

Support and Action Women's Network SAWN Annual Report

April 2020 – March 2021

Support and Action Women's Network SAWN continues to be based within Stockfield Mill Chadderton in Oldham, an area recognised as one of the most deprived areas of the country. SAWN is a registered charity- CIO NO 1184501 and continues to promote the welfare of, and support Black African Women to have a voice that is heard in matters that concern and affect them and their lives throughout Oldham and Greater Manchester. Our website is www.sawn.org.uk

Recognising this has been a challenging year for all we thank God for what we have been able to achieve at SAWN this year. SAWN would like to thank our dedicated staff and volunteers, funders, local community, partners and supporters who despite the challenge of the Covid 19 pandemic have enabled SAWN to provide support throughout this difficult year. SAWN continues to grow and make significant progress in the support we offer to empower women and enable them to be the best they can be. SAWN works in partnership with the community of Chadderton, Oldham Borough Council, Action Together, Women's Resource Centre, Positive Steps, Lazarus Ministries, Bethesda church, Great Places Housing Group, First Choice Homes, Oldham Women's Network, The Children's Society, Co-op Community Fund, Forever Manchester, Smallwood Trust, Lankelly Chase, Young Women's Trust, Oldham Community Meals, Answer Cancer, Cash for Kids, Knightsbridge solicitors and Platts solicitors.

SAWN continues to be an active partner and continues to take a lead role within the Mama Health & Poverty Partnership (MHaPP), a collective of individual organisations that work with Black African Women throughout the 10 Boroughs of Greater Manchester. SAWN and MHaPP offer specialist services working within an Afro centric perspective through a decolonized lens starting from where the person is. The language skills from within the partnership continue to expand and cover the majority of languages spoken by the African communities settled in Greater Manchester. Languages spoken include: Swahili, Lingala, Luganda, Lugisu, Arabic, Igbo, Yoruba, Pidgin, Edo, Portugese, Zulu, Shona, Ndebele, Benin, Rwandese, Kirundi, Kawika. Excellent use of this valuable resource is achieved through linking mainstream services e.g. health, education, benefits, job search, ESOL, life skills that provide

general services to culturally appropriate support that enables African women to access and understand the system and remove barriers to participation and understanding.

SAWN is now recognised and valued as the experts with lived experience in matters that affect Black African Women and is seen as an integral part of the local community. This has only been possible due to the resilience, creativity, energy and commitment of everyone involved with SAWN and we humbly thank you for your ongoing support.

SAWN has responded positively and proactively to the challenges COVID 19 has presented which has necessitated a change to the way SAWN support has been delivered. Moving from 100% face to face contact to 100% digitally based we are proud to say SAWN has supported Black African women and their families throughout the pandemic often via zoom and have recently started to return to face to face contact.

Sawn delivered the following activities, services and projects during the past year.

Overall SAWN has supported over 750 women and their families through various projects.

FGM and cultural awareness training and support was provided to 450 professional and community leaders and members in a range of environments and 66 Black African women were supported on an individual basis.

Recognising the effects of poverty and deprivation for many women SAWN facilitated Money Matters sessions to understand and address finances, living on a budget, debt management, universal credit, work, welfare and the benefits system. Twenty community champions were trained and information was shared with 170 community members and groups to support improved financial management.

SAWN became a trusted referral partner and successfully applied for grants from Turn 2 Us on behalf of Black African women recognising the further hardship Covid 19 caused particularly for those with No Recourse to Public Funds.

SAWN Furniture bank continues to thrive as demand increases for pre-loved low cost affordable furniture for people faced with hardship for any reason. SAWN recognises and believes that irrespective of the fact that the furniture is low cost or no cost to the person, that person has a right to choose from SAWN's available stock recognising the shopping experience can be positive and improve self-esteem and mental well-being. To be Covid compliant all shopping experiences continued via the internet and although business was conducted differently it continued. In partnership with The Children's Society and as part of the Oldham Community Crisis Response support SAWN has provided over 200 subsistence packs and basic furniture packs to Black African and BME families. SAWN can offer a furniture starter pack to get people settled in a new home supporting a new start. Great Places donated a sum of money towards a new van essential for the continuation of the furniture bank as our old van which although having served us well was not as reliable as we needed or wanted. Watch this space next year for our van update and thank you to Great Places.

SAWN's African Food Hub began during Covid 19 lockdown in response to requests from the community for culturally appropriate food as this was not available from other emergency food provision. Our African food hub grew from initially a few families to supporting 50 families weekly offering over 200 food parcels during this period. SAWN food hub has connected and made links with Oldham Food Solutions Network, The Bread & Butter Thing from whom we are gifted 5 parcels every fortnight to top up our food hub, GMCA strategy group to share information and good practice and support further development should circumstances and funding permit this.

Stones and Roses Achievements Towards Independence SARATI supported Black African women to deal with their barriers (stones) and enable them to take steps to move forward, achieve and flourish as strong, confident, resourceful women (roses). This has enabled and empowered women to not only survive but thrive and flourish as contributing resilient women in their community. The SARATI project continues to meet weekly and is now led by the women. 25 women engage weekly and see this as their space, their place using their voice where they support each other both formally and informally. Peer support in action.

Supporting Women into Business enabled 16 Black African women to develop skills and be better able to succeed in enterprise. Women learnt about different business

models, how to design a business plan, marketing and responsibilities of running a business and went on to develop their ideas as sole traders, Community Interest Companies. 16 African women are now business women offering a range of goods and services via the SAWN Ventures website within the community of Oldham.

Oldham Covid 19 Recovery Champions Project a partnership between SAWN, Oldham Community Meals OLCOM, Oldham Council and USSAF ensured Black African people had accurate information to make the best decisions for them based on everything to do with COVID 19. This included myth busting, the vaccination programme, how to keep safe and protect yourself. Information was shared in different languages and various places of worship to ensure hard to reach people were found.

Covid 19 afforded SAWN the opportunity to diversify in terms of improving digital and technical skills for staff, volunteers and Black African women and their families who prior to Covid 19 particularly those with No Recourse to Public Funds were possibly digitally excluded. SAWN ensured people with no access to digital appliances had the skills and appliances to connect with the outside world during lockdown reducing isolation and loneliness and children were enabled to continue with their education.

SAWN recognises and understands the many challenges that Black African women and their families live with every day. SAWN is proud and grateful to be able to offer this diverse range of support networks via the projects to women recognising marginalised Black African women are often more affected by barriers including language barriers, poor health, isolation, poverty, lack of opportunities. SAWN continues to care deeply and passionately about the women and their families who come through our door and is proud to be an organisation that continues to change the lives of the women we support.

Real words real women real change.

SAWN women told us:

“Meeting on zoom was so much fun. We were all able to share our highest moments and lowest moment and the support has been overwhelming. Knowing that I am not alone and that there is a group of women ready to hold each others hands has been a very heart -warming experience” RM

“I gained life, strength and courage again” N

“I choose to communicate by discussing and express my experiences and got helpful advice and information” P

“Thank you for this I am not alone and can smile again” TN

“SAWN has been my support since I was included on day 1. I have learned a lot from its members. SAWN is a platform of strong loving women” L

“SAWN gives me courage to speak about my issues and worries. It motivates me and gives me an environment where I have met friends who have shown me so much love and encourage me to be positive and inspires me to be the BEST ME ever” M

“A space where I don’t have to wear my wig and bra”

“I have friends now I belong here with my SAWN family” J

**SUPPORT AND ACTION FOR WOMEN'S NETWORK (SAWN)
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

CHARITY REGISTRATION NO: 1184501

**SUPPORT AND ACTION FOR WOMEN'S NETWORK (SAWN)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

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**SUPPORT AND ACTION FOR WOMEN'S NETWORK (SAWN)
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER:

1184501

REGISTERED OFFICE:

Unit 1 Stockfield Mill
Chadderton, Oldam
OL9 9ES

TRUSTEES:

Lillian Musiitwa
Annette Williams
Rose Kirunda
Tensayi Madzunzu

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Cangaf Accountants &
Business Advisers
120 Bark Street
Bolton
BL1 2AX

SUPPORT AND ACTION FOR WOMEN'S NETWORK (SAWN)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a CIO, and constitutes an incorporated charity.

Risk management

The Board of Trustees is ultimately responsible for the system of internal control and for reviewing its effectiveness. However, such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement of loss.

The Board has reviewed the effectiveness of the system of internal control. In particular, it has reviewed and updated the process for identifying and evaluating the major risks affecting the business and the policies and procedures by which these risks are managed.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES Objectives and Aims

The Charity's objects are, for the benefit of the public:-

- 1) To promote social inclusion; by working with women and families in and around Greater Manchester through the provision of workshops, one-to-one support and advice.
- 2) The relief of financial hardship amongst families in Greater Manchester.

Significant Activities

During the year, the Charity has been compliant in the execution of its public benefit responsibilities by promoting the welfare of Black/African women in Oldham and Great Manchester. SAWN helped to realise the full potential of women by engaging them in activities, providing opportunities and events to make women independent, self-sustaining and key players in matters that concern them.

In the planning of activities for the year, and having given due consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, the Charity has been committed in its efforts of supporting the BME women in general and in providing workshops on Anti FGM Awareness, offering Interpreting Services, a friend in need (AFIN) projects and the likes.

RESERVE POLICY

The Trustees aim to retain sufficient free reserves at a level which equate to a minimum of three months of unrestricted expenditure. These reserves are held in case of any sudden decline in income and to ensure that we can meet our commitments to providing our services and activities. Specifically, these commitments include our obligations in relation to our support and outreach work.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Trustees have implemented robust budgetary controls to monitor costs in an effort to continue to deliver its service in the future. Income - the total income for the twelve months under review was £292,046

Expenditure - total expenditure in the year was £190,862. The Charity recorded an operating surplus for the year of £101,184, and carries forward Unrestricted funds of £15,029 and Restricted funds of £104,535.

During the year the Trustees continued to place emphasis on financial management to ensure that the funds within the organisation are properly managed.

**SUPPORT AND ACTION FOR WOMEN'S NETWORK (SAWN)
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each (Accounts and Reports) financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charity's Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report is prepared in accordance with the special provision of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees on..... 12/13/2021 2021 and signed:

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:



.....
Lillian Musiitwa - Treasurer

**SUPPORT AND ACTION FOR WOMEN'S NETWORK (SAWN)
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021 set out on pages five to nine.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's Trustees (who are also the Directors for the purposes of Company Law) are responsible for the preparation of the preparation of the accounts.

The Charity's Trustees consider that an independent examination is required.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiners report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Cecilia Asamoah MAAT

Cangaf Accountant & Business Advisers
120 Bark Street
Regus, 6th Floor
Bolton
BL1 2AX

Date:

13th December 2021

SUPPORT AND ACTION FOR WOMEN'S NETWORK (SAWN)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
Incoming resources				
Other Income	15,389	0	15,389	0
Voluntary Income	0	276,657	276,657	47,402
	<u>15,389</u>	<u>276,657</u>	<u>292,046</u>	<u>47,402</u>
Resources expended				
Expenditure on:				
Support Costs	12,655	178,207	190,862	16,790
Charitable activities	0	0	0	10,700
Governance Costs	0	0	0	7,485
Other	0	0	0	0
Total RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u>12,655</u>	<u>178,207</u>	<u>190,862</u>	<u>34,975</u>
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	2,734	98,450	101,184	12,427
Net movement in funds	2,734	98,450	101,184	12,427
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	12,295	6,085	18,380	5,953
Total funds carried forward	<u>15,029</u>	<u>104,535</u>	<u>119,564</u>	<u>18,380</u>

None of the charity's activities were acquired or discontinued during the year and there were no recognised gains and losses for 2021 other than those included in the statement of financial activities.

SUPPORT AND ACTION FOR WOMEN'S NETWORK (SAWN)
BALANCE SHEET
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total this year £	Total last year £
Current assets				
Cash at bank and in hand	76,777	42,786	119,564	18,380
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	0	0	0	0
Net current assets/(liabilities)	76,777	42,786	119,564	18,380
Total assets less current liabilities	76,777	42,786	119,564	18,380

Funds of the Charity

Opening Balance Equity	18,380
Surplus/(Deficit)	101,184
Total funds	119,564

12/13/2021

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 2021
and were signed on its behalf by:



.....
Lillian Musiitwa - Treasurer

SUPPORT AND ACTION FOR WOMEN'S NETWORK (SAWN)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Support and Action for Women's Network (SAWN) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Donations and other incoming resources - Income from grants and other activities for generating funds such as the charity shop.

Resources Expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Charitable activities

Costs of charitable activities are those costs relating to the activities carried out to meet the objectives of the charity. These include both directly attributable costs and apportioned support costs.

Governance costs

Governance costs are the costs associated with the strategic direction of the organisation and with meeting regulatory responsibilities including apportioned support cost.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity.

Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life where applicable.

Freehold property - 2% on cost

Furniture & Equipment - 20% on cost

Motor vehicles - 20% on cost

SUPPORT AND ACTION FOR WOMEN'S NETWORK (SAWN)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds £
2. VOLUNTARY INCOME			
Grants	0	275,102	275,102
Donations	0	1,555	1,555
Bank Interest	136	0	136
Activities for generating funds - Charity Shop	15,253	0	15,253
Total	15,389	276,657	292,046
3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES			
Charity expenses	0	0	0
4. SUPPORT COSTS: MANAGEMENT			
PAT Testing training		1,434	1,434
Food bank / Mutual Aid		14,980	14,980
Mutual Aid Food		700	700
Fuel/ Volunteer expenses		46,740	46,740
FGM work		2,660	2,660
Storage		1,225	1,225
Project Coordinator		4,010	4,010
App creation (foodbank and furniture bank)		3,000	3,000
Acts 435		2,540	2,540
Interpreter		480	480
SWIB Project		18,827	18,827
Professional Fees		500	500
Printer	72	0	72
Rent	11,073	0	11,073
Insurance	146	0	146
Emergency grant	0	29,555	29,555
Van repairs	1,364	0	1,364
Salary		34,620	34,620
Consultancy		1,500	1,500
Refreshments		100	100
WRC/ IMKAN		4,140	4,140
Masks		32	32
Big Lottery		4,619	4,619
IMNI		2,176	2,176
Red Cross		80	80
DV App		750	750
Young Women Trust		750	750
Smallwood		2,790	2,790
Total	12,655	178,207	190,862
5. GOVERNANCE COSTS	0	0	0
6. TRUSTEES REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS			
Trustees' Expenses			

There are 6 paid staffs and 12 Volunteers. Volunteers are reimbursed for their travel and substinence expenses:

SUPPORT AND ACTION FOR WOMEN'S NETWORK (SAWN)
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

Incoming Resources :	Total funds
Voluntary Income :	£
Grants	275,102
Donations	1,555
Bank Interest	136
Activities for generating funds - Charity Shop	15,253
	292,046
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	
Charity expenses	0
SUPPORT COSTS: MANAGEMENT	
PAT Testing training	1,434
Food bank / Mutual Aid	14,980
Mutual Aid Food	700
Fuel/ Volunteer expenses	46,740
FGM work	2,660
Storage	1,225
Project Coordinator	4,010
App creation (foodbank and furniture bank)	3,000
Acts 435	2,540
Interpreter	480
SWIB Project	18,827
Professional Fees	500
Printer	72
Rent	11,073
Insurance	146
Emergency grant	29,555
Van repairs	1,364
Salary	34,620
Consultancy	1,500
Refreshments	100
WRC/ IMKAN	4,140
Masks	32
Big Lottery	4,619
IMNI	2,176
Red Cross	80
DV App	750
Young Women Trust	750
Smallwood	2,790
Total	190,862
GOVERNANCE COSTS	0
Total resources expended	190,862
Net expenditure	101,184

SUPPORT AND ACTION FOR WOMEN'S NETWORK (SAWN)
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

Restricted Funds

Grants

Acts 435	13,920
Acadustri Ltd	250
Womans Resource	11,946
Ministries	3,000
Ark Assist	390
Positive Steps	500
Young Women	8,100
Action Together	15,980
Real Change OL	2,350
Evo Payments	5,871
The Children Society	25,032
UK Education	280
P D Sweetin	240
Great Places	8,000
EFC	850
Elizabeth Film	7,500
Lankellychase	62,200
Big Loterry	49,200
Salford Community	3,250
Forever Manchester	13,490
BWD BC AP	640
SCC Creditors	1,852
GMBC Payment	2,010
Mama Health	1,830
Manchester ALL	720
The Equality	75
The East Manchester	200
Dinn Enterprise	3,000
Pathways	500
AVA	100
Small Wood Trust	29,520
Cardiff Council	2,306

Total	275,102
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Donations

Fraine John	50
A RASAQ	700
Jeanette Beblo	100
E Paveley	200
MC Ginn AM	50
Hayes	250
Walker A R	150
Normal	55

Total	1,555
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**SUPPORT AND ACTION FOR WOMEN'S NETWORK (SAWN)
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

Unrestricted Funds

Charity Shop	15,253
Bank Interest	136
Total	15,389

Support costs

	£
PAT Testing training	1,434
Food bank / Mutual Aid	14,980
Mutual Aid Food	700
Fuel/ Volunteer expenses	46,740
FGM work	2,660
Storage	1,225
Project Coordinator	1,060
App creation (foodbank and furniture bank)	3,000
Acts 435	2,540
Interpreter	480
SWIB Project	18,827
Professional Fees	500
Printer	72
Rent	11,073
Insurance	146
Emergency grant	29,555
Van repairs	1,364
Salary	34,620
Consultancy	1,500
Refreshments	100
WRC/ IMKAN	4,140
Masks	32
Big Lottery	4,619
IMNI	2,176
Red Cross	80
DV App	750
Young Women Trust	750
Smallwood	2,790
Total	187,912



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