



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From July 2023
Period end date

Period start date To June 2024

Charity name: **Better Together**

Charity registration number: **1183516**

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The objects clause mentions education and leisure time occupation facilities for the benefit of residents of Smethwick.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	People whose first language is not English are invited to a conversation café. There is no assessment as an entry requirement and simple refreshments are free. Those attending build confidence. This group meets most weeks throughout the year.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	Directors (trustees) offer this activity as a public benefit to residents of Smethwick and the surrounding area. The majority of them act as volunteers to keep this activity running.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	The charity currently has only one activity, which is dependent on loyal volunteers.

Other		
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Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	Beneficiaries generally attend ESOL classes as well as the café. Proficiency in spoken/written English is not measured by examination within the conversation café – case studies show students' confidence grows. Continuing with the activity keeps the building “on the map” and students come to join us at the start of term. Better Together is a member of Sandwell Council of Voluntary Organisations.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	We rate this period as “holding our own”. An increase in volunteers would allow for recruiting more attendees/beneficiaries, possibly greater opening hours.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	National Lottery extended our time for using the grant. Further fundraising activities must now follow to secure the future of this (and other) activities.
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	The running costs of the present activity are low and we still have some money in the bank.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	No reserves.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	ditto
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	We hope to convince a funder that we merit modest support.
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	We are linked to the start and end times of the terms of study set by ESOL course providers. This activity continues to survive fluctuations in numbers.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	We have only just enough volunteers to ensure that a minimum of two will always be in attendance.
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	CIO constitution.
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	ditto
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	By invitation of the existing/continuing trustees.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	SCVO plus personal links with the trustees and staff of other charities active within the town.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	Our close neighbour is called Brushstrokes. Their ESOL project co-ordinator is a good friend.
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Better Together.
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1183516
Charity's principal address	Smethwick Baptist Church Regent Street Smethwick B66 3BQ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Pauline Hylton			
2	Sandra Monica Robinson			
3	John Craig Jordan			
4	Delroy Otis Thomas			
p5	Paul Beech			
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20				

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

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

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

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information

Sandra Monica Robinson was a founding trustee and served as secretary for many years. In June 2024 she notified us of her resignation, to take effect in just a few weeks.

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

P Hylton

J.C.Jordan

Full name(s)

Pauline Hylton

John Craig Jordan

**Position (eg Secretary,
Chair, etc)**

Treasurer

Trustee

Date

May 2025

BETTER TOGETHER

Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Registered Charity in England & Wales number: 1183516

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY
Year Ended: 30 June 2024

	2023/24	Notes	Memo:
	Gen A/c		2022/23
Income:	£		£
Donations	0.00	1	0.00
Grants	0.00	2	0.00
Others	0.00	3	0.00
	0.00		
	0.00		
Expenditure:			
Premises	1,346.00	4	0.00
Training	0.00	5	0.00
Travel & Subsistence	19.95	6	0.00
Overheads	0.00	7	0.00
Others	0.00	8	0.00
Total	1,365.95		0.00
Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,365.95)		0.00
Adj./Exceptional Items	0.00		0.00
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,365.95)		0.00
Net Movement in Funds	(1,365.95)		0.00
Reconciliation of Funds			
Fund balances brought forward	0.00		0.00
Fund Balances Carried Forward	(1,365.95)		0.00

BETTER TOGETHER

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
Year Ended: 30 June 2024

Note	Comment	£	£
		2023/24	2022/23
1	Donations: Cash Donations	0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00
2	Grants: Lottery	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00
	Total:	0.00	0.00
3	Misc. Income	0.00	0.00
	Total:	0.00	0.00
4	Premises Room Hire Insurance, Set Up Cabinet, Phone etc.	1290.00 116.00 0.00	1140.00 127.95 0.00
	Total:	1346.00	1267.95
5	Training	0.00	0.00
	Total:	0.00	0.00
6	Travel & Subsistence Refreshments	19.95 0.00 0.00	49.00 0.00 0.00
	Total:	19.95	49.00
7	Overheads - Finance	0.00 0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00 0.00
	Total:	0.00	0.00
8	Others Set-up costs Printing	0.00 0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00 0.00
	Total:	0.00	0.00
	Total:	1365.95	1316.95