

Bradford African Community

Charity number 1191374

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024



Bradford African Community

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

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Prepared by West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

Bradford African Community

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2024

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

Name	Position	Dates
Catherine Kembabazi		
Mangala Hussein		Resigned 16 April 2024
Clive Whittaker		Resigned 1 October 2022
Faith Nyambane		Appointed 27 July 2023
Ismail Adam		Appointed 29 April 2024
Yassin Toyi		Appointed 4 January 2025
Charity number	1191374	Registered in England and Wales

Registered and principal address	Bankers
Quaker Meeting House	Lloyds TSB Bank plc
Russell Street	Ariel House
Bradford	2138 Coventry Road
BD5 OJB	Birmingham B26 3JW

Independent examiner

Rhys North ACA

West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

Stringer House
34 Lupton Street
Leeds
LS10 2QW

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) foundation formed on 21 September 2020 and is governed by a constitution.

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees of the charity are appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

Bradford African Community

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2024

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects

To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people, in particular (but without limitation) African refugees and asylum seekers residing in Bradford and Yorkshire, from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society through: a. Education and training in the English language; b. Providing workshops/courses, homework support classes and general support; c. Social and recreational facilities and events involving the local community directed to promoting social inclusion. For the purpose of this clause 'socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or part of society, as a result of being a member of a socially and economically deprived community.

The prevention or relief of poverty in Africa by providing: grants, items and services to individuals in need and/or charities, or other organisation's working to prevent or relieve poverty.

Public benefit statement

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular the promotion of social inclusion.

Achievements and performance

During the year, April 2023 to March 2024, there were 3,446 individual who visited and attended Bradford African Community's (BAC) community centre for learning and receiving support on a range of matters affecting their lives (BAC Visitor logbook). Compared to the previous year (April 2022-March 2023), saw an increase of 31%

Activities	Supported and engaged participants/attendance
Drop-in-centre	1,441
Remotely supported	223
Homework club children and young people	404
ESOL/English Conversation Class	790
B1 session (Speaking and Listening	109
Sewing Academy	225
Watoto Kwanza & the Great little mind	115
Women health sport (Zumba)	31
Visitors from the Local authorities & other organisation	81
Total	3,446
HAF's holiday activities	273 Children and Young people

BAC Drop-in centre offered a comprehensive range of support services. These services included assistance with job applications, updating CVs, cover letter and offering volunteering opportunities for refugees to gain practical skills they needed to move into employment. Others were supported with Universal Credit and other related benefits such as PIP application, housing benefit, and council tax. Other support included enabling refugees to understand the benefit of setting up a direct debit to avoid them falling into debt such as utility bills, council tax and rent. Our beneficiaries were supported with Home Office applications such as BRP renewal, improving their understanding of life in the UK and the life in UK practical test, B1 speaking and listening, fee waiver, neutralisation application, Passport, EU settlement and driving licence application. Other support included school application and GP registration.

The key lessons we have learned from the BAC Engage Project is the transformative impact of combining skills development with community engagement activities. The dual approach has provided our beneficiaries with the practical tools that they need for their integration and adaptation, as well as empowering them to actively engage, participate and contribute to British society.

Bradford African Community

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2024

Achievements and performance continued

Partnership

BAC have collaborated with Bradford Council stronger community together, the West Yorkshire Police, Bradford Everyone, HCA, CABAD, Skills House, Better Start, Bradford University and Bradford College, who have provided resources, extra support and expertise that Bradford African Community could not offer.

BAC would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our partners, our funders the National Lottery Community Fund and Bradford Council. Without their support and dedication, achieving such incredible outcomes would not have been possible. Together, we have achieved something truly remarkable, and we look forward to continuing this partnership to create even greater impact in the future. Thank you for believing in us and being a vital part of our journey.

Challenges

At the outset of Engage project we faced various challenges in fostering a sense of belonging and active participation among the refugee community that took part in the Engage project. Many refugees, due to language barriers, felt isolated and uncertain about their role in British society, lacking both confidence and skills to engage fully. Additionally others were hesitant to participate due to their past traumatic experience before reaching safety in the UK.

To address these challenges, the Engage project team implemented a holistic approach that focused on both skill development and active community engagement.

In partnership with our partners, we combined practical workshops on cultural orientation, English conversational Classes for beginners, job readiness workshops, trips around West Yorkshire and beyond Yorkshire, providing volunteering opportunities for young people to gain practical skills and experience. This has allowed refugees to apply their new skills in a real-world setting, fostering a sense of achievement and belonging.

The Engage project has facilitated the formation of a young people peer support group among the refugees, where they come to the community centre, share experiences, provide mutual support and build confidence in a safe and supportive environment. The young people are supported by Izzi Nicolson and other brilliant volunteers from young people from Bradford University as well as Melat Fisseha Melaku, BAC coordinator, under the leadership of Asumani Sushe who serve as role models and mentors.

The Engage project has put emphasis on and encouraged our beneficiaries to volunteer in local projects such as Great Horton Farm, food banks, community settings such as the Bradford African Community Centre, and at cultural events. These opportunities have allowed refugees to contribute positively to their new communities, build social networks and develop a deeper understanding of British society values and practices.

The BAC Engage Project demonstrates that empowering refugees requires more than just providing basic support services. A successful integration strategy must also focus on building confidence through skills development and fostering a sense of belonging through active engagement, creating opportunities for refugees to contribute meaningfully, help overcome barriers, build self-reliance and feel more connected to Bradford and West Yorkshire and the UK. Future integration initiatives need to prioritise a holistic approach that blends practical support with opportunities for active participation and contribution to British society.

Financial review

The net payments for the year were £9,869, including net receipts of £2,835 on unrestricted funds and net payments of £12,704 on restricted funds.

Bradford African Community

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2024

Reserves policy

The charity's free reserves, at the year end were £16,379.

The general purpose of BAC reserves policy is to help to ensure the long- term financial stability of the organisation and position it to respond to varying economic conditions and changes affecting the organisation's financial position and the ability of the organisation to continuously carry out its mission.

- To enable the organisation to sustain operations through delays in payments of committed funding and to accept reimbursable contracts and grants without jeopardizing ongoing operations.
- To promote public and funder confidence in the long-term sustainability of the organisation by preventing chronic cash flow crises that can diminish its reputation and force its leaders to make expensive short-term, crisis-based decisions; and
- To create an internal line of credit to manage cash flow and maintain financial flexibility.

The trustees have agreed the target reserves should be between three and six months expenditure. Based on 2023/2024 expenditure this represents a reserves target of between £28,000 and £56,000.

Approved by the board of trustees on 22/01/2025

Catherine Kembabazi (Trustee)

Bradford African Community

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Bradford African Community

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the CIO for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 7 to 10.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the CIO 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 CIO's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act;
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

Rhys North ACA

22/01/2025

West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

Stringer House
34 Lupton Street
Leeds
LS10 2QW

Bradford African Community
Receipts and payments account
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024	2024	2024	2023
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		funds	funds	funds	funds
		£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Grants and donations	(2)	700	98,986	99,686	104,774
Bank interest		42	-	42	7
Other income		2,275	-	2,275	1,280
Total receipts		<u>3,017</u>	<u>98,986</u>	<u>102,003</u>	<u>106,061</u>
Payments					
Salaries NI and pensions		-	64,587	64,587	50,212
Payroll charges		-	575	575	616
Freelance costs		138	9,569	9,707	3,897
Activity costs		30	13,157	13,187	13,724
Equipment		-	3,481	3,481	3,038
Insurance		-	570	570	1,618
Rent		-	8,059	8,059	8,500
Transport and travel		-	4,512	4,512	5,115
Office, printing and stationery		-	3,764	3,764	3,498
Telephone and internet		-	670	670	409
Marketing		-	215	215	1,197
Volunteer expenses		14	565	579	279
Training - volunteers and staff		-	358	358	286
Independent examination		-	792	792	840
Other expenses		-	816	816	702
Total payments		<u>182</u>	<u>111,690</u>	<u>111,872</u>	<u>93,931</u>
Net receipts / (payments)		<u>2,835</u>	<u>(12,704)</u>	<u>(9,869)</u>	<u>12,130</u>
Fund balances brought forward		<u>13,544</u>	<u>40,093</u>	<u>53,637</u>	<u>41,507</u>
Fund balances carried forward	(3)	<u>16,379</u>	<u>27,389</u>	<u>43,768</u>	<u>53,637</u>

Bradford African Community
Statement of assets and liabilities
as at 31 March 2024

	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cash funds				
Cash at bank	15,645	27,389	43,034	53,863
Bradford Community Payroll	731	-	731	(244)
Cash in hand	3	-	3	18
Total cash funds	<u>16,379</u>	<u>27,389</u>	<u>43,768</u>	<u>53,637</u>

Debtors and prepayments

	2024
	£
Prepayments	<u>71</u>
	<u>71</u>

Assets retained for the charity's own use

Motor vehicle
Office equipment

Liabilities

	2024
	£
Accruals	<u>840</u>
	<u>840</u>

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 22/01/2025

Catherine Kembabazi (Trustee)

Bradford African Community

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The trustees have taken advantage of section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and have prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year.

No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

Taxation

As a charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

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

Bradford African Community
Notes to the accounts continued
for the year ended 31 March 2024

2 Grants and donations	2024 Unrestricted funds £	2024 Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
Bradford District Metropolitan Council (BDMC)	-	16,986	16,986	19,041
National Lottery Community Foundation (NLCF)	-	82,000	82,000	82,000
The School for Social Entrepreneurs (SSE)	-	-	-	1,500
Other donations	700	-	700	2,233
	<u>700</u>	<u>98,986</u>	<u>99,686</u>	<u>104,774</u>

3 Restricted funds	Balance b/f £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Balance c/f £
NLCF Engage Project	38,421	82,000	94,607	-	25,814
BDMC HAF	1,672	16,236	16,333	-	1,575
BDMC Health & Wellbeing	-	750	750	-	-
	<u>40,093</u>	<u>98,986</u>	<u>111,690</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,389</u>

Fund name	Purpose of restriction
NLCF Engage Project	To develop a safe space for support and advice to refugees and to provide educational and support opportunities.
BDMC HAF	To support the provision of food and activities during school holidays.
BDMC Health & Wellbeing	To run refugee day activities.

4 Related party transactions

Trustee expenses

No trustee received any expenses during this year or the previous year.

Trustee remuneration and benefits

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.

5 Funds held as agent	Balance b/f £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Balance c/f £
Bradford Sudanese	-	250	250	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>-</u>