

Charity Registration No. 1196492

Company No. 13639269



BRITSOM

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR
THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2024**

BRITSOM

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees/Directors

M Ali
M Bashir
A Abdalla
M Mire

Charity Number

1196492

Company Number

13639269

Principal address

Eversfield Centre
11 Eversfield Gardens
London NW7 2AE

Independent Examiner

M&H Associates
152 - 160 Kemp House
City Road
London
EC1 2NX

BRITSOM

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BRITSOM

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024*

It is my privilege to present the 2023-2024 Annual Report, which documents the remarkable progress and achievements over the past year. BritSom remains committed to supporting the Somali Black, Minority, refugee, and migrant communities in Barnet.

This year, we faced significant challenges due to the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, which has severely impacted our community. Many families struggle to put food on the table, relying increasingly on foodbanks, and the inability to meet rent payments has led to a rise in eviction threats. Vulnerable groups, especially families with low income, are particularly concerned about the rising costs of heating and their capacity to cover essential bills this winter.

On behalf of the board of trustees, I extend my deepest gratitude to our outstanding team of staff and volunteers at BritSom. Their dedication, enthusiasm, resilience, and good humor have been instrumental in maintaining BritSom as a vital community asset. I also want to thank our beneficiaries for their patience and understanding during these challenging times, especially with the ongoing disruptions caused by the cost-of-living crisis.

A heartfelt thank you to our funders and partners for their unwavering support. We look forward to continuing our positive impact in 2024-2025 with renewed hope and a strong sense of togetherness.

Chair

BRITSOM

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees present their report along with the Financial Statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016).

Aims and objectives

- To highlight and address the needs of the Somali and BMER (Black, Minority, Ethnic & Refugee) community in Barnet
- To work in partnership with other agencies and service providers to ensure the needs of the Somali and BMER community are known and met
- To provide facilities for education, leisure & recreation, sport, health promotion and social welfare for the children and young people
- To raise the educational achievement of the Somali, BMER and other disadvantaged children through after school classes
- To decrease the isolation of Somali and BMER women, children, the elderly and the disabled
- To improve the awareness and the access in the Somali BMER and other Communities of the available services
- To facilitate co-operation and understanding between Somali BMER community and other communities
- To influence social policy makers and service providers positively towards the needs of the Somali and BMER

How our activities deliver public benefit

The trustees have throughout the year paid regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in dealing with the aims and activities of the charity.

People have benefitted from our services and have gained access to education, training and employment.

Activities

- Health and Wellbeing
- Physical Activities
- Debt Management
- Employment Support/NEET
- Welfare Advice
- Supplementary Classes
- Home-school Liaison - to improve the educational opportunities of children, prevent school exclusion and improve the relationship between families and schools
- Job search and job brokerage, volunteering opportunities and training.
- Workshops on: crime & drugs, health, community cohesion, social and cultural events
- Youth advice, sports activities and outings to theme parks and museums
- Family Support and mediation service
- Befriending and mentoring service, Tea and Talk parents' group
- Community consultation workshops
- SEN support programme
- Representing the Somali and BMER community at various strategic forums
- Promoting harmony and diversity between the Somali, BMER community and other communities.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Achievements and Performance

Advice, Information and Guidance provisions: over 400 people have benefited from our (AIG) services. This service increased during the coronavirus pandemic.

Recent Achievements

BritSom has stepped up to help hundreds of additional people from all communities during the cost-of-living crisis. Volunteers, staff, and trustees have gone above and beyond to offer drop-in sessions to over 460 people through our advice and advocacy service, which saved many from extreme poverty. This service included housing and welfare advice, ensuring people received the support they needed. We also set up new unfunded projects such as a food bank which provided food for 90 people, regular telephone befriending and home visits for 25 community elders, and helped over 35 people find new jobs through an online job search.

Supplementary School: over 100 children have benefited the supplementary classes each week. The aim of this service is to support them with their homework to address the underachievement of the Somali and BAME children and young people. Our supplementary school has Gold Quality Framework Award.

Welfare Advice

We provide support regarding accessing benefits, rent arrears, utilities, benefit entitlement, housing issues to hundreds of disadvantaged and excluded people from Somali / BAME communities in Barnet.

Employment Support: over 50 adults have benefited from our one-to-one employment support and our monthly employment support workshops through online platform. Also, we have seen an increase in people wanting employment support service during the pandemic.

Advice UK: we received an Advice UK Certificate on 25th February 2023.

Quality Mark: we received a NRCSE quality mark on 27th February 2019 at the House of Commons presented by our local MP Matthew Offord.

Street Mark: we received a Street Mark quality mark.

London Youth: Britsom is officially a member of London Youth

Volunteering: our volunteers are the backbone of BritSom and have contributed over 3,800 hours equivalent in monetary terms.

Influencing policy: BritSom works with a number of local strategic bodies to promote partnership working between the sectors and the local community. We are members of Advice UK, London Youth Young Barnet Foundation, Community Barnet, Barnet Supplementary School Forum, the Refugee Council, NRCSE and Greater London Volunteering. We continued to lobby for recognition of the needs of the Somali Community on various platforms. We have working agreement with Trinity Church Mill Hill and close working relationship with Hasmonian high girls' school.

Events: we have an Annual Celebration where we recognise the achievements of students and volunteers.

Funding

The Trustees wish to offer their warm thanks to the following organisations for their generous support of BritSom during the period of this Financial Report: **John Lyon's Charity, City Bridge Foundation, The Albert Hunt Trust, The London Community Foundation, National Lottery Community Fund, Trust for London, AB Charitable Trust, People's Health Trust and London Borough of Barnet Garfield Weston Foundation.**

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Trustees

M Ali

M Mire

M Bashir

A Abdalla

Financial Review & Reserves Policy

The Charity Commission for England recognised that there is a legal duty on Management Committee Members of Charities to set reserve level and justify that this is reasonable. To meet this responsibility and manage risk BritSom Management Committee Members have set an appropriate reserve level to meet the ongoing needs of the organisation.

BritSom has no general funding guaranteed annual income and therefore, as an acknowledgement of financial risks accrued through the day-to-day activities and ongoing services. The organisations aim to generate sufficient unrestricted reserves to maintain operations for 5 months running cost and allow the services to continue. This reserve target was set by the Management Committee on 09 December 2023 at £70,000 for 6 months' operation running cost.

Investment powers and policy

The Charity's funds are to be spent in the short term and there are no long-term funds or advance funds, which cannot be investments in the money market.

Plans for Future Periods

BritSom aims to continue the delivery and consolidation of the current activities along with a number of new initiatives subject to availability of funds. We will also explore options for diversification of our income generation and funding sources to build BritSom's sustainability.

The future planned activities are as follows:

- To sustain the services currently offered by the charity
- Work towards quality frameworks to the highest mark possible
- Fundraise for the core projects and for the key workers in the organisation.
- Undertake a review of existing funding and income generation.
- Attract funding for full time Chief Executive Officer
- Attract funding for Educational and welfare support worker to work with our Children and Young People (CYP).

Review of financial position

At the balance sheet date, the total funds of the Charity were £168,126 (2023: £195,928).

Risk Management

The Trustees have a risk management strategy, which comprises the following areas:

- An annual review of the risks the charity may face.
- The establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the plan.
- And the Implementations of such procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialize.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee and is therefore governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association. The directors of the company are also trustees of the charity. Eligibility for membership of the charity and membership of the board of trustees is governed by the Memorandum and Articles of Association There are no restrictions in the governing document on the operation of the charity or on its investment powers, other than those imposed by general charity law.

Appointment of trustees

Recruitment and Appointment of Management Committee Members of the Management Committee are all recruited from volunteers within the Community.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Trustee Induction and Training Most trustees are already familiar with the work of the charity as a result of being local people and due to their involvement in the charity. Additionally, new trustees are invited and encouraged to attend induction and training in relevant policies and procedures as and when necessary.

Trustees' induction and training

Management Committee Members receive an induction pack detailing their responsibilities, Code of Conducts, meeting timetable, conflict of interest policy and declaration forms, CC3 (Responsibilities of Charity Trustees) paper and equal opportunity policies. Management Committee Members volunteering for personnel, day to day activities and financial subcommittees.

- a. Induction of new Management Committee members will wherever possible be undertaken by the two most senior office holders and most senior staff members who have already undergone the induction procedure (the inductors).
- b. Induction of new Management Committee members will wherever possible take place at the BritSom office no later than ten working days after the election of the new Management Committee member.
- c. The new Management Committee member will be introduced to other Management Committee members and BritSom employees and volunteers and be given a description of the work each of them undertakes.
- d. The new Management Committee member will be shown round the BritSom office and will be expected to familiarise themselves with the services provided and who takes the lead in providing those services.
- e. The inductor will provide the new Management Committee member with the following documents:
 - The most up to date Charity Commission booklets outlining their roles and responsibilities
 - The Constitution
 - The Policies and Procedures File and the Annual Report
 - The minutes of Trustees meetings
 - The contact details of all other Management Committee members.

Statement of Directors' and Trustees' Responsibilities:

Charity Law and the Companies Acts require the Board to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of the surplus or deficit of the charity. In preparing those financial statements the Board is required to.

1. Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently & Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
2. Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.
3. State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

The trustees are also responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. 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. The trustees are also responsible for the contents of the trustees' report, and the responsibility of the auditors/external examiners in relation to the trustees' report is limited to examining the report and ensuring that, on the face of the report, there are no inconsistencies with the figures disclosed in the financial statements.

The trustees are also responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act. 2006. 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.

Method of preparation of accounts: The trustees, in their capacity as directors, state that the accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

M Ali
Chair

Dated: 10-May-2024

BRITSOM

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF BRITSOM FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Examiner's Report to the Trustees of BritSom

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages 7 to 8.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The charity's trustees who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011('the Act).

We report in respect of our examination of the Company's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and carrying out our examination we have followed all applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

(1) which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of sections 394 and 395 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or

(2) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Address:

M&H Associates
152 - 160 Kemp House
City Road
London
EC1 2NX

Date: 10-May-2024



BRITSOM

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Incoming resources				
Grants	-	168,557	168,557	148,122
Donations	5,579	-	5,579	3185
Total incoming resources	5,579	168,557	174,136	151,307
Resources expended				
Staff and management salaries	-	119,405	119,405	124,859
Sessional workers	-	15,133	15,133	17,325
Operations	-	33,780	33,780	22,987
Total resources expended	-	168,318	168,318	165,171
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year ended 31 March 2024	5,579	239	5818	(13,864)
Fund balances brought forward at 1 April 2023	64,855	97,453	162,308	195,928
Fund balances carried forward at 31 March 2024	70,434	97,692	168,126	195,928
	=====	=====	=====	=====

BRITSOM

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		168,126	195,928
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		-	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net current assets		<hr/> 168,126 =====	<hr/> 195,928 =====
Income funds			
Restricted funds	2	97,453	131,073
Unrestricted funds	2	70,434	64,855
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		168,126 =====	195,928 =====

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 10 May 2024



..... M Ali
Trustee/Director

BRITSOM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and “Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)” (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The accounts have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The accounts are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Incoming resources

Incoming resources are included in the SOFA when the charity can quantify the amount with reasonable accuracy.

1.3 Resources expended

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Resources expended include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.

1.4 Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:

- **Unrestricted funds** – these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees. Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.
- **Restricted funds** – these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the object of the charity. Restrictions also apply when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular purposes. Expenditure that meets these criteria is identified in the fund.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (CONTINUED)

1.5 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans that are classified as debt, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (CONTINUED)

2. Analysis of charitable funds

Analysis of unrestricted funds movements

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Incoming Resources resources expended		Balance at March 31 2024
	£	£	£	£
Reserve fund	64,855	5,579	-	70,434
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	64,855	5,579	-	70,434
	=====	=====	=====	=====

Analysis of restricted funds movement

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Incoming Resources resources expended		Balance at March 31 2024
	£	£	£	£
Grant fund	151,307	174,136	168,318	168,126
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	151,307	174,136	168,318	168,126
	=====	=====	=====	=====

Name of the fund	Description, nature and purpose of the fund
Grant fund	to carry out activities set by grantees

3. Staff costs

The average weekly number of employees remunerated during the year, calculated on a full-time equivalent basis, was 5 (2024 – 5).

No individual is remunerated at a level in excess of £30,000.