

Oromo Community in Brighton & Hove

Charity no. 1192959



Trustee Annual Report 2023-24

Governance

The Oromo Community in Brighton and Hove was established in 2006. We became a registered charity on 4th January 2021. Our charity is run by volunteers. We hold an AGM once a year to elect our trustees. Our trustees meet once a month to oversee the work of the charity.

Our work is guided by our members and we receive feedback from them at all our activities and events.

We have the following policies which are reviewed every two years: Safeguarding, Equalities, Health and Safety, Conflict of Interest.

Our Trustees and address

Jatani Boru Dida

Elias Tuffa

Dechasa Hassen-Sule

Fatouma Wario Wako

Our registered address is: 42 Manor Way, Brighton, BN2 5EF.

Our Charitable Objectives

The charity's objects are to promote social inclusion for the public benefit by working with people in Brighton, Hove and Sussex who are socially excluded on the grounds of their ethnic origin, religion, belief or creed (in particular, members of the Oromo community) to relieve the needs of such people and assist them to integrate into society, in particular by:

- a. Providing a local network group that encourages and enables members of the Oromo community to participate more effectively with the wider community;
- b. Providing education in the Oromo language, history and culture for children, to enable them to communicate and engage with their relatives and others in the Oromo community and build their self-esteem
- c. Providing recreational opportunities to promote mental and physical wellbeing
- d. Providing opportunities to meet and share experiences with Oromo communities around the UK
- e. Providing opportunities for the wider community in Brighton, Hove and Sussex to learn about Oromo culture through attendance at events

Our activities & achievements

In 2023-24:

- 95 adults and 20 children came to our cultural celebration
- 75 people came on our family outing
- 32 children came to our weekly Saturday Club
- 15 men came to the men's wellbeing club
- 17 women came to our women's group

Consistent activities for every person in the community

Ever since we arrived in Brighton in 2006, we have worked hard to make sure Oromo people have somewhere they can feel understood, where we can remember and honour our connections back home, while we create a new community here in the UK.

We do this by organising consistent, reliable activities every week, focused on our children but creating a space for everyone in the community. Each month, there is a meal for the whole community. The men's and women's wellbeing groups have developed from discussions at these community meals, and both activities are running well. We also hold two major celebration events each year - our cultural celebration in January and a summer family outing.



Saturday school and community meals

At our Saturday school, the children learn about Oromo language and culture, and we show them how important it is to look after each other as a community. We provide refreshments for the children every week and a shared meal for everyone once a month. All transport costs are covered. This means everyone can join in without worrying about their household budgets.

This simple formula has kept our community strong for 18 years, and we are grateful for the funding that enables us to create this precious shared space.

Cultural celebration

In January 2024, we were pleased to welcome Mr Amin Hussen and Miss Hawwii Qananii to our cultural celebration. They both gave outstanding performances and it was a great night of music, food and dancing.

Wellbeing groups

Our wellbeing groups have been focusing on physical fitness and mental health this year. We paid for gym memberships for 15 men and we have been getting together for regular 'Men's teatime' gatherings, which are a space to share our troubles and support each other.

The women's group has provided swimming and exercise classes for 10 women and a regular gathering for 17 women.

Improving wellbeing

We carried out separate surveys of both the women and the men in 2024, this showed us that 80% of women felt fitter and 85% felt less stressed as a result of our health activities. For men, 100% felt fitter and less stressed. 55% of women experience multiple health problems and 40% have diabetes/high blood pressure or both, whilst 90% of men experience regular back pain or headaches.

We organise our activities so everyone gets the best out of them. For example, the women meet up and travel to the gym together. The whole group support and encourage each other to get the most out of their exercises, as it can be a difficult environment for Muslim women who need to develop their health and fitness.

Building cohesion

We have welcomed four new people into our community over the last year:

- Two young men aged 22 and 27 years, who have newly arrived in the UK, were referred to us by Social Services.
- A single woman who has moved to Brighton from Bolton.
- A young woman who is also new in the UK.

In early 2023 we received a phone call from the foster family of a young Oromo woman (M) who had arrived in Sussex the previous year. She had been living with them in Worthing and didn't know any other Oromo people and never heard her own language. She was feeling very low and struggling to cope so they contacted Social Services and asked about other Oromo people in the area.

When we spoke to the foster family we immediately invited them to bring M along to our Saturday school. One of our women's coordinators, Zainab, welcomed her into our group and took care of

"My experience with swimming has changed my life as I couldn't swim before"

"Oromo community is my company. They make me feel I am included."

"Since I started gym classes, my mental health is definitely better"

"The community is what makes it special"

her. She made sure she felt comfortable and safe and introduced her to some of the older children who befriended her. That first time the foster family stayed with her. They came back the following week and dropped her off and continued to do so for the next 6 months. By this time M was a different person. She became really active in the school and in the planning for our cultural event. For many of our children, who have never been to their parents' home country, it was amazing to have M there with them.

As she began to feel more at ease, M built friendships with everyone. Zainab taught her how to catch the bus from her home in Worthing to Zainab's home in Portslade, so they could travel to the school together every Saturday. This was all part of M building her confidence and preparing to be more independent as she would soon need to leave her foster family and live alone.

Our finances

Our financial year runs from 1st April to 31st March. Our Income for 2023-24 was £38,265 and our expenditure was £37,775.

We ended the year with restricted reserves of £19,131 and unrestricted reserves of £3,254.

We rely entirely on grant funding for our core activities and any special projects we are running. Therefore, we have never been able to build up any significant free reserves. We manage all our grants, expenditure and cashflow using the Resource Centre Grant Tracker system to ensure we use our grants for the purpose they are awarded and do not over-spend any of them.

We have an Independent Examination of our accounts each year.



Thank you to all our funders ~ you make all this possible



Independent Examiner's report on the accounts

Report to the trustees of *Oromo Community in Brighton and Hove*

Registered Charity number 1192959

1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

The accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. You consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to: examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act, to follow the procedures specified in the General Directions of the Charity Commissioners (under section 145 (5)(b) of the Act) and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's 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. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters laid out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Report

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
 - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act: and
 - (b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 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.



Mireille Shimoda
Resource Centre
6 Tilbury Place
Brighton BN2 0GY

Date: 2nd January 2025

Oromo Community in Brighton and Hove

Accounts year ended 31st March 2024

Registered charity: 1192959
Charity correspondent: Elias Tuffa
42 Manor Way
Brighton
BN2 5EF

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis from information and explanations supplied by the charity.



Mireille Shimoda
Resource Centre
6 Tilbury Place
Brighton BN2 0GY
Date: 13th September 2024

These accounts have been approved by the Trustees of the charity.
Signed by one or two Trustees on behalf of all the Trustees

1. ELIAS TUFFA CHAIR
2. DECHASA HASSEW SILLE  Secretary

Date 21/09/2024

Oromo Community in Brighton and Hove

Statement of Financial Activities year ended 31st March 2024

	Restricted	Unrestricted	2024	Restricted	Unrestricted	2023
Receipts						
Grants, donations & legacies	36,000	2,265	38,265	26,703	-	26,703
Other income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Receipts	36,000	2,265	38,265	26,703	-	26,703
Payments						
Expenditure on charitable activities	36,054	1,721	37,775	35,593	261	35,854
Total Payments	36,054	1,721	37,775	35,593	261	35,854
Net payments for the year	(54)	544	491	(8,890)	(261)	(9,151)
Transfers between funds	(447)	447	-	(2,155)	2,155	-
Funds at 1st April 2023	19,632	2,263	21,895	30,677	369	31,046
Balance of funds at 31st March 2024	19,131	3,254	22,386	19,632	2,263	21,895

NB some additions may vary by +/- £1 due to rounding

Oromo Community in Brighton and Hove

Receipts and Payments Account year ended 31st March 2024

	Restricted	Unrestricted	2024	Restricted	Unrestricted	2023
Receipts						
Grants, donations & legacies						
Children in Need	10,000	-	10,000	10,500	-	10,500
Awards for All	20,000	-	20,000	-	-	-
Sussex Community Foundation	-	-	-	9,340	-	9,340
Brighton and Hove City Council (Resilience Fund)	6,000	-	6,000	6,000	-	6,000
East Brighton Trust - football kit sponsorship	-	-	-	863	-	863
Donations	-	2,265	2,265	-	-	-
Other income						
Bank interest	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Receipts	36,000	2,265	38,265	26,703	-	26,703
Payments						
Expenditure on charitable activities						
Children's Language school - children's bus fares	1,552	-	1,552	1,507	-	1,507
Children's Language school - adults' bus fares	2,175	-	2,175	1,962	-	1,962
Children's Language school - teacher's fees	1,320	-	1,320	1,660	-	1,660
Children's Language school - refreshments	2,344	-	2,344	2,321	-	2,321
Children's Language school - classroom materials	165	-	165	-	-	-
Children's Language school - volunteer expenses	875	-	875	855	-	855
Children's Language school - venue hire	4,481	-	4,481	5,875	-	5,875
Children's Language school - sports coach fees	590	-	590	540	-	540
Children's Language school - printing & publicity	-	-	-	30	-	30
Graduation - food & drink	555	-	555	350	-	350
DBS & safeguarding	240	-	240	-	-	-
Football kit	-	-	-	864	5	869
Women's project - swimming and sewing	1,448	-	1,448	2,885	-	2,885
Women's project - exercise classes	1,310	-	1,310	1,906	-	1,906
Women's project - teatime club	804	-	804	650	-	650
Men's project - gym membership and swimming classes	4,440	-	4,440	1,932	-	1,932
Men's project - teatime club	1,630	-	1,630	1,275	-	1,275
Committee admin (printing, phone, stationery)	67	-	67	44	-	44
Committee expenses	548	-	548	-	-	-
Committee meeting expenses	923	165	1,088	432	-	432
Insurance	310	-	310	300	-	300
Community meals	2,922	419	3,341	3,700	-	3,700
Cultural event	4,290	-	4,290	4,289	-	4,289
Outing	2,269	1,125	3,394	2,216	-	2,216
Eid celebrations	796	-	796	-	-	-
Bank charges	-	12	12	-	-	-
Miscellaneous expenditure	-	-	-	-	256	256
Total Payments	36,054	1,721	37,775	35,593	261	35,854
Net receipts (payments) for the year	(54)	544	491	(8,890)	(261)	(9,151)
Transfer between funds	(447)	447	-	(2,155)	2,155	-
Funds at 1st April 2023	19,632	2,263	21,895	30,677	369	31,046
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NB some additions may vary by +/- £1 due to rounding

Oromo Community in Brighton and Hove

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st March 2024

Monetary Assets

Natwest account	22,385
Cash in hand	-

Balance of funds held at 31st March 2024	22,385
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Liabilities

None

Breakdown of funds at 31st March 2024

Restricted funds

Awards for All 2024-26	14,887
Children in Need Year 3	3,743
East Brighton Trust (for football tournament received 2021/22)	500

Unrestricted funds

General fund	3,255
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Total	22,385
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NB some additions may vary by +/- £1 due to rounding