

# *DREAMSAI Milton Keynes*

## *Charity Number: 1184822*

Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

**Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2023.**

The trustees present their annual report and independent examined financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 and confirm they comply with the Charities Act 1993, as amended by the Charities Act 2006, the trust deed, and the Charities SORP 2005.

**Reference and Administrative Information**

Charity Name	DREAMSAI Milton Keynes
Charity Registration Number	1184822
Principle Office	106, Walhouse road, Walsall, West Midlands, WS1 2BE

**Board of Trustees:**

Lakshmana Rao Kastala (Chair)  
Srinivasa Rao Velupula  
Surabhi Sharan

**Independent Examiners:**

Anand Associates  
106, Walhouse Road  
Walsall  
WS1 2BE

**Bankers:**

HSBC Bank plc  
The Bridge,  
Walsall,  
West Midlands  
WS1 1LN

## Contents

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2023.....	4
Structure, Governance and Management .....	4
Governing Document.....	4
Organisation Structure.....	4
Risk Management .....	4
Objectives and Activities.....	4
Summary of the main activities .....	5
Strategies .....	5
Volunteer Contribution.....	6
Activities and Achievements.....	7
Temple & Community Centre – Building project.....	8
Food for SAI – Cooked Meals Project.....	8
Food Outreach – Food Parcels, School Packs , Breakfast Packs, & Festive Hampers .....	8
Blood Donation .....	9
Spiritual Activities and Temple .....	9
Partnerships .....	9
Financial Review.....	9
Reserves Policy.....	9
Principal funding sources .....	10
Statement of Trustee’s responsibilities .....	10
Income & Expenditure Account for period ending 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023.....	11
Balance Sheet for the period ending 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023 .....	12
Independent Examiners Report .....	13
<b>Independent examiner's report on the accounts.....</b>	<b>13</b>
Independent examiner's statement .....	14

## Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2023.

### Structure, Governance and Management

#### Governing Document

DREAMSAI Milton Keynes is constituted as a charitable trust registered with the Charity Commission in August 2019 under the charity number 1184822. It is governed by the deed of the trust.

#### Organisation Structure

Trustee Board is the ultimate accountability for the CIO, and responsible for strategic direction & organisational governance. The trustee board collaborates with executive team for the implementation. The executive team with the support of the volunteer pool operates the projects. The organisation foundations are underpinned by support from volunteers and members of Milton Keynes community.

Governance is at the heart of the strategic and operational decision making. DREAMSAI is registered with Fund Raising Regulator and adheres to the recommended guidelines. No cash policy is a modern & transparent fundraising policy successfully implemented since inception; all the monetary donations are received via digital channels only. Volunteers in contact with vulnerable members of the community are DBS checked, it is mandatory for all the volunteers handling food to be food safety certified. DREAMSAI is registered with Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and utmost care is taken for the personal data. DREAMSAI uses Digital First strategy and minimal paper usage. Technology systems are in place for operational efficiency and information governance.

#### Risk Management

The trustees have assessed the risk that charity faces and have drawn up a risk matrix which identifies the high/medium/low risks and its probabilities. The trustees review the risk matrix regularly at their meetings. The trustees are satisfied that systems are in place or arrangements are in hand to management the risks that have been identified – especially in the areas of Criminal Records Bureau checks, safeguarding policies and procedures, food and hygiene process and fund-raising regulations.

#### Objectives and Activities

The objects of the CIO are

1. The advancement of the Hindu religion for the public benefit in Milton Keynes in particular by promoting the teachings of Shirdi Saibaba as set out in the Satcharita
2. The prevention of sickness and the preservation of the health by raising awareness of the needs of donors of blood, bone marrow and stem cells within Asian and Indian Communities

3. The prevent or relief of poverty for public benefit in Milton Keynes supplying food, hygiene items, essentials to homeless and needy people in temporary sheltered accommodation.

## Summary of the main activities

DREAMSAI is an inclusive charity run by the local Milton Keynes community working for the benefit of diverse communities and making a profound impact. Many community-led activities are initiated to positively contribute for community wellbeing and successfully motivated the residents to become more involved through volunteering. The charity's reach and impact are maximised by collaborating with various partners in the sector. DREAMSAI is a bridge in connecting and building stronger communities.

Based on the teachings of Indian Saint Shirdi Sai, DREAMSAI organize spiritual events and celebrate Indian and diverse cultural festivals of various faiths, support homeless community and vulnerable elderly with free cooked meal and essential items, deliver free food & essential parcels to vulnerable communities, support local schools with breakfast packs, holiday food parcels, organise workshops and promote blood donations from ethnic minorities.

Every week hundreds of community members attend and benefit from the spiritual & cultural activities. Thousands of home cooked hot meals are served every year to the homeless or those in temporary accommodation. Festive Hampers are distributed to those in need during diverse festivities including Diwali, Christmas & Eid demonstrating our inclusive approach. The group has also been responsive and adaptive to the changing needs of this city and addressing the gaps to meet immediate community needs. Many lives are supported with the blood donated by DREAMSAI donors every year. The charity which received the prestigious Queen's Award for voluntary service (an equivalent of MBE for volunteer groups) during the birthday honours in June 2021, from Late Her Majesty Elizabeth II has received Charity of the Year Highly Commend Award from Milton Keynes Business Achievement Awards in March 2023. These awards given to DREAMSAI demonstrates the positive impact this group has created on our communities.

## Strategies

As part of expansion plans to meet demand, DREAMSAI successfully applied to lease the premises from Milton Keynes Community Foundation in November 2021 with rent subsidy. The primary purpose of this facility is to serve as a HUB for all existing DREAMSAI community projects & meeting the needs of the growing population. Planning permission for the change of use was applied with Milton Keynes Local Authority in April 2022 and the planning consent for change of Use from Class E(f) a day nursery to a mixed use of F1(f) Place of Worship and F2(b) Community Hall is received in July 2022. Tendering process for building works is concluded and works have commenced. Upon receiving the satisfactory Building Regulations certificate, the premises will open for public in July 2023. This is a major step forward towards achieving the five-year strategy. Services currently operated from various temporary premises including Unity Park Station, Milton Keynes Hindu Association community centre, Commercial Kitchens, Individual home kitchens, Personal garages, living rooms and cafes will be centralised to this new facility in 2023 & services will be expanded in the following years.

Thousands of users from across the diverse communities currently benefit from DREAMSAI activities and will continue to benefit from these new premises. The service users are from across the communities including elderly members, financially challenged families with school going children, families with poverty, homeless individuals, homeless shelters, youth, Indian community members & partner organisations. In addition to existing successful initiatives DREAMSAI would further host and

anchor such constructive social engineering projects which are vital in bringing the community together in a way which will have a lasting positive impact on our communities. Engaging with cultural and spiritual activities enhance the mental health of the individual, which in turn benefits the mental health of the collective, leading to a happier and healthier society.

This new facility due to open in July 2023 will contribute towards the creation of safe, sustainable, mixed communities with good access to for all members of the community for social interaction. The users of all areas of Milton Keynes will significantly benefit from this facility. This facility would proudly represent the Diverse & Inclusive profile of Milton Keynes.

## Volunteer Contribution

DREAMSAI are 100% volunteer run organisation with 40% of them youth volunteers. An organisation structure is in place for strategy, governance, safeguarding and operational purposes. The number of volunteer hours given is quite staggering, and even more remarkable when all volunteers are holding down full-time jobs or in education. In a volunteer Survey, 96% of volunteers said, "By volunteering with DREAMSAI, I have a sense of fulfilment and am creating a positive impact on others".

Every week hundreds of volunteers participate in preparing the food parcels, prepare cooked meals, door delivering the food parcels and cooked meals, procuring the items needed for food parcels, managing the inventory, organising the logistics, relationship with partner organisation and schools, organising blood donation camps, digital communications, reviewing and updating policies and procedures, maintaining and implementing required IT systems, data protection, managing the helpline, fundraising, financial management, operations and organising spiritual events.

The Trustee Board is the ultimate accountable and decision-making body. The Board and Executive team members work hand in hand with support provided by the volunteers. The organisation structure is reorganised by merging the teams into Food Charity, Temple and Organisation to create a better target operating model. The organisation foundations are underpinned by support from volunteer pool and members of Milton Keynes community. The members of community interested to volunteer will be added to volunteer pool and then onboarded to specific projects by Executive Team. Executive Team are the leads managing various projects within the verticals. Experienced Volunteers who are interested & qualified to lead the projects will be appointed to Executive Team after due consideration. Executive Team is a route to join the Board. An exception to this is the honorary board members who may be appointed from a chosen field of specialisation to benefit the organisation objectives.

DREAMSAI has 332 registered volunteers. Thirty-four youth members are also doing Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) voluntary work as part of their secondary school award scheme. Volunteers provide their services to either one project or multiple projects. Volunteers are recruited upon reference to ensure enhanced suitability check. All the interested volunteers' details will be added onto the volunteer pool upon their request. The personal details of the volunteers are securely managed in the online system with appropriate access management. DBS checks are performed to the volunteers who will be interacting with service users. The volunteers managing the Food for SAI project are also required to complete the Level 2 Food & Hygiene Safety certification.



## Activities and Achievements

Being an ethnic group ourselves, we had a profound impact on reducing social inequalities and building stronger community cohesion by running local, community-led inclusive projects, which involves active engagement from diverse communities; all of which was achieved solely by volunteers.

After the pandemic of 2020, the cost-of-living crisis of 2022 has once again brought in unprecedented situations to the normal life of everyone and we have seen significant increase in the demand for the food charity services. The combination of inflation, wage stagnation and real-terms cuts to benefits is severely impacting households' ability to afford essential costs. As the cost of food continued to rise and other inflationary pressures restrict household budgets, access to sufficient and nutritious food is increasingly out of reach for a greater proportion of the population. Food for Sai project played a crucial role in reducing hunger and hardship for the poorest children, families and communities with complex challenges.

Planning permission is granted by Milton Keynes Council for Change of Use of premises from Class E(f) a day nursery to a mixed use of F1(f) Place of Worship and F2(b) Community Hall. We had profound impact on reducing social inequalities and building stronger community cohesion by running local, community-led inclusive projects, which involves active engagement from diverse communities; all of which was achieved solely by volunteers. These premises enable us to centralise various well received community projects that benefits the diverse communities across Milton Keynes

Our Founder & Chairman Laxman Kastala has received the British Empire Medal (BEM ) in Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday Honours 2022 list as a recognition of his services to Milton Keynes Community.

His Majesty King Charles visited Milton Keynes in February 2023 to formally mark Milton Keynes' newly conferred city status. DREAMSAI were honoured to be invited to arrange a stall to exhibit about the charity. His Majesty spent good few minutes at the stall to learn about the charity. He was very kind, friendly, affectionate, and curious. It's surreal explaining about the charity to none other than the monarch, a lifetime memory and great opportunity to take the charity's cause further.

Before leaving the stall HM said “Please convey my best wishes to every volunteer in your charity and all the Indian community of Milton Keynes. Please continue doing this wonderful work”. All volunteers & community are delighted to learn His Majesty's warmth & kind message.

DREAMSAI received the Charity of the Year Highly Commended award from Milton Keynes Business Achievement Awards in March 2023 demonstrating the positive impact this group has created on our communities.

#### Temple & Community Centre – Building project.

Further to the successful planning permission, a project plan was prepared to complete the building works in readiness for occupation in July 2023. A Request for Proposal (RFP) process was launched with contracts offered to best of three suppliers. Legal, Architectural and Builders were appointed. Eco friendly and sustainable Electrical Heating & Mechanical Ventilation Systems are designed for the new premises. Commercial Kitchen facilities are designed to support the food charity and temple premises. Building Regulations inspectors were appointment. Head of Terms of the lease are in place with Lease agreement to be signed in April'2023.Digital fundraising efforts were initiated to raise sufficient funds for the completion of the new premises.

#### Food for SAI – Cooked Meals Project

Homelessness has become a major issue in Milton Keynes over the last few years. According to Vital Signs 2019, a report published by the MK Community Foundation, 1 in every 117 people in Milton Keynes are homeless. Many organisations in MK are providing various services to end Homelessness but there is a gap for hot meal service. Hundreds of local households subscribed to the weekly run Food for SAI project, a community meal preparation and distribution programme - demonstrating the positive community engagement. With an average of 80 meals per week, a total of 4160 cooked meal packs along with water, fruit and snack were distributed to homeless community, homeless shelters, and vulnerable people in need. The cooked meal project also door delivered meals on the Christmas day to many families in association with partner organisations. Many vulnerable community members are dependent on this service every weekend. We aim to centralise the cooking process into the central hub improving the operational efficiency and scalability.

#### Food Outreach – Food Parcels, School Packs , Breakfast Packs, & Festive Hampers

Since the start of the pandemic DREAMSAI have been giving free essential food parcels to families in need. Many organisations need support for the guests waiting for universal credits. Victims of domestic violence is on growth with guests placed in temporary accommodation. One in five city children are still living below the poverty line - and the problem is getting worse. Various types of food parcels are delivered weekly, free of charge to families in need, guests living in refuge centres or local schools. This year DREAMSAI has partnered with Food Bank for food parcel project and a data sharing agreement to maximise the reach and minimise the duplication. The collaboration has proved very successful, and the project has delivered over 3640 food parcels which enabled our vulnerable communities to have much needed meal on the dinner tables.

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, but the number of children facing food poverty has continued to rise in MK, mirroring what is happening nationally. DREAMSAI delivered weekly breakfast parcels to various local primary schools during school term. These breakfast parcels contained cereals packs and milk sufficient for a week. In addition to breakfast packs, schools received food parcels



every week and additional parcels during the half term and summer term holidays for children to take home.

Festive Hampers are delivered to guests celebrating festivals including Christmas, Easter, Eid & Diwali in collaboration with organisations of various faiths. The projects have proved very beneficial with volunteers from across the organisations working together for common goal in supporting those in need.

DREAMSAI also partnered with local supermarkets to place a food donation box which is collected by volunteers on regular basis. Food donation Box in two Morrisons superstores has filled up 156 times in the last year with average donated items for each collection of 80 per box and totalling over 12,480 items during the year. An amazing support by the shoppers of the supermarkets.

### Blood Donation

As per report published by NHS Blood & Transplant, fewer than 5% of blood donors who gave blood are from ethnic communities. This is despite ethnic communities representing around 14% of the population. One of the 3 key objectives of DREAMSAI charity which was formed based on the teachings of Indian Saint Shirdi Sai is to "Raise awareness of the blood donation, bone marrow and stem cells within Asian and Indian Communities". Being a community driven all volunteer run organisation, we play a significant role at grass roots in communicating the need for ethnic communities to donate blood, bone marrow and opt in for organ donation. We have successfully broken the myth of "if you are from Tropical countries, you cannot donate blood in UK" and changed the narrative to "if you travelled to Tropical countries wait for few months before donating blood". Many donors who donate with DREAMSAI once or twice continue to make blood donations on their own as well proving the fact that they "feel comfortable going on their own once they understand it". A positive impact of this initiative.

### Spiritual Activities and Temple

As per 2011 census Milton Keynes has 3.3% Indian population. There is a significant growth in the last decade, estimations indicate that the growth of these communities would be 5% by next census. Milton Keynes as a new city does not have infrastructure to meet the changing demographics. The cultural and spiritual activities organised by DREAMSAI every Guru Day (Thursday) in the rented premises of Hindu Association is usually visited by an average of 100 community members every week and numbers increasing during the celebration of festivals or term holidays. It is crucial to build the facilities for the cultural wellbeing of these communities. The new premises leased by DREAMSAI where all the above services will be centralised would achieve the objective.

### Partnerships

As an inclusive group, the charity developed positive partnerships with many national & local organisations to collaborate and provide joined up services to widen the reach and impact while minimizing the duplication.

### Financial Review

#### Reserves Policy

The trustees have reviewed the reserves of the charity, Their policy is to hold enough to meet six months operating costs.

### Principal funding sources

The financial donations are only accepted using digital channels since inception, making this charity a pioneer in using this model. Majority of the donations are received using payment options provided on the website or using the card machine at the spiritual events conducted every Thursday. Corporate partner funding and grants are another source of income. A grant is received from Community Foundation for School Breakfast project. In addition to the financial donations, the charity also receives the food donations from partners like food bank, local super markets and the communities. The charity is governed by the fund raising regulator.

### Statement of Trustee's responsibilities

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing an annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting standards (United Kingdom Accepted Accounting Practice)

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each 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 of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements the trustees are required to:

Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; observe the methods and principle in the Charities SORP;

Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; state where applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

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 that disclose reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993, the charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations Act 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of the fraud and other irregularities.

The trustee for the purposes of charity law who served during the year up to the date of this report are set out in page 1.

**Approved by the trustees and signed on the behalf by:**



**Lakshmana Rao Kastala (Chair)**

**28/12/2023**

## Income & Expenditure Account for period ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

### Dreamsai Milton Keynes Ltd

#### Income & Expenditure account

For the year ended

31 March 2023

<u>2022</u>			<u>2023</u>		
<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Totals</u>
122,238	40,160	162,398	121,382	64,122	185,504
102,835	13,629	116,464	109,283	16,004	125,287
	15,031	15,031		14,667	14,667
-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-
-	102,835	10,720	10,282	40,953	10,282
19,403	780	20,183	12,099	23,169	35,268
-	4	7	-	277	277
<u>£ 19,403</u>	<u>£ 784</u>	<u>£ 20,190</u>	<u>£ 12,099</u>	<u>£ 23,446</u>	<u>£ 35,545</u>

## Balance Sheet for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

<u>Dreamsai Milton Keynes Ltd</u>	
<u>Balance Sheet as at</u>	<u>31 March 2023</u>
<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Fixed Assets	
15,818 VAN	15,818
48,856 Balance Bank	84,401
- Bills Payable	-
<u>£ 64,674</u>	<u>£ 100,219</u>
Reserves	
44,486 B/f	64,674
20,188 Surplus for the period	35,545
<u>64,674</u>	<u>100,219</u>

## Independent Examiners Report



**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

### Independent examiner's report on the accounts

#### Independent Examiner's Report on the accounts

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

Dreamsai Milton Keynes Ltd

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

31 March 2023

**Charity no**

1184822

**Set out on pages**

11-12

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

**Responsibilities and basis of  
report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's  
statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Signed:**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "V Anand", written over a horizontal line.

**Date:** 22/12/2023

**Name:**

V Anand

**Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body (if  
any):**

BA., LLB., ACMA., CIA

**Address:**

106 Walhouse Road

Walsall

WS1 2BE