all encouraged to make video diaries of they journey through the project which were then shared with their permission with our in-house counselling and therapy service.

Many of the cohort come from areas where they belong to a gang a group etc. many people hear the word gang and automatically associate the negative connotation of this. Many hang out with likeminded individuals that do not perpetuate the generic stereotypical 'gang'. With the current cost of living crisis which is sweeping the country, many young people who are not in secure home establishments are turning to criminal activity to be able to live. We have seen the number of young people turning to shoplifting and youth criminality on the increase.

What were the apparent strengths and weaknesses of each stage of the intervention?

None were made apparent at the time of review of the course. However, with time we expect that more weaknesses and strengths will become apparent with time.

One which I suspect is the following, when funding projects is kept to a small amounts instead of fully funding higher levels of continued intervention, progress and setbacks can sometimes be endemic. The intervention the academy implements is a programme of learning each stage cannot be separated which could be considered a weakness. It is carried out this way so that all of the cohort move through the course together. Each individual learning plan is set to the ability of the individual.

Many of the cohort come from areas where they belong to a gang a group etc. Many people hear the word gang and automatically associate the negative connotation of this. Many hang out with likeminded individuals that do not perpetuate the generic stereotypical 'gang'. With the current cost of living dilemma which is sweeping thee country, many young people who are not in secure home establishments are turning to criminal activity to be able to live. This was gleaned from data which was complied through the use of questionnaires and direct conversations during activity sessions and counselling sessions.

Did the community understand the intervention?

The community are aware of some of the courses we run. Some we do not for reasons of security, confidentiality, privacy, and safeguarding. For the following reasons, breaches in trust and confidentiality could transpire if the public were aware of the full extent of some of the courses. Time2Train and RESOLUTION being two of those courses which might attract some trouble as you are fundamentally getting groups of young people together who may of had some form of disagreement together and having to work through the issues there and then. The element that touches on CSE is not known so that any young person accessing this is not put at risk, 'patterning' or ridicule.

Whereas, with Band of Brothers is all about exposure and desensitisation and being able to talk about suicide. To date, we have engaged with just under 900 people in the community. Our social media over the months the BBC production team were filming at the academy rose substantially. We saw a wider proportion of the community contacting the engagement team regarding on-going projects.

Each month we are receiving more and more emails, requests and enquiries about some of our services. We have to be very culturally aware of the CSE project as some of the content they are exposed to and some of the content they bring to the group can be upsetting. This is why we have now bought in a specialist Co-ordinator to manage this area of our delivery.

Were resources available to sustain project activities, and how will the project be sustained?

All resources needed are available at the Academy already. We are fortunate enough to be one of only a handful of charities in Bedford that has their own premises. We have some equipment due to securing funding from the National Lottery previously to purchase boxing equipment, boxing ring, matts, punch bags, gym equipment, skipping ropes etc and other vital things. We still had to cover lunches, and refreshments as a large majority of the young people who access these courses do not have much disposable income to provide additional lunches and meals outside the home environment. For longevity and sustainability funding needs to be planned earlier on with a schedule of delivery for each project.

What was the wider impact of the project for younger people/communities?

The impact the project has had on younger people in the community gives them the security of belonging to a group which covers a large geographical area of Bedfordshire. They become 'friends' with others on the course they may never of spoken to previously. They start to recognise the similarities they face with others, their backgrounds, families etc. Within the communities, they start to understand how their behaviours affc others around them. They become more aware of what is deemed as anti-social, they learn about restorative justice and recidivism.

We have seen more parents emailing the Academy asking for information about the boxing academy and if it will be branching out to their schools over the next academic terms. There has been an increase in the

Going from the post course evaluations, the young people have been working with on the CSE Weekend Project came up with the following statements.

"Why is this not taught in schools seeing as most of us have access to the internet on our phones"

"How come pregnancy in Europe for young people our age is much lower than the UK where the age of consent is much lower in some parts of Europe?"

We have had reports/conversations of some young people using dating apps such as Tinder, Plenty More Fish and Grindr where some state their friends use it/them to get gifts, money and alcohol from guys that like them.

What key publicity was undertaken?

We put posts out on our social media platforms as we do with all our projects. In addition we worked with BBC1 for 3 month on the band of Brothers Project which will be aired in September 2022. This was for a programme called **WE ARE ENGLAND**. We have also had 6 articles in at the Bedford Independent newspaper reporting on the work we have been carrying out in the wider community. We have had many other organisations contact us since this was aired as it is on iplayer so others have access.

The Senior Management team were invited recently to present a lecture to the Home Office last year and have been invited to present to their High Impact Engagement team again this year coming year. We have also been working more closely with the VERU Village preferred providers across Bedfordshire. They have been responsible for a large number of project delivered in schools and colleges. We have continued to have strong access and links to the Home Office and VERU. We have recently become the lead on Community Inclusion with the VERU.

What are your overall comments about the projects experience?

The young people who accessed the course stated in the feedback that they could see the benefits of the course. They said it would be better if this was offered in schools from the age of 10 upwards. To stop things spiralling out of control, intervention and early intervention are paramount to reducing the number of suspensions, expulsions and young people just not engaging with education. (Time2Train and RESOLUTION)

Other students stated the courses where they had direct contact with the tutors was invaluable. The SIA course has a 98% pass rate, with a take-up on employment being 80%. This course is directed towards 18 year old plus. A large percentage of the cohort are from BME backgrounds (76%). We have also seen an increase in the number of females applying to undertake the SIA course. The impact of this is as followed, we will be allowing Anita Powell to train as a tutor to assist in the delivery of the SIA course. (SIA Training and Development) GM, a father of one of the people who took their own life in 2021 stated,

If he had undertaken the suicide awareness on-line training he believes his son would still be alive today. He feels he would have been more aware of his son's battle with mental illness.

(Band of Brothers Mental Health Project)

Over 2200 men in Bedfordshire alone have completed the <https://zsa.frank-cdn.uk/scorm/full-training/story.html>

With an increase to 800 people including women who have also completed this. We have been targeting barbers in the 3 counties to have someone, if not all of them use the on-line training as it has been observed in recent studies that men tend to speak more freely in male orientated spaces. This has involved monthly meetings on a Saturday night at Samsons Academy where the Band of Brothers members meet up. (Band of Brothers Project) From my last meeting with the Ollie Foundation, Baton of Hope which specialises in suicide awareness and intervention plus some others, they have all mentioned that the BBC programme really helped to raise the awareness around the growing concerns around men's mental health; and the lack of community based projects which help to combat these.

The Governance Process

We have meetings with the Community Engagement team every Monday at 9.30am for 2 hours, this is attended by the COO, Head of Finance, Course Leaders and the Comms Engagement Advocate, Outreach and Administrator. This is followed by a Finance meeting with KKY, myself and one of the Trustees. This normally takes an hour where we look at current applications etc and funds we have secured.

All course facilitators are expected to convene a review process after each full week of a courses delivery. This takes place with two representatives from the course, namely young people or an older adult. This is then fed into a monthly meeting with all facilitators and course leaders/instructors.

Part of this model is the Advisory Model where parts of the courses or projects we put on are led by professionals who come in to deliver the course on our behalf. Part of it is the Management Team Model and some the Policy Board Model. We ensure our governance is up to date and totally transparent. While the board is accountable for oversight of the governance process, management is responsible for implementing the policies and procedures through which governance occurs within the organisation.

The board is responsible for understanding—and for advising management on—the processes through which governance occurs within the organisation, and is accountable for the results of those processes.

Management is responsible for the governance processes and their workings, and for their results. A governance operating model may assist the board and management in fulfilling their governance roles. Such a model is likely to enable the board and the executive leadership to organise the governance structure and the mechanisms by which governance is implemented. By the same token, the lack of a governance operating model may lead to an incomplete or faulty governance structure, or to inconsistencies, overlaps, and gaps among governance mechanisms. Such inadequacies may lead to failure to enact governance policies that the board and management have put in place. We try and ensure this is not the case with regular reviews and by using the guidance provided by the Charities Commission.

We carry out an evaluation with them by conducting a series of questionnaires before they commence a course or project with us. They also have to attend a meeting at the start of any project we deliver and also at the end as well. Only recently we met with 38 young people from 3 different projects we delivered and 20 older hardly reached adults in the month of February. We also ask the participants what outcomes they want to achieve or aim for, along with the objectives we believe or the funders would like us to look out for. Our Safeguarding is fairly robust, we have access to a LADO and an IRO, Independent Reviewing Officer from Sussex Social Services.

Bringing People Together and building strong relationships in and across the communities

We continue to bring people together utilising the projects and the community participation we engage in. With the introduction of the Community Engagement Advocate and the Community Engagement Outreach Worker (x2) with the continued work of the Community Fund Officer(s) we are able to reach a large population of the local and wider community. The work carried out by the team enables the organisations to plan what we are doing periodically and consistently. We hold regular meetings with groups based around Bedford to consult on issues our charity works towards combatting, for example, the work we carry out and deliver around CSE. We were successful in attaining a grant from the House of Industry only this year after another organisation had applied for the same grant. We were able to demonstrate that due to our links in the community and our constant engagement from community members and leaders, we were able to show a stronger form of understanding and cohesion as some of our beneficiaries and delivery partners come directly from these communities.

We intend on improving the space we currently occupy at Elms Farm Industrial estate in Bedford. The academy is a safe space many have come to use of the 4 years and a space that many more over the national lockdown have started to use. Even when the Afghan refugee crisis started last August we as an organisation were able to implement a crisis plan we had already had to put in place around refugee support. This can be seen on our website and social media platform about the wider links we are forging in the wider community.

Previously, we had never worked with these organisations until one of our Trustees had a chance meeting with a worker from one of the newer organisations we started partnering with. One of the comments that they made when we invited them to a stakeholders meeting was, 'they never knew we existed'. They now use our space to undertake some of their humanitarian work and we are happy to work with them. We need to renovate some the space we currently inhabit which will make our overall efficacy far improved and a space that others can use more accessible.

Supporting people to reach their potential has always been a key performance indicator within Samsons. By tracking where our cohorts start out and mapping their journey with regular periodic checks/reviews, we have been able to maintain a longer more transactional relationship with them. They are able to tangibly see where they are heading and more importantly where they have come from. Being able to access their counsellors/therapists/tutors/mentors and facilitators through the current programs we have ran, it enables us as a team to support and address concerns at the earliest possible opportunity.

The Impact Your Proposal will have and the difference it will make/Delivery Plan

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6pm 50 to 60 young/people/adults come together for Bedfordshire Elite Boxing Academy. There they are taught the skills of competitive All England Boxing and train together. Most of these young people have been involved in some form of youth criminality or gang affiliation. Some have been bullied at school and college and want to be able to look after themselves. Some want to increase their skills in the ring to compete. What they all have in common is they all belong to a family, that family being a club where they get continual emotional support, psychological support, peer support and friendship. Positive relationships where they are able to notice when something in their lives may be maladaptive or toxic. The ability to be able to communicate when something in their lives is going wrong and seek solutions which will keep them safe or less vulnerable. Instead of having to run separate projects which only take them so far we want to be able to support them longer with more longevity.

Getting as many of the young people and young adults into further education or employment or training is paramount. Getting them to recognise they have other choices in life other than following down the route of siblings or sometimes parents into criminal activity is an option, an option that they will get support from unconditionally. We have seen so many young males from many backgrounds who are labelled aggressive or hard to reach growing. Young people who are considered unreachable or simply not worth it.

Yes, we are a BME led organisation but are inclusive to all that need advocacy, assistance and support. We are our community and we are the ones that need to help fix some of the problems our community are facing. We can't rely on Government handouts or wait for the next major disaster to manifest. Being a proactive and progressive charity, we have seen some of the societal problems we are facing and started work on these years back. With the closure of any youth and special educational needs services, day centres, sports centres and clubs closed because of lack of funding, this has perpetuated the growing number of issues we are now encountering. To date we have helped and supported through various projects over 2.4k people across Bedfordshire.

Weekends we have CSE classes for those at risk, we even sometimes see parents come in who are concerned about their young people with regards to being groomed or facing sexual exploitation. We have instructors who are specifically trained in this line of work and support around 100 young people over 10 weekends. Most of the work we undertake takes place at Samsons Academy, Unit 1, 1 Shuttleworth Road Bedford MK41 0HS. Some of the work we undertake takes place at Samsons Fitness (SF2 Bedford) such as the Release on Temporary License with Bedford Prison and Hertfordshire & Cambridge Probation Service as the prison is located in closer proximity to Samsons Fitness. They have a similar name however we are different companies now with different Directors. They are one of many partners we are now working with.

We are aware the projects we run are the right approach due to the uptake, the referral and more importantly the outcomes we achieve with them. We have a structured team of professionals we work with all our cohorts on varying projects. Some of the summer activities (sports related) may take place at a different venue. We have recently started working with Sports Traider who provide all the sports kits, boots, balls etc for a program we support in Luton schools, where females from the harder to reach communities get to play in a football tournament with other harder to reach females over summer.

We intend on developing the academy where classes can be ran everyday and throughout the day. We plan on making it a mega-hub where people are able to come in or just drop in to see someone regarding their Childs education needs/support due to being excluded. Which we are seeing more and more with white working class males and young males from the BME community.

Continuing to deliver the service past the funding period

Because some projects are no longer being funded we will not be running them again unless they are funded again to do so. Expectations to deliver a project or to continue it requires capital funding to make the project viable. You still have all the same costs and expenditure to cover after your funding ceases. We have been successful in attaining funding from the National Lottery for the period of 2022 to 2023/24. We will continue to deliver projects in two main areas of social deprivation from the funding we received from the Harpur Trust/The VERU/Home Office and ward funding from local Government. Queens Park, Kingsbrook and Caudwell wards in Bedford have historically been areas where infrastructural funding has been limited and reduced. This has caused increased raises in youth criminality, increased truancy, low social and academic engagement as well as sporadic employment. We have been working with other organisations such as the Big Local and in talks with some other CIC's around youth delivery.

With the support of the different projects and contact from the engagement staff we have maintained contact and positive youth engagement.

Working Partners

The working partners we are currently engaged with in active projects is slowly growing. We work with the Harpur Trust on a couple of projects as well as the National Lottery Fund, The VERU and OPCC of Bedfordshire Police. We also work with Children's Services for Bedford Borough Council and a number of projects such as Just Purple Presents and Sports Traider and BLMK CCG.

This concludes the last year for Samsons Academy, we would like to thank all the funders who have worked with the academy team and other organisations that have seen the changes we have made and supported through our work. We would also like to thank all the community who have entrusted us to work with some of the hardest to reach people countywide.

Signed

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Samsons Academy Trustees
COO Samsons Academy
28 Januar 2024

Receipts and Payments Account

Samsons Academy

For the year ended 31 March 2023

2023

Receipts

Bedford BC - Grant Income	22,618.48
Bedfordshire Police - Grant Income	23,500.00
Belron - Grant Income	4,234.78
Event Revenue	223.96
Harpur Trust - Grant Income	14,000.00
House of Industry - Grant Income	18,354.00
Interest Income	6.84
Sales - Gym Rental	4,020.00
Sales - Gym Subscriptions	25.00
SIA - Grant Income	7,922.52
NHS - Grant Income	8,000.00
National Lottery - Grant Income	40,120.00
Donations	100.00
Beds & Luton - Grant Income	6,380.00
Leeds Building Society - Grant Income	807.00
BPHA - Grant Income	2,000.00
Total Receipts	152,312.58

Payments

Advertising & Marketing	450.00
Bank Fees	92.00
Building Expenses	11,601.44
Cleaning	3,782.00
Depreciation Expense	7,440.07
Digital Media Officer	194.00
General Expenses	79.95
Insurance	3,056.06
IT Software and Consumables	2,616.15
Legal Expenses	3,633.00
Light, Power, Heating	5,970.00
Postage, Freight & Courier	40.00
Project Costs - Other	2,335.00
Rates	3,802.20
Refuse Collection	480.00
Rent	36,260.00
Salaries	48,063.37
Staff Training	700.00
Telephone & Internet	2,187.75
Travel - National	532.33
Direct Expenses	827.80
Facilitator	6,645.00

2023

Project Manager	5,050.00
Therapist	1,000.00
Total Payments	146,838.12
<hr/>	
Balance	5,474.46
<hr/>	
Balance after Taxation	5,474.46

Balance Sheet

Samsons Academy As at 31 March 2023

31 MAR 2023

Fixed Assets

Tangible Assets

Buildings	151,040.00
Computer Equipment	330.00
Gym Equipment	13,258.93
Less Accumulated Depreciation on Buildings	(5,720.00)
Rent Deposit	18,000.00
Total Tangible Assets	176,908.93

Total Fixed Assets **176,908.93**

Current Assets

Cash at bank and in hand

CAF Bank	201.31
Total Cash at bank and in hand	201.31

Total Current Assets **201.31**

Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

Accounts Payable	(50.00)
CAF - Gold Account	3,686.45
Directors' Loan Account - Dorian Alexis	4,298.75
NIC Payable	5,311.53
PAYE Payable	7,093.60
Rent Accrual	(301.00)
Student Loan Deductions Payable	1,450.00
Suspense	814.00
Wages Payable - Payroll	11,359.65
Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	33,662.98

Net Current Assets (Liabilities) **(33,461.67)**

Total Assets less Current Liabilities **143,447.26**

Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

Loan	28,000.00
Loan - Jinny Nutt	12,950.00
Long Term Loan - Dorian Alexis	72,000.00
Long Term Loan - Jemma	21,650.00
Long Term Loan - Sam Nutt	39,000.00
Total Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	173,600.00

Net Assets **(30,152.74)**

Capital and Reserves

Current Year Earnings	5,474.46
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31 MAR 2023

Retained Earnings	(35,627.20)
Total Capital and Reserves	(30,152.74)

SAMSONS ACADEMY

England & Wales - Charity number 1181882

Accounts



End of Year Evaluation Report Trustees' Annual Report

Samsons Academy Charity (1181882) Impact Report April 2021 to March 2022

Foreword from the Chief Operating Officer

This has been another fantastic year in the life of Samsons. The board of trustees, delivery partners and volunteers have continued to grow this much needed space for those in the local area who need us. We are continuing to make huge strides into our charitable goals and objectives and thanks to the dedication of everyone involved we are well on our way. Our projects and courses that we have run have proved to be an enormous success for all those who have attended, have surpassed our initial targets and have continued to draw interest above the number of placements currently offered. There have been so many successes with our projects that I am having a tough time singling out any specific achievement. They have all .been fantastic and the results speak for themselves

The space and services that Samsons provides continues to give everyone and anyone who needs a place to discover their true potential as well as continuing in breaking down social exclusion barriers, start conversations, and provide a safe space. Samsons is going from strength to strength and we recently celebrated our fifth birthday, which is a testament not only to our need within the community but to the hard work of everyone involved within Samsons. Here is to another 5 years and beyond for our amazing charity. I, personally, am very proud to be part of this. The Trustees confirm hat they have complied with the duty in Section 17 (5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard o the guidance published by the Charity .Commission

Dorian NR Alexis

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Dorian NR Alexis
Chief Operating Officer

Chair of Trustees Report Author Christopher J Duncan

Lead Community Engagement Advocate	Anita Powell	Contributions from
Forensic Psychologist	Niki Kell	
Counsellor/Director Meaningful Education/Tutor	Clare Copleston	
Lead Boxing Coach Bedfordshire Elite Boxing Academy		Avi Kalyan
Project Co-ordinator Sports in Schools		Claire Ovenell
Lead Coach McGowan Muay Thai		Dan McGowan
Lead Counsellor/Director Therapy With../Tutor		Po Chan
Lead Tutor SIA	Naz Ahmed	
COO/Psychologist	Dorian Alexis	
CSE Tutor & Programme Manager/Advocate	Zenah Ahmed	

samsons-academy.org **Website**

Samsons Academy UK **Facebook**

Samsons Academy Charity, Unit 1, 1 Shuttleworth Road, Elms Farm Ind, Bedford MK41 0EN **Address**

Commenced

Current Trustees 2022/2024

April 22, 2022	Chair	Mr CJ Duncan
February 05, 2018	Trustee	Dr Lianna B Valerio
February 05, 2018	Trustee	Ms Maggie Constable
February 05, 2018	Trustee (Resigned)	Mrs J Hudson-Lett
February 05, 2018	Trustee	Mr R Aghera
February 05, 2018	Trustee	Mr Ashley Nahar
October 01, 2022	Trustee	Mr G Moliterno

2022 April 17,
August 27, 2022
February 05, 2018
February 05, 2018

Trustee Ms K Dubarry
Trustee Mrs Melanie Stratton
Trustee Ms Sabrina D'Almeio
Trustee Mr Yusuf Pickstock

Executive Summary

We have been delivering combative sports for 6 years at Samsons Academy Charity. Our boxing coaches have been working with young people around Bedfordshire who have been experiencing issues and problems around accessing educations, employment and training. We came second in Project of the Year with the National Lottery in 2021 and have continued to build our relationship with the NLF. We remain in talks with them about funding three of the below projects for a two year period, this will enable us to build stronger foundations within the community around our delivery. This will also enable to organisation to build capacity so we are not caught up in chasing funding instead of building community resilience. Our coverage this year has been vastly increased from the projects we delivered in the middle of a global pandemic. This year alone, we have worked with 2,400 people across Bed, Herts and Bucks. We .have not included the Herts/Cambs based project in this report

and 2022 have been telling years for the academy. Insomuch we have grown in the 2021 number of community based projects we have been involved with. But also, the number of people we have worked with or come into contact with. We have excelled in our men's health projects seeing the BBC reach out to us about the initiative work we have been carrying out and delivering around Bedfordshire. We have started to reach funders who are prepared to work with us on projects not yet carried out in Bedford. The number of young disenfranchised people we work with has grown to an extent we have allocated a dedicated Engagement Co-ordinator to oversee some of the satellite projects we deliver

We hope the intervention we have established over the past few years will show you that we are determined to continue to attain our charitable aims and goals. We hope to continue to grow in such a way we maintain a holistic and therapeutic approach to our delivery and always .have at the forefront of our minds why we do what we do

Current Course ran between January 2021 and April 2022

- **RESOLUTION Dying to Belong**
- **Time2Train**
- **Band of Brothers Mental Health**
- **100 Men & Women Mentor**
- **The CSE Project**
- **Covid Support for the BME Community**
- **Bedfordshire Elite Boxing Academy**
- **SIA Training & Development**
- **The Cassandra Project for Female Youth Empowerment**

This project tends to work with larger groups of young people who have been identified as belonging to or have had contact and exposure to gang related activity. Bedford has had a growing number of young people who have some form of gang affiliation or .membership/association

This course (Time2Train, Resolution & CSE Weekend Programme) are ran for 12 weeks where the cohorts are taught lessons around timekeeping, following instructions, health and safety, marketing and many other themes you will find in the work-place, team work, leadership and role responsibilities. We were able to run this for a further 6 weeks (Time2Train and Resolution) due to an extension in the funding we received. Stronger Souls Boxing has been based now at Samsons Academy for the past 16 weeks, moving away from Boxing Saves Lives they have branched out and provide bespoke sessions within schools focusing on behaviours, concentration, self-esteem, confidence and self-control. The cohorts we work with are normally referred to from parents, schools and also self-referrals at times. Some of them undertake this course prior to joining Bedfordshire Elite Boxing Academy which is also based at Samsons .Academy. This is where they learn the fundamental skills around boxing and control

?Were the projects completed as planned

.Yes, the projects were started and completed on time and all within the allocated budgets

We haven't had any concerns with any of the other projects we are and have ran and the rest of the delivered projects are due to end on time, within the given parameters of service .delivery

A couple of the projects are due to start, such as The Cassandra Project which looks at many of the issues young women and young females have to encounter. Sanitary Towel Poverty (STP) is a real thing. With many young females of school age unable to purchase sanitary towels. We were approached by Kotex to ease the issue of STP in some schools around Bedfordshire. This project will be headed up by Anita Powell, Lead Community Engagement Advocate (part time .post funded by the Harpur Trust)

The CSE project was potentially the hardest one to engage young females onto. So, we had a change of thought and decided to educate the males as part of the programme delivery. So far to date, we have delivered 10 weekends of self-defense and classes directed to the young women we work with a further 4 weekends where we have had an all male cohort group. We have seen an increase across Bedfordshire of young females needing additional support from .some harder to reach communities

What were the achievements in relation to the aims and objectives of the ?projects

When setting up the goals with the young people who are involved with this project, they are asked what type of goals do they want to achieve. Each young person is treated as an individual, all goals and learning objectives are also individual insomuch that each learner learns at different rates. To ensure they do not feel different from not picking something at a .different speed to the others each young person has individual goals to achieve

LDW is a 17 year old male from Bedford, he was mentored throughout his college course after becoming statutorily homeless for a period. He managed to maintain his college placement, attend and sit all of his assessments as well as passing his course with Distinctions. He was given a mentor so that he could meet with them once a week. All young people are paired off with a mentor which comes under the 100 Men/Women Mentor Project and some under a Band .of Brothers **Mental Health**

With Band of Brothers Mental Health, we exceeded our operational and delivery expectations. One of the project outcomes was to train up 100 Men in Bedford. This project has fortunately surpassed our expectations where we have to date trained over 2000 people across Beds, Herts and Bucks using at the Zero Suicide Alliance Programme and ASIST [Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training]

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We carried out a successful comedy night on the 13th August 2022, Stand Up To Suicide hosted 3 comedians. Curtis Walker, Annette Fagon and Rudi Lickwood performed for the above mention cause. All 3 have offered to become Ambassadors for SUTS Band of Brothers Mental Health Project. The night was about suicide intervention and prevention awareness training. We signed off a further 58 people that evening alone, with others completing the course that

weekend. One audience member said "It was such an emotional night dealt with exceptional "dignity and tact. Thank you for such a wonderful and informative funny evening

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The boxing academy continues to meet 3 times a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday's at 7pm until 9pm. Between 40 and 52 young people between the ages of 9 years of age and 30 years of age. Both male and female athletes train together under the responsibility of Avi & .Man Kalyan (L3 Coaches) and Len Fuller (L4) who are All England Boxing Coaches

The club recently celebrated having two All England Champions in the club winning their titles over a month of boxing competitions around the country. Both come from harder to reach communities and are now lined up to turn semi-pro at the end of 2023. They have been .supported with their studies as well as receiving support by one of the counselling team

Jennifer Stoute recently came on board as an Ambassador for The Cassandra Project. Jennie is an ex Olympic sprinter and medalist, tv personality (Rebel on ITV's Gladiators) and model. She also runs a successful sports agency in London with her business partner John Regis, also ex Olympic sprinter and medalist. Jennie came on board after meeting Anita Powell, Lead Community Engagement Advocate, at Magic FM in Manchester where they were both being .interviewed or the Davina McCall series on the menopause with BBC1

Alex Goulding another Ambassador has been working with our young male cohort (15 to 23 .years of age) on several of these projects delivered

Outcomes and Goals

Project: Time2Train

- Increase each cohorts attendance by 10% if they have attendance less than 50%
- Increase attendance by 5% if they have attendance of 60% or less
- All cohorts to maintain a video or written diary for the entirety of the delivered course
- For young people to understand the difference between talking therapies
- Teach them what cuckooing is and how that can affect their communities
- Help them to recognise what 'Patterning' is and ways of avoiding this
- Support all young people into accessing talking therapies during the course
- Support all young people on how to make a referral to the necessary agency
- For young people to be able to understand what constitutes anti-social behaviours and what the effects of county-lines may have on their environment.

Project: RESOLUTION Dying to Belong

- Support NEET student/young people back into education, employment and training
- Get young people to understand the difference between talking therapies
- Support young people through reflective practice

Project: Band of Brothers Mental Health

- Train up 500 Men in the community to use ASIST
- Train up 500 Men on VSA Suicide Awareness Training on-line
- Organise Stand Up to Suicide Mental Health Comedy Night (Summer Show)
- Set up Monthly Men's Meeting Group @ Samsons Academy
- Set up Bereavement Support Group

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Project: Menopause Alliance

- Raise the awareness of support services around Menopause and Peri-Menopause
- Support more BME women to access support groups
- Organise monthly support group @ Samsons Academy
- Organise yearly conference for non-clinical and clinical people around the above

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Project: CSE Weekend Project

- Raise the awareness of CSE in young people both male/female and non-binary
- Explore the themes of 'Patterning, Grooming, County-lines and being exploited
- Explore Safe Plans
- Set up female young persons support network WhatsApp/Team or Zoom

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Project: Bedfordshire Elite Boxing Academy

- All students to be trained to level 1 All England Boxing Standard
- Improve communication skills
- Run a mile in under 8 minutes
- Maintain attendance at school and college
- Keep a learning and reflective journal

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Project: Covid Support in the BME Community

- Support older BME adults to access appointments for vaccinations
- Ascertain more information on the vaccine for older members of the community
- Arrange transport where required to get to appointments
- Work with community groups to raise the awareness of vaccines/informed choice
- Support members with Yellow Card reporting
- Continue with befriending service and telephone contact (out of hours contacts)
- Work with Pursuit of Happiness Community group, talks with Dr's/ Immuno-biologist & Vaccines Specialist
- Support more older adults onto Zoom/Teams an on-line support

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Project: SIA Training & Development

- Complete the course and pass
- Gain employment from undertaking and passing the course
- Gain 1st Aid qualification
- Apply for SIA License

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Project: The Cassandra Sports Empowerment Project

- Support 30 young females into sport and education
- Provide sporting equipment for them
- Help them track their journey

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Project: 100 Men/Women Mentor

- Allocate 100 mentors to 100 young people/mentees (10 to 17 years of age)
- Hold regular seminar on entrepreneurialism/music/business/academia/sport/journalism/medicine/conservation/construction/education etc.
- Host zoom and Teams on-line for mentor groups
- Support the parents with issues around school/education and behaviours

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?What the barriers or challenges did you face in implementing the projects

During the delivery of the course, we found that over 70% of the cohort had attendance which exceeded 60%. We had 3 young people whose attendance was less than the pass rate for the course. We had to work with them to increase their attendance and adherence to the course aims. Some of the other barriers encountered were peer pressure not to conform, missing sessions or not completing their personal journals as agreed. This was made easier for some who stated that their literacy skills were not sufficient enough for them to carry out this part of the course. They were all encouraged to make video diaries of their journey through the project which were then shared with their permission with our in-house counselling and therapy service.

Many of the cohort come from areas where they belong to a gang a group etc. many people hear the word gang and automatically associate the negative connotation of this. Many hang out with likeminded individuals that do not perpetuate the generic stereotypical 'gang'. With the current cost of living crisis which is sweeping the country, many young people who are not in secure home establishments are turning to criminal activity to be able to live. We have seen the number of young people turning to shoplifting and youth criminality on the increase.

What were the apparent strengths and weaknesses of each stage of the intervention

None were made apparent at the time of review of the course. However, with time we expect that more weaknesses and strengths will become clear with time.

One which I suspect is the following, when funding projects is kept to small amounts instead of fully funding higher levels of continued intervention, progress and setbacks can sometimes be endemic. The intervention the academy implements is a programme of learning each stage cannot be separated, which could be considered a weakness. It is carried out this way so that all of the cohort move through the course together. Each individual learning plan is set to the ability of the individual.

Many of the cohort come from areas where they belong to a gang a group etc. Many people hear the word gang and automatically associate the negative connotation of this. Many hang out with likeminded individuals that do not perpetuate the generic stereotypical 'gang'. With the current cost of living dilemma which is sweeping the country, many young people who are not in secure home establishments are turning to criminal activity to be able to live. This was gleaned from data which was compiled through the use of questionnaires and direct conversations during activity sessions and counselling sessions.

?Did the community understand the intervention

The community are aware of some of the courses we run. Some we do not for reasons of security, confidentiality, privacy, and safeguarding. For the following reasons, breaches in trust

and confidentiality could transpire if the public were aware of the full extent of some of the courses. Time2Train and RESOLUTION being two of those courses which might attract some trouble as you are fundamentally getting groups of young people together who may have had some form of disagreement together and having to work through the issues there and then. The element that touches on CSE is not known so that any young person accessing this is not .put at risk, 'patterning' or ridicule

Whereas, with Band of Brothers is all about exposure and desensitisation and being able to talk about suicide. To date, we have engaged with just under 900 people in the community. Our social media over the months the BBC production team were filming at the academy rose substantially. We saw a wider proportion of the community contacting the engagement team .regarding on-going projects

Each month we are receiving more and more emails, requests and enquiries about some of our services. We have to be very culturally aware of the CSE project as some of the content they are exposed to and some of the content they bring to the group can be upsetting. This is why .we have now bought in a specialist Co-ordinator to manage this area of our delivery

Were resources available to sustain project activities, and how will the ?project be sustained

All resources needed are available at the Academy already. We are fortunate enough to be one of only a handful of charities in Bedford that has their own premises. We have some equipment due to securing funding from the National Lottery previously to purchase boxing equipment, boxing ring, matts, punch bags, gym equipment, skipping ropes etc. and other vital things. We still had to cover lunches, and refreshments as a large majority of the young people who access these courses do not have much disposable income to provide additional lunches and meals outside the home environment. For longevity and sustainability funding needs to be planned earlier on with a schedule of delivery for each project. Some

?What was the wider impact of the project for younger people/communities

The impact the project has had on younger people in the community gives them the security of belonging to a group which covers a large geographical area of Bedfordshire. They become 'friends' with others on the course they may never have spoken to previously. They start to recognise the similarities they face with others, their backgrounds, families etc. Within the communities, they start to understand how their behaviours affect others around them. They become more aware of what is deemed as anti-social, they learn about restorative justice and .recidivism

We have seen more parents emailing the Academy asking for information about the boxing academy and if it will be branching out to their schools over the next academic terms. There has been an increase in the number of referral from the harder to reach communities around the interventions we can offer as well as support for young people needing additional .educational and emotional support

Why is this not taught in schools seeing as most of us have access to the internet on "our phones

How come pregnancy in Europe for young people our age is much lower than the UK " ?"of consent is much lower in some parts of Europe where the age

We have had reports/conversations of some young people using dating apps such as Tinder, Plenty More Fish and Grindr where some state their friends use it/them to get gifts, money and .alcohol from guys that like them

?What key publicity was undertaken

We put posts out on our social media platforms as we do with all our projects. In addition, we

worked with BBC1 for 3 months on the band of Brothers Project which will be aired in September 2022. This was for a programme called **WE ARE ENGLAND**. We have also had 6 articles in at the Bedford Independent newspaper reporting on the work we have been carrying out in the wider community. Our lead on community engagement has also appeared as a guest on BBC Morning Breakfast, was interviewed for Magic FM in Manchester and was also asked to be a lay panelist on ITV. She has been on 3 Counties Radio more times than I care to recall and .has a growing following of people on twitter and follow her blogs on the menopause

The Senior Management team were invited recently to present a lecture to the Home Office last year and have been invited to present to their High Impact Engagement team again this year coming year. We have also been working more closely with the VERU Village preferred providers across Bedfordshire. They have been responsible for a large number of projects .delivered in schools and colleges

?What are your overall comments about the projects experience

The young people who accessed the course stated in the feedback that they could see the benefits of the course. They said it would be better if this was offered in schools from the age of 10 upwards. To stop things spiralling out of control, intervention and early intervention are paramount to reducing the number of suspensions, expulsions and young people just not engaging with education. (Time2Train and RESOLUTION)

Other students stated the courses where they had direct contact with the tutors was invaluable. The SIA course has a 98% pass rate, with a take-up on employment being 80%. This course is directed towards 18 year old plus. A large percentage of the cohort are from BME backgrounds (76%). We have also seen an increase in the number of females applying to undertake the SIA course. The impact of this is as followed, we will be allowing Anita Powell to .train as a tutor to assist in the delivery of the SIA course. (SIA Training and Development)

,GM, a father of one of the people who took their own life in 2021 stated

If he had undertaken the suicide awareness on-line training he believes his son would today. He feels he would have been more aware of his son's battle with still be alive .mental illness

(Band of Brothers Mental Health Project)

Over 500 men in BEDFORD alone have completed the <https://zsa.frank-cdn.uk/scorm/full-training/story.html>

With an increase to 683 people including women who have also completed this. We have been targeting barbers in the 3 counties to have someone, if not all of them use the on-line training as it has been observed in recent studies that men tend to speak more freely in male orientated spaces. This has involved monthly meetings on a Saturday night at Samsons Academy where the Band of Brothers members meet up. (Band of Brothers Project)

The Governance Process

We have meetings with the Community Engagement team every Monday at 9.30am for 2 hours, this is attended by the COO, Head of Finance, Course Leaders and the 3 Comms Engagement Advocate, Outreach and Administrator. This is followed by a Finance meeting with KWY, myself and one of the Trustees. This normally takes an hour where we look at current .applications etc. and funds we have secured

All course facilitators are expected to convene a review process after each full week of a courses delivery. This takes place with two representatives from the course, namely young people or an older adult. This is then fed into a monthly meeting with all facilitators and course .leaders/instructors

Part of this model is the Advisory Model where parts of the courses or projects we put on are led by professionals who come in to deliver the course on our behalf. Part of it is the

Management Team Model and some the Policy Board Model. We ensure our governance is up to date and totally transparent. While the board is accountable for oversight of the governance process, management is responsible for implementing the policies and procedures through which governance occurs within the organisation. The board is responsible for understanding—and for advising management on—the processes through which governance occurs within the organisation, and is accountable for the results of those processes

Management is responsible for the governance processes and their workings, and for their results. A governance operating model may assist the board and management in fulfilling their governance roles. Such a model is likely to enable the board and the executive leadership to organise the governance structure and the mechanisms by which governance is implemented. By the same token, the lack of a governance operating model may lead to an incomplete or faulty governance structure, or to inconsistencies, overlaps, and gaps among governance mechanisms. Such inadequacies may lead to failure to enact governance policies that the board and management have put in place. We try and ensure this is not the case with regular reviews and by using the guidance provided by the Charities Commission

We carry out an evaluation with them by conducting a series of questionnaires before they commence a course or project with us. They also have to attend a meeting at the start of any project we deliver and also at the end as well. Only recently we met with 44 young people from 3 different projects we delivered and 31 older hardly reached adults in the month of February. We also ask the participants what outcomes they want to achieve or aim for, along with the objectives we believe or the funders would like us to look out for. Our Safeguarding is fairly robust, we have access to a LADO and IRO, Independent Reviewing Officer from Sussex Social Services

Bringing People Together and building strong relationships in and across the communities

We continue to bring people together utilising the projects and the community participation we engage in. With the introduction of the Community Engagement Advocate and the Community Engagement Outreach Worker (x2) with the continued work of the Community Fund Officer(s) we are able to reach a large population of the local and wider community. The work carried out by the team enables the organisations to plan what we are doing periodically and consistently. We hold regular meetings with groups based around Bedford to consult on issues our charity works towards combatting, for example, the work we carry out and deliver around CSE. We were successful in attaining a grant from the House of Industry only this year after another organisation had applied for the same grant. We were able to demonstrate that due to our links in the community and our constant engagement from community members and leaders, we were able to show a stronger form of understanding and cohesion as some of our beneficiaries and delivery partners come directly from these communities

We intend on improving the space we currently occupy at Elms Farm Industrial estate in Bedford. The academy is a safe space many have come to use of the 4 years and a space that many more over the national lockdown have started to use. Even when the Afghan refugee crisis started last August we as an organisation were able to implement a crisis plan we had already had to put in place around refugee support. We were able to get aid out to Calais with the support of Stand Up To Racism and Care 4 Calais, two organisation we had not previously worked with until the lockdown. We then were able again to implement the refugee plan more recently with the Ukraine and Russia conflict. We started working with three other organisations in the local area to support people fleeing conflict. This can be seen on our website and social media platform about the wider links we are forging in the wider community

Previously, we had never worked with these organisations until one of our Trustees had a chance meeting with a worker from one of the newer organisations we started partnering with. One of the comments that they made when we invited them to a stakeholders meeting was, 'they never knew we existed'. They now use our space to undertake some of their humanitarian work and we are happy to work with them. We need to renovate some the space we currently inhabit which will make our overall efficacy far improved and a space that others can use more accessible

Supporting people to reach their potential has always been a key performance indicator within

Samsons. By tracking where our cohorts start out and mapping their journey with regular periodic checks/reviews, we have been able to maintain a longer more transactional relationship with them. They are able to tangibly see where they are heading and more importantly where they have come from. Being able to access their counsellors/therapists/tutors/mentors and facilitators through the current programs we have ran, it enables us as a team to support and address concerns at the earliest possible opportunity.

The Impact Your Proposal will have and the difference it will make/Delivery Plan

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6pm 45 to 60 young/people/adults come together for Bedfordshire Elite Boxing Academy. There they are taught the skills of competitive All England Boxing and train together. Most of these young people have been involved in some form of youth criminality or gang affiliation. Some have been bullied at school and college and want to be able to look after themselves. Some want to increase their skills in the ring to compete. What they all have in common is they all belong to a family, that family being a club where they get continual emotional support, psychological support, peer support and friendship. Positive relationships where they are able to notice when something in their lives may be maladaptive or toxic. The ability to be able to communicate when something in their lives is going wrong and seek solutions which will keep them safe or less vulnerable. Instead of having to run separate projects which only take them so far we want to be able to support them longer with more longevity.

Getting as many of the young people and young adults into further education or employment or training is paramount. Getting them to recognise they have other choices in life other than following down the route of siblings or sometimes parents into criminal activity is an option, an option that they will get support from unconditionally. We have seen so many young males from many backgrounds who are labelled aggressive or hard to reach growing. Young people who are considered unreachable or simply not worth it.

Yes, we are a BAME/BME led organisation but are inclusive to all that need advocacy, assistance and support. We are our community and we are the ones that need to help fix some of the problems our community are facing. We cannot rely on Government handouts or wait for the next major disaster to manifest. Being a proactive and progressive charity, we have seen some of the societal problems we are facing and started work on these years back. With the closure of any youth and special educational needs services, day centres, sports centres and clubs closed because of lack of funding, this have perpetuated the growing number of issues we are now encountering. To date we have helped and supported through various projects over 2.4k people across Bedfordshire.

Weekends we have CSE classes for those at risk, we even sometimes see parents come in who are concerned about their young people with regards to being groomed or facing sexual exploitation. We have instructors who are specifically trained in this line of work and support around 100 young people over 10 weekends. Most of the work we undertake take place at Samsons Academy, Unit 1, 1 Shuttleworth Road Bedford MK41 0HS. Some of the work we undertake takes place at Samsons Fitness (SF2 Bedford) such as the Release on Temporary License with Bedford Prison and Hertfordshire & Cambridge Probation Service as the prison is located in closer proximity to Samsons Fitness. They have a similar name however we are different companies now with different Directors. They are one of many partners we are now working with.

We are aware the projects we run are the right approach due to the uptake, the referral and more importantly the outcomes we achieve with them. We have a structured team of professionals we work with all our cohorts on varying projects. Some of the summer activities (sports related) may take place at a different venue. We have recently started working with Sports Traider who provide all the sports kits, boots, balls etc. for a program we support in Luton schools, where females from the harder to reach communities get to play in a football tournament with other harder to reach females over summer. Last year during lockdown we had 68 young females, this year we are expecting 100. When we test the robustness of our projects we also test the vulnerability and weak points. When one is identified, we try and meet to discuss what has come to light. Failing this, an email correspondence is sent to the Lead of

Engagement and also the relevant Trustees who then bring the issue to the next Board of trustees meetings. These take place every other month now

We intend on developing the academy where classes can be run every day and throughout the day. We plan on making it a mega-hub where people are able to come in or just drop in to see someone regarding their Childs education needs/support due to being excluded. Which we are seeing more and more with white working class males and young males from the BME community

Continuing to deliver the service past the funding period

Because some projects are no longer being funded we will not be running them again unless they are funded again to do so. Expectations to deliver a project or to continue it requires capital funding to make the project viable. You still have all the same costs and expenditure to cover after your funding ceases. We have been successful in attaining funding from the National Lottery for the period of 2022 to 2023/24. We will continue to deliver projects in two main areas of social deprivation from the funding we received from the Harpur Trust/The VERU/Home Office and ward funding from local Government. Queens Park, Kingsbrook and Caudwell wards in Bedford have historically been areas where infrastructural funding has been limited and reduced. This has caused increased raises in youth criminality, increased truancy, low social and academic engagement as well as sporadic employment

With the support of the different projects and contact from the engagement staff we have maintained contact and positive youth engagement

Working Partners & Contributions made by volunteers

The working partners we are currently engaged with in active projects is slowly growing. We work with the Harpur Trust on a couple of projects as well as the National Lottery Fund, The VERU and OPCC of Bedfordshire Police. We also work with Children's Services for Bedford Borough Council and a number of projects such as Just Purple Presents and Sports Traider, Dan Gaze Education and BLMK CCG

This concludes the last year for Samsons Academy, we would like to thank all the funders who have worked with the academy team and other organisations that have seen the changes we have made and supported through our work. We would also like to thank all the community who have entrusted us to work with some of the hardest to reach people countywide. This also includes all the volunteers who support all of our projects during 2021 and 2022

Our volunteers have continued to work with the academy on different projects over the past year. They were an integral part of Band of Brothers MENTAL HEALTH where they supported the audience to complete their ZSA suicide awareness training on-line during the intervals

Signed

Chris J Duncan

.....
Christopher J Duncan
Chair of Trustees
February 2022 5

Receipts and Payments Account

Samsons Academy

For the year ended 31 March 2022

2022

Receipts

Arnold Clarke - Grant income	1,000.00
Bedford BC - Grant Income	27,223.00
Garfield Weston - Grant Income	20,000.00
Harpur Trust - Grant Income	22,516.00
House of Industry - Grant Income	8,278.00
Interest Income	0.95
Police Crime Commissioners - Grant Income	2,500.00
Sales - Classroom / Office Rental	120.00
Sales - Gym Rental	300.00
Sales - Gym Subscriptions	945.00
NHS - Grant Income	4,864.60
Job Retention Scheme	4,037.11
Total Receipts	91,784.66

Payments

Audit & Accountancy fees	2,198.20
Bank Fees	121.00
Building Expenses	14,418.44
Charitable and Political Donations	500.00
Cleaning	3,711.77
Depreciation Expense	440.00
Digital Media Officer	2,541.99
Entertainment - 0%	79.04
Entertainment-100% business	61.56
Fundraising Expenses	462.00
General Expenses	670.44
Insurance	2,146.49
IT Software and Consumables	233.50
Legal Expenses	1,949.99
Light, Power, Heating	2,880.00
Printing & Stationery	1,367.26
Project Costs - Other	306.00
Project Costs - Subsistence	105.54
Rates	965.19
Refuse Collection	480.00
Rent	36,000.00
Salaries	33,666.75
Staff Training	200.00
Telephone & Internet	2,382.00
Travel - National	249.95
Videographer	3,000.00

2022

Facilitator	8,860.60
Project Manager	1,500.00
Therapist	2,000.00
Yoga Instructor	230.00
Total Payments	123,727.71
<hr/>	
Balance	(31,943.05)
<hr/>	
Balance after Taxation	(31,943.05)

Receipts and Payments Account

Samsons Academy

For the year ended 31 March 2022

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SAMSONS ACADEMY

England & Wales - Charity number 1181882

Accounts

Accounts & Trustee Report

Samsons Academy

26 November 2021

Prepared by Kirstie Young

Contents

Company Information	3
Balance Sheet	4
Trustees Report	5

Company Information

Samsons Academy For the year ended 31 March 2021

1. Trustees

Dorian Alexis - Chief Operating Officer

Chris J Duncan - Chair

Johanna Hudson-Lett

Sabrina D'Almelio

Raff Aghera

Yusef Pickstock

Ashley Nahar

Dr. Liana Valerio

Ranjit Thind

Maggie Constable

2. Accountant

Kirstie Young AATQB

3. Registered Charity Number

1181882

4. Registered Office

Unit 1, 1 Shuttleworth Road

Bedford

MK41 0EN

Balance Sheet

Samsons Academy As at 31 March 2021

31 Mar 2021

31 Mar 2020

Assets

	31 Mar 2021	31 Mar 2020
Bank		
CAF - Gold Account	10,000	-
CAF Bank	23,577	4,203
Total Bank	33,577	4,203
Current Assets		
Phoenix Fund	(1,198)	-
Total Current Assets	(1,198)	-
Non-current Assets		
Rent Deposit	18,000	-
Total Non-current Assets	18,000	-
Total Assets	50,379	4,203

Liabilities

Current Liabilities		
Accruals	600	-
Directors' Loan Account - Dorian Alexis	5,932	-
NIC Payable	1	-
Rent Accrual	(1)	-
Wages Payable - Payroll	1,531	-
Total Current Liabilities	8,063	-
Non-Current Liabilities		
Loan	28,000	30,000
Loan - Jinny Nutt	18,000	-
Total Non-Current Liabilities	46,000	30,000
Total Liabilities	54,063	30,000
Net Assets	(3,684)	(25,797)

Equity

Current Year Earnings	22,113	(25,797)
Retained Earnings	(25,797)	-
Total Equity	(3,684)	(25,797)

Trustees Report

Samsons Academy For the year ended 31 March 2021

Trustees Report

Samsons Academy
Chief Operating Officers Report
June 2021 to December 2021
the gym with the biggest heart in Bedfordshire.

Trustees @ Samsons Academy

Sabrina D'Almelio Trustee Feb 2019 to Present
Johanna Hudson-Lett Trustee Feb 2019 to Present
Raff Aghera Trustee Feb 2019 to Present
Yusef Pickstock Trustee Feb 2019 to Present
Ashley Nahar Trustee Feb 2019 to Present
Dr. Liana Valerio Trustee Feb 2020 to Present
Ranjit Thind Trustee Aug 2020 to Present
Maggie Constable Trustee Dec 2020 to Present
Chris J Duncan Chair Dec 2020 to Present

Mr Matt Legg Ambassador (Boxer)
Mr Daniel McGowan Ambassador (World Champion Muya Thai)
Mr Daniel J O'Neal Ambassador (Businessman and CH4 SAS Who Dares win Cohort)
Mr Wayne Frew Ambassador (Olympic and Commonwealth Gold Medalist/Gymnast)
Josh Hudson-Lett Youth Ambassador (National/International Ruby Player)
Ava Vidal Ambassador (Presenter, Author and Stand Up Comedian)
Don Broco Ambassadors (Band)

Website www.samsons-academy.org
Facebook @SamsonsAcademyUK
LinkedIn Samsons Academy
Instagram @samsonsacademyuk
Youtube Samsons Academy
Twitter @Samsons_Academy

Address Unit 1, 1 Shuttleworth Road, Elms Farm Industrial Estate, Bedford, Beds MK41 0HS
Telephone 01234 346100
Charity Registration No 1181182
New starters 0
Leavers 0

1. Executive Summary

The Academy is more than a gym, it is a community centre for training for Thai Muay, Mixed Martial Arts, an amateur boxing club affiliated to England Boxing. In the last year it has developed a place where we are working with other voluntary organisations to develop work with local authorities; developing capacity and infrastructure within BAME voluntary organisations. Working with young people has led us to develop relations with their parents which has led to working with voluntary organisations; however exclusively in the African and Caribbean community.

The re-opening of the academy in June went according to the plan..... Classes have resumed for the boxing academy as well as they Muay Thai fighters. Social distancing is still being maintained when in the classroom environment, however many of the young people that are coming in to participate in activities or projects are all within the same 'bubble'.

It has been a very strange time and are now in our 3rd/4th year as a fully recognised charity with the UK Charity Commission. We have qualified coaches teaching students to box in competitions, as well as selection for the Olympics and Commonwealth. We also focus our attention on the health and well-being of the community. We also have instructors working for Samsons Academy who are World Champions in their own rights who support the academy and run classes throughout the week and over the weekends. Using the ethos of combat sports, we are helping to improve the lives of those that might be socially excluded. We offer a welcoming and inclusive

environment for all the community to learn boxing regardless of ability as well as Muay Thai, Yoga, Pilates, Boxercise, K1, Kick Boxing and other forms of combat sports. We are promoting community cohesion across barriers of age, gender, race, sexual orientation and religion etc. We are here to offer the chance of change. Samsons Academy is a support network and a base for training and

Trustees Report

self-growth. We are community focused organisation working in partnership with professionals and other agencies such as Faces Bedford, Bedfordshire Pro-bation Service, Youth Offending Service, Aspire, Bedford Prison, Meaningful Education, SSG, Amicus Trust, Bedford Borough Council plus others.

We also support young adults and some older adults who are living with mental health issues. The facilities enable them to exercise and train at their own pace. This in turn releases endorphins which can give a boost in self-confidence and self-esteem. We have succeeded with funding to run programmes where counsellors are on hand to support people over the phone. This is a service we wish to be an on-going service.

It has made a difference to many lives especially in light of the pandemic which has had an adverse effect on many lives. We need our programmes to run throughout the entire year to give those living with mental health issues a fighting chance in developing the skills required to live with and combat these issues.

The Academy and its Objectives

Our objectives this year

On completion, the centre it will be fit for purpose, designed to cater for the community such as from children to Senior Citizens. We will be able to offer services for people with varying patterns of need such as, people with mental health issues, learning and physical disabilities and our community group partners who need to 'hot desk'. In all the centre will have a heated yoga room, kitchen, changing rooms, disabled toilets, cardio area, soft surface area for senior citizens, a classroom, therapy rooms and mezzanine and hot-desk areas. This will allow us to expand our social education sessions, work with our various partners and develop into an environment where members of our community can feel safe, listened to and increase the participation of people from communities deemed as hard to reach therefore enhancing public interaction.

As well as enhancing our current services, we will be able to provide new programs including supporting more young people during their transitional stages as well as those who have been affected by Acute Childhood Experiences (ACE). We will also increase the number of people who access our counselling and coaching service. Food served in the kitchen will be a high standard, balanced and culturally sensitive for varying palettes and dietary needs.

While the full lockdown was in full force we had to maintain communication via telephone. This resulted in members running out of date or credit on their phones. This also made them even more vulnerable to on-line predators. People with learning disabilities are more prone to fall victim to grooming and cuckooing.

Our current programmes include;

- Time2Train
- Resolution
- AllSorts LGBTQIA+
- It's Ok Not to Be Ok!
- A Band of Brothers, Men Heal
- The Gap (My Endz) Youth Endowment Fund
- Boxing & Self Defence Camp
- Knives Down Gloves Up (Summer Camp with the OPCC)
- 100 Men Mentor
- Young Entrepreneur Programme
- SIA & Employability

2.0 Charity Objectives of the Organisation

Our main objectives this year is

2.2 Impact

An Impact Study was carried out with all our providers over the past 10 months. The findings showed that we are still hitting our target audience and why felt that we were working affectively with the right communities. Since the last COO Report a vast amount of activity has been taking place. We have been working with Grand Union Housing Association on several satellite schemes one of which will be based in Clifton, Central Beds. We have been gifted a small flat that will accommodate one counselling therapist during the week as well as an art/therapist who will use different mediums to work with people living in the vicinity. We are meeting the team from

2.3 Achievements and Performance

Over the past 18 months we have managed to work with over 400 young people over different projects. Covid 19 has seriously prohibited the majority of work we do at the Academy. We have seen several lockdowns hamper the start of three courses and not being allowed to have any young people or older adults at the academy. We have introduced social distancing measures at the time when we were permitted to have any cohort attend the Academy, however with strict guidelines from the Department of Health and Environmental Health stating it was not safe to open during a pandemic we have remained closed.

We have in this time managed to secure a working relationship with the Royal Navy and Grand Union Housing, one of the largest housing associations in the UK. We had planned to start two courses which involved the Royal Navy and GUH but this was not possible. However we are looking into the potential of hosting certain courses on-line in the future.

Samsons Academy has been shortlisted as one of 17 nominations for the National Lottery Good Causes 'Project of the Year' Award 2021. The winner will be determined by a public vote via the National Lottery website and a Twitter hashtag count. Winners receive £3000 and a National Lottery trophy.

3 Summary of the main activities undertaken for the benefit to the public in relation to these objectives.

- Violence Exploitation Reduction Unit/Bedfordshire Police

Trustees Report

3.1 we have recently received notification from Kim Lamb Head of the VERU that we are to continue to receive funding. At present we haven't put in for any funds to run any of the course at the Academy.

A Band of Brothers 'Men Heal'
It's Ok Not To Be Ok
Youth Endowment Fund Bedford Borough Council
Knives Down Gloves Up /OPCC

- RESOLUTION Dying to Belong

3.3 This is ran over a 12 week period where we work with young people who have been involved in youth and gang criminality. The work we carry out is with young people between the ages of 13 to 21 years of age who have been or at risk of grooming to gang fraternity and cuckooing/county lines. We have Youth Engagement Officers and 3 Therapists/Counsellors plus two tutors who are assigned to deliver RESOLUTION. We then support them to reintegrate and use the skills they have learned over the 12 weeks in everyday life. They are also supported in applying for college placements and employment.

- AllSorts

3.4 This is a relatively new course to the Academy which has been running since January 2021. The team within the Academy had noticed more young people approaching them with issues around gender and the support they were able to access for themselves and some of their friends. We have ran several pilots in the past where some of the young people had expressed there were no services which gave them a Safe Space something more than a youth club. When we received funding from The Metro LGBTQIA+ Fund we ran AllSorts in February 2021 to the end of March 2021. This involves access to career support services from the qualified JNC Youth Worker, The Youth Engagement Team, in-house therapists/Counsellors and the Personal Trainers. A safe space is supported where they can talk about issues and problems they are encountering either at school/college or in the workplace. They discuss issues they feel are impacting on them at home with their families and support when looking into Higher Education. This project has been nominated for the National Lottery Good Causes 'Project of the Year' Awards 2021.

- It's Ok Not To Be Ok! (On-line Support Group)

3.5 With the pandemic being more entrenched in our lives many are finding it difficult to cope with everyday life. The data we had collected from the on-line and telephone befriending service showed us that we had to see if we could run a support service for the largest group that came top of the information collected. With support from the Harpur Trust, we have been able to support a Men only service where males from the age of 15 who are or have talked about self injurious behaviour, suicide ideas or feelings of being lost/aimless or afraid for their own safety. The project looks at what our own ideas of what we consider masculine or manly. It examines how we are men can support other men in times of crisis or adversity. It gives men a safe space where they can discuss what gives them the biggest fears and what increases their anxieties and stresses. This group is supported by two facilitators or Project Facilitator, two Therapists when the numbers exceed 10 cohort. All personnel who work on this project are ASSIST trained and recognise the signs of suicide or if someone is at serious risk of self harm.

- Stand Together Befriending Service

3.6 Befriending Service, this has been a conjoint scheme with another organisation in Bedfordshire called LOWD. We have been delivering food parcels with a small fund which was received by LOWD from the Phoenix Fund/Global World Fund and National Lottery Fund. The overall fund was for £10k, £1,470 was allocated for the Food and Parcel fund with a further £1,450 allocated for the befriending service.

- The Gap

3.7 The Gap project, funded by Bedford Borough Council via the Youth Endowment Fund, focussed on provided workshops that bridged the gaps between the older and younger generations. This included providing training in producing a docu-film with LimeLight TV for our participants aged 16-18, and create your own brand workshops for children aged 8-14 years. COO, Dorian Alexis and Project Lead, Anita Powell, arranged for specialists to come to the Samsons Academy site to give training to our participants on how to use industry standard equipment, team work skills and creative practice opportunities. An outcome of this project include an audio visual document of conversations between our participants and archive footage donated by LOWD to create a docu-film titled 'Our Endz', which can be found on our YouTube page. In addition, our younger participants were able to design, print and keep their own T-Shirts with assistance from Alessia Palavacini Rospigliosi, whilst learning vital self-employment skills such as, creating a brand image and effective merchandising.

- Boxing & Self Defence Camp

3.8 Our boxing coaches, Avi Kalyan and Amun Kalyan, ran a series of Boxing & Self Defence classes for participants aged 10 - 16 years. This initially had a cost of £10 per person, but with funding from the Police Crime Commissioner, Festus Akinbusoye, and the Bedfordshire Police Community Cohesion team, we were able to offer these sessions at no cost to our participants. Sessions ran twice per week throughout the summer and refreshments were provided by Samsons Academy.

- Time2Train

Tutor, Aiden Strawbridge, ran a cohort of Time2Train for a participant referred by one of our Counsellors from Meaningful Education, Clare Copplestone. The participant completed the course with no issues and has now enrolled in further education through college.

4. Leadership and Management

4.1 Dorian Alexis is the COO of the charity since it began in 2014 one registered in 2017. Dorian is dedicated to all of the service users and their families. He has forged partnerships with many other organisations and has played an integral part in breaking down barriers for the local authorities when working with communities who are termed as 'hard to reach'

Trustees Report

He has a vast range of skills, knowledge and experience working with people with a primary mental health diagnosis, or those with a learning disability. He spent 20 years working in the NHS and then 5 years with the YMCA in Sussex and three years with the Elton John Foundation Hospital Sussex Beacon Hospital for people living with HIV and AIDS. He has a proven track record in service delivery and policy writing which he carried out for the Department of Health and IMHAP, Institute of Mental Health Act Practitioners. He was also the London lead on CPA (Care Programming Approach) and Serious Untoward Incidents for all London NHS Hospitals.

4.2 Pauline Stepney has worked as part of the Senior Management Team for the past two years. She is a qualified JNC Qualified and Community Development/Outreach Worker and oversees all youth engagement services within Bedfordshire. Pauline also supports the Big and Grants team as she has a proven track record in securing and managing the application process, she also ensures that the information provided is current with what the aims and objectives of the charity are. She also supervises all the youth engagement team and Deputises when the COO is on other projects.

4.3 Caroline-Faye Allan is the freelance Grants and Bids Consultant for Samsons Academy where she specialises in trusts and foundations applications and bids to statutory funders. She currently works at Teach First as Fundraising Operations Manager, helping to build a fair education for all. She previously worked at the Royal Foundation of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, supporting their Highnesses to realise their philanthropic ambitions on projects as diverse as Early Years, Heads Together, United for Wildlife and the Earthshot Prize. In addition she spent 9 happy years at Great Ormond Street Hospital Charity where she worked as a Fundraising Research Manager, supporting the work of the major gift team to raise in excess of £10 million per year towards the hospitals most urgent capital development needs and groundbreaking paediatric research projects.

4.4 Sam Nutt is the Director of Performance at Samsons Academy Charity. Sam setup the charity alongside Dorian Alexis in 2017. He is been a fully qualified fitness instructor for over 20yrs and now a level 1 England Boxing coach at Bedfordshire elite boxing club. I've worked alongside the YMCA and lots of other youth projects from 1 to 1 mentoring and group sessions of which have been very successful. One of my skills I believe I can work with young adults from all backgrounds. I don't consider the cohort we work with to be 'hard to reach' as no young person is hard to reach if you use the right methods when engaging with them. I ran a successful football team in Milton Keynes for young people who were considered hard to reach and had almost 100% attendance from all players over several seasons. I also oversee the Probation and Prison service "Through the Gates" when prisoners are prepared for release. We work with them whilst they are serving the end of their sentences and getting ready for outside life again. Mentoring is a difficult process to successfully achieve when you have no relationship or understanding with the people you work with.

4.5 Bridie Gibbs is the Digital Media Officer at Samsons Academy, responsible for updating the website, managing social media accounts and leading the advertising campaign for the National Lottery Awards. Bridie is a freelancer in the arts, charity and media industries and works with a number of local Bedford based organisations offering support with administration, online and project work. Bridie has a PGCE from Coventry University in Secondary Education specialising Media Studies and ICT, and a degree in Performing Arts from De Montfort University.

The charity has 9 trustees who have a range of skills they can bring to the table in support of our work. We have Trustees from all disciplines ranging from Structural Engineering, Law, Accountancy, Housing/Young Peoples Housing, Medicine, Young People and Advertising/PR.

We will be advertising for 2 new Community Engagement Officer posts in the near future.

5. Partnership Working

We are part of a strategic partnership which consists of voluntary organisations who placed in community hubs focusing on specific areas of need such as; housing, employment, health and well-being, youth work, social, leisure, cultural events, education and community safety.

Our partners include

- Legacy Of Windrush Descendants (LOWD)
- Bedford YMCA
- Miracle Church of God In Christ (MCOGIC)
- Grand Union Housing
- Minority Ethnic Network in The Eastern Region (MENTER)
- Bedford Retired Caribbean Nurses
- Bedford African Caribbean Senior Citizens
- Return MK
- In Pursuit Of Happiness CIC Yorkshire
- The Pearl Thomson Learning Hub
- Bedfordshire African and Caribbean Network
- Just Purple Events
- Amicus Housing Trust
- Pimento Community CIC
- Meaningful Education CIC
- Therapy With...
- Wixams Academy
- Bedford College of Higher Education
- Queens Park Orchard Community
- Faces Charity Bedford
- University of Bedfordshire
- The ROYAL NAVY
- VERU & PCC Bedford (Violence Exploitation and Reduction Unit/Police Crime Commissioners Office)

Trustees Report

Our work will support some of the most vulnerable in society with issues such as debt and housing matters, unemployment, claiming welfare benefits to help break the long-term cycle of poverty, isolation, deprivation, lack of opportunity, poor diet and health problems, home schooling of children, particularly those with vulnerabilities and health problem. We believe that due to the loss of one to one face to face contact with will have implications for the black community and their families; increased unemployment, increases in anxiety and depression, increased isolation leading to increased mental health issues. These factors are likely to get worse if early intervention is not put in place.

We are working with our partners to develop and facilitate events such as Breaking The Cycle event creating an environment for young people to facilitate sessions and workshops on areas which affect the most; Around the World In Eighty Yards - a festival where participants can share their similarities and embrace their differences this includes people with different abilities, cultures and customs; The Caribbean festival, National Windrush Day and Stephen Lawrence Day. As mentioned earlier we are part of a Local Authority initiative title 'The Round table' where we work with our elected Mayor on the hubs within our Strategic partnership, we are partners with the East London NHS Foundation Trust (ELFT) Recovery College and help deliver monthly topics for their service users. The portfolio holder for Public Health has recently invited us to work with them on inequalities within the health service. We have also been contacted by Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group who which to work with some of our partners about improving services.

6 Polices on Charity Reservers

6.1 At present the Academy does not have any reserves, the first two years rent was covered by the three investors Dorian Alexis (£94,500) Sam Nutt (£44,000) Jemma Salfarlie-Courtney (£30,000).

The funds were used to secure the building and carry out the first stages of development and to cover the initial rent and legal fees. So far all three investors have not received any remuneration for their investments or taken a full years salary. This they have agreed to be offset until 2020.

6.2. Budget and fundraising plan

Currently around 70% of our revenue income comes from grants and bids, due to Covid we have been unable to run the majority of the usual classes as they have deemed it unsafe to have too many people in the same space and we need to consider social distancing. Our plan is to develop a space where our partners can hire. We also have a diversity training programme, catering service which the diversity programme can be delivered on-line or in the teaching room which is designed to accommodate social distancing.

Kind Regards

DORIAN NR ALEXIS
Chief Operating Officer