

CENTRAL AFRICA REFUGEE LINK, WEST MIDLANDS

England & Wales · Charity number 1202174

Details

Other names	CARE LINK WEST MIDLANDS
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	06218206
Registered	2023-03-03
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	91 Hurst Road Smethwick B67 6LY
Phone	01215652612
Email	office@carelinkwestmidlands.org.uk
Website	www.carelinkwestmidlands.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 3.1. TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH OF PERSONS FROM CENTRAL AFRICAN FRENCH SPEAKING COUNTRIES WHO ARE SEEKING ASYLUM OR WHO ARE GRANTED REFUGEE STATUS AND THEIR DEPENDANTS LIVING IN THE WEST MIDLANDS REGION (HEREINAFTER, THE 'BENEFICIARIES').3.2. TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF THOSE PERSONS DEFINED IN OBJECT 3.1 AS BENEFICIARIES BY ANY CHARITABLE MEANS THAT THE TRUSTEES MAY FROM TIME TO TIME DETERMINE.3.3. TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL ABOUT ISSUES RELATING TO REFUGEES AND THOSE SEEKING ASYLUM.3.4. THE RELIEF OF FINANCIAL HARDSHIP TO THOSE PERSONS DEFINED IN OBJECT 3.1 AS BENEFICIARIES BY ANY CHARITABLE MEANS THAT THE TRUSTEES MAY FROM TIME TO TIME DETERMINE.3.5. THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE OF THOSE PERSONS DEFINED IN OBJECT 3.1, WHO HAVE NEED OF SUCH FACILITIES BY REASON OF THEIR YOUTH, AGE, INFIRMITY OR DISABLEMENT, FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES.

Activities: The organisation provides assistance to refugees and migrants by helping them to settle and fully establish themselves in West Midlands with independence and dignity. Example of activities include: a) Drop-in Centre (Advice, support & guidance) b) Job Club c) Befriending Internet Coffee Clubd) Multi-sport activitiese) Saturday Homework Club, etc.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-09-30	£112,515	£91,279	-	-
2024-09-30	£111,290	£97,522	-	-
2023-09-30	£28,012	£54,474	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Walingamina Shomari WS	Chair	2007-03-17
ANGE MWIHABUNTU		2007-03-19
BERNARD NTIVUNWA		2007-03-19
DALLYLA UWASE		2007-03-19
OLGA BOGDANOVA		2007-03-19

CENTRAL AFRICA REFUGEE LINK, WEST MIDLANDS

England & Wales - Charity number 1202174

Accounts

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 06218206

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1202174 (*previously 1109505*)

**Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 September 2025
for**

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

GM ACCOUNTANCY

Chartered Certified Accountants
472A BEARWOOD ROAD
SMETHWICK
WEST MIDLANDS
ENGLAND
B66 4HA

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

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Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 30 September 2025

Chairperson's Introduction to the Report:

As we reflect on the year from 01 October 2024 to 30 September 2025, we are immensely proud of the impact we have made across our services. Our commitment to supporting individuals, families, and young people remains steadfast as we work together to create positive changes in our community. This report highlights our key achievements and the difference we made through Floating Support, the Homework Club, Mental Health Support, Multi-Sport activities, and the Youth Club.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our staff, volunteers, donors, and partners for your continued dedication and support. Without you, none of this would be possible.

Ange Mwihabuntu, Chairperson

Introduction to the Report

The trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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) (effective 1 January 2015).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity Name Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

Trading Name: Care Link West Midlands

Charity Registration Number (*unincorporated*) 1109505

Date of Registration: 17/05/2005

Charity Registration Number (*incorporated*) 1202174

Date Incorporated: 03/03/2023

Company Registration Number 06218206

Date of Registration: 18/04/2007

Principal Office (Business): 1st Floor, 130 Cape Hill, Smethwick, West Midlands, B66 4PH

Registered Office (Mail delivery): 91 Hurst Road, Smethwick, West Midlands, B67 6LY

Venues of Activities:

- 1. Saturday Homework Club/Smethwick:**
84A High Street, Smethwick, B66 1AQ
- 2. Youth Club:** 1st Floor, 130 Cape Hill, Smethwick, West Midlands, B66 4PH
- 3. Saturday Homework Club/Coventry:**
St Margaret's Church, 50 Walsgrave Road, Coventry, CV2 4EB

E-mail : office@carelinkwestmidlands.org.uk

Web site : www.carelinkwestmidlands.org.uk

Tel: 01215652612

Mobile: 07881563472

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

Bank

TSB Bank, 537 Bearwood Rd, Smethwick, West Midlands, B66 4BQ

Tel 08450725555

Independent Examiner

GM ACCOUNTANCY, Chartered Certified Accountants, 472A BEARWOOD ROAD, SMETHWICK, WEST MIDLANDS, ENGLAND, B66 4H

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

BACKGROUND, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES OF CARE LINK WEST MIDLANDS

Background

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands [trading as Care Link West Midlands] start date 16.10.2004 is a registered charitable organisation set up to provide general support services including advocacy, advice, information, education, training and the relief of poverty of refugees & asylum seekers from Central Africa in West Midlands living in West Midlands.

Care Link West Midlands uses the expertise of 5 Trustees and 5 volunteers (3 full-time and 2 part-time) in its effort to achieve its goals and activities. These activities are mainly the advancement of education of refugee children, the relief of poverty, the preservation and protection of good health, the provision of facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation of refugees and asylum seekers. Care Link West Midlands provides assistance to refugees and migrants of similar backgrounds by helping them to settle and fully establish themselves in West Midlands with independence and dignity.

The organisation runs a number of activities on a regular basis:

- Drop-in Centre (Advice, support & guidance)
- Sewing & Tailoring Training Club
- Job Club
- Befriending Internet Coffee Club
- Cookery Club
- Homework Club & Multi-sports Club.
- Awareness raising campaigns, etc.

Objectives and aims of Care Link West Midlands

1. To support refugees, asylum seekers and migrants from Central Africa region living in West Midlands through education/training, medical/health support and the relief of poverty among the refugee community.
2. Provide services such as counselling, training, advocacy/advice and information.

Activities of Care Link West Midlands

To achieve its mission, Care Link West Midlands has 4 main programmes:

1. *Floating Support (General Support programme)*

This is a programme that helps refugees and asylum seekers get support with their general needs (e.g. health, education, accommodation, leisure etc). Needs are assessed individually using a special information tool to identify what a particular person requires. Once the need is established, then a support plan is drawn, and a support worker will work with each individual to address those needs. In some circumstances, service users are sign- posted to specialist services for additional support.

2. *Mental Health Awareness and Support programme*

This is a programme that focuses on helping refugees and asylum seekers who are suffering from some degree of mental health problems to get the type of support they need by helping them access the most appropriate services.

3. *Youth Club programme*

The Youth Club programme helps young people to have access to a wide range of services they need (e.g. employment, further education, skills training, family matters, youth matters, etc)

4. *Saturday Homework Club programme*

The Saturday Homework club is a programme which helps poorly performing refugee, asylum seeking children and other under achieving pupils with their educational assignments in order to raise their academic achievements and so assisting their integration into mainstream education.

These activities are successfully carried out thanks to kind support from well-wishers, members' contributions and funding from grants making Trusts and Foundations.

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Care Link West Midlands is a charitable company governed by a memorandum and articles of association, incorporated on 18 APR 2007. The organisation was founded in 2005 as an unincorporated charitable trust called Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands and trading as Care Link West Midlands (charity number:1109505). All activities, liabilities and assets transferred to the charitable company(**1202174**) on 03/03/2023. Therefore, **Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands registered as an unincorporated charitable trust under Charity Commission No: 1109505** was removed from the Central Register of Charities with effect from the date of 01 Aug 2024.

The object of the care Link West Midlands as a charitable company is to:

- 1. To preserve and protect the physical and mental health of persons from central African French speaking countries who are seeking asylum or who are granted refugee status and their dependants living in the West Midlands region (hereinafter, the “beneficiaries”).*
- 2. To advance the education and training of those persons defined in object 1 as beneficiaries by any charitable means that the trustees may from time to time determine.*
- 3. To advance the education of public in general about issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.*
- 4. The relief of financial hardship to those persons defined in object 1 as beneficiaries by any charitable means that trustees may from time to time determine.*
- 5. The provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life of those persons defined in object 1, who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances.*

Our vision is of a connected and supportive society where people of different faiths, beliefs and cultures have strong, productive and lasting relations. The organisation is governed by a board of trustees who meet regularly during the year. Finance and Compliance Committees meet before each board meeting to monitor and review relevant matters in more depth.

The board of trustees is authorised to appoint new trustees, as required, who are selected on the basis of their relevant skills, experience and knowledge and the active contribution they can make to the organisation. New trustees are briefed on the organisation’s constitution, strategic plan, policies and procedures. They receive a copy of the previous years’ financial statements and a copy of the constitution, and are expected to sign a declaration of interests form.

Trustees are responsible for the strategic direction of the organisation and delegate management to the Operations Manager. The Operations Manager reports to the board on organisational performance against operational plans approved by the Board. The Operations Manager is Head of Operations and reports regularly via the Finance Committee on the financial position of the organisation.

The organisation seeks to create an internal culture that embodies the inclusive and welcoming values that we want to see in wider society, and are delighted that in summer 2023, more than 90% of staff and volunteers surveyed said they are proud to work at this charity, enjoy the work they do, and believe they are making a difference.

The charity is grateful to its team of staff, consultants, freelancers, interns and volunteers for their outstanding dedication, hard work and commitment during the year.

The structure of Care Link West Midlands represents the following hierarchy:

1. The General Assembly of Members (GAM): highest organ of important decisions. It is responsible for determining the general policy of the organisation. It meets once a year to decide on important decisions affecting the organisation.

2. The Management Committee (MC): the governing body of the organization elected by GAM. It acts on any matters referred to it by the General Assembly of Members and considers for approval the recommendations made by GAM. It consists of 5 Trustees: 1 Chairperson; 1 Vice-chairperson; 1 Secretary; 1 Treasurer and 1 Adviser:

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3. **The Secretariat:** part of the organisation that deals with the daily management of the organisation's activities.

It is composed of a small paid staff of experienced men and women with a thorough experience in community matters and spread over 4 programmes:

- a. Floating Support (FS)
- b. Mental Health Awareness & Support (MHAS)
- c. Saturday Homework Club (SHWC)
- d. Youth Club (YC)

The Secretariat consists of 6 people (office based):

- a) 5 Volunteers (3 full time, 2 part-time)
- b) 1 paid staff (Part-time).

GOVERNING DOCUMENTS & POLICIES

A number of policies are available. The main governing documents are our Constitution, our Memorandum of Association and our Business Plan. Among the policies available, we have:

- o Equal Opportunity Policy
- o Protection from Abuse
- o Safeguarding Policy
- o Health & Safety
- o Drug Abuse Policy
- o Volunteer Policy
- o Recruitment & Selection Policy
- o Needs Assessment & Support Planning Policy
- o Complaints & Whistle Blowing Policy
- o Code of Conduct & Acceptable and Unacceptable Behaviour
- o Financial Control Policy
- o General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) policy

All these policies are reviewed yearly.

THE TRUSTEES

Care Link West Midlands's Trustees are elected by Annual General Meeting (AGM) in accordance with the organisation's constitution. The following served as Trustees and as members of Care Link West Midlands's management committee during the year up to the AGM which took place on Thursday 3rd October 2019:

Ms A.Mwihabuntu, Chairperson
Ms D.Uwase, Vice Chairperson
Mr. W. Shomari, Secretary/Operations Manager
Mr. B. Ntivunwa, Treasurer
Mrs O. Bogdanova, Advisor

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

Responsibilities of the Trustees

The charity's Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare Financial Statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the Financial Statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law).

The trustees must not approve the Financial Statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the income and expenditure of the charity for that period.

In preparing these Financial Statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether 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 operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with the Charities 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.

Conflict of interest

The organisation has adopted a policy to address conflicts of interest so as to ensure that its activities, and those of its staff and service users, are and are seen to be conducted to the highest standards of ethics and integrity.

Risk Management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Public Benefit

The Charities Act 2011 requires charities to demonstrate that their work is of direct benefit to the public. When planning Care Link West Midlands's activities each year, the Trustees take due regard of the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Within the constraint of resources, and subject to any eligibility criteria for a specific service, Care Link West Midlands's services, described above, are available to all refugees and people claiming asylum. Services are offered in many of our clients' languages, without charging fees, and recognising the difficulties many face in meeting travelling costs. Our work on sector capacity building, refugee integration and education of the general public about refugee issues benefits the whole community by supporting community cohesion. Our work on policy, legislation and advocacy advances human rights and access to employment, education and health care, and combats destitution.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE YEAR 2024-2025 (1ST OCTOBER 2024 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2025)

The following is a brief summary of services we have delivered to our Service Users for the last whole year. We did our best to reach the aims and values of the organization in making sure we give the best quality of service to all our Service Users. Our objectives targeted Asylum Seekers and Refugees from Central Africa with different backgrounds:

1. Floating Support Service

Overview

The Floating Support service is dedicated to assisting individuals experiencing significant challenges such as homelessness, mental health difficulties, or housing insecurity. Our team delivers tailored, one-to-one support designed to help clients sustain their tenancies, access financial and welfare entitlements, and engage with essential community and statutory services.

Key Achievements

- Provided direct support to 165 clients over the past year, addressing housing concerns and enhancing overall stability.
- Achieved a 90% tenancy sustainment rate among clients following engagement with our service.
- Assisted more than 75 individuals in successfully applying for or accessing housing benefits and other financial support.
- Collaborated with local authorities to deliver emergency interventions for 38 clients at imminent risk of homelessness.

Impact Story

Vicky, one of our clients, was at risk of eviction due to financial hardship compounded by health concerns. With the support of our service, she was able to access appropriate benefits, develop strategies to better manage her finances, and connect with mental health resources. As a result, Sarah has successfully maintained her home and continues to build towards greater independence. Her journey highlights the resilience of our clients and the positive impact of timely, person-centred support.

2. Homework Club

Programme Overview

The Homework Club, run by Care Link West Midlands, provides a safe and supportive after-school environment where children and young people can complete their homework, improve study skills, and receive tailored academic support. The programme is designed to help participants—many from disadvantaged or newly settled families—overcome barriers to learning by offering access to resources, mentorship, and encouragement from dedicated volunteers and staff.

Key Achievements (This Year)

- Supported over **60** children across the academic year, with regular attendance from at least **35** pupils each week.
- Improved literacy and numeracy skills, as evidenced by teacher feedback and internal progress monitoring.

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- Expanded volunteer base by 25%, enabling more one-to-one and small group tutoring.
- Delivered workshops on study skills, digital literacy, and exam preparation, equipping students with tools for long-term success.
- Strengthened partnerships with local schools and community organisations, ensuring better referrals and holistic support for families.

Impact Story

One Year 7 participant, who arrived in the UK with limited English, initially struggled to keep up in class and felt isolated. Through weekly support at the Homework Club, she gained confidence in reading and writing, received personalised help with her school assignments, and gradually improved her spoken English. By the end of the year, she not only achieved a “most improved student” award at her school but also began helping her younger sibling with homework at home. Her story reflects the broader impact of the programme: empowering children to reach their potential and fostering a culture of learning within families.

Conclusion

The Homework Club continues to play a vital role in bridging educational gaps, boosting confidence, and building resilience among young people in our community. With ongoing support from funders, schools, and volunteers, Care Link West Midlands remains committed to expanding opportunities for every child to thrive.

3. Mental Health Support

Programme Overview

The Mental Health Support programme provides culturally sensitive, accessible services for individuals and families across the West Midlands who are experiencing emotional distress, anxiety, depression, or other mental health challenges. Through a blend of one-to-one counselling, group sessions, workshops, and outreach, the programme aims to reduce stigma, promote resilience, and ensure that people—particularly those from migrant, refugee, and minority backgrounds—have a safe space to seek help.

Key Achievements (2024–2025)

- Supported over 120 individuals through structured counselling and group sessions.
- Delivered 15 community workshops on stress management, mindfulness, and wellbeing practices.
- Established a peer-support network enabling participants to connect outside formal sessions, building stronger community bonds.
- Expanded referral pathways by partnering with five local GP practices and two schools, ensuring earlier access to support.
- Trained 10 new volunteers in mental health first aid, increasing the programme’s capacity and reach.

Impact Story

A 42-year-old participant was referred to the programme after experiencing severe anxiety, which had prevented her from engaging in work and social activities. Initially withdrawn and hesitant, she gradually opened up through regular counselling and participation in mindfulness workshops. By mid-year, she reported significant improvements in her confidence and coping strategies. By the end of the reporting period, she had not only returned to part-time employment but also joined the peer-support network as a volunteer, offering encouragement to others. Her journey demonstrates how timely, community-based mental health support can empower individuals to reclaim their independence and wellbeing.

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Conclusion

From October 2024 to October 2025, the Mental Health Support programme has made meaningful strides in addressing mental health needs within the West Midlands. By reducing stigma, increasing access, and fostering resilience, Care Link West Midlands continues to create a more supportive and inclusive environment where individuals can thrive.

4. Multi-Sport Activities

Programme Overview

The Multi-Sport Activities programme offers children, young people, and families opportunities to engage in a variety of sports in a safe, inclusive, and fun environment. By providing access to football, basketball, badminton, cricket, and fitness sessions, the programme encourages healthier lifestyles, teamwork, and social inclusion. Special emphasis is placed on engaging young people from disadvantaged and minority backgrounds who may face barriers to regular participation in sports.

Key Achievements (2024–2025)

- Engaged over 150 participants across the year, with consistent weekly attendance from around 70 young people.
- Introduced two new sports—table tennis and athletics—expanding opportunities for participants to try different activities.
- Partnered with three local schools and a leisure centre to improve access to facilities and increase community involvement.
- Organised two community sports festivals that brought together families, volunteers, and local partners to celebrate active living.
- Delivered health and nutrition workshops alongside sports sessions to promote holistic wellbeing.

Impact Story

One 13-year-old participant, who had previously struggled with low self-esteem and lack of motivation, joined the programme initially to “just try football.” Over the course of the year, he became actively involved in basketball and cricket, forming friendships and gaining confidence. His teachers reported improved attendance and engagement at school, and by summer 2025, he was selected to represent his school in a regional football tournament. His story highlights how access to varied sporting opportunities can transform not only physical fitness but also confidence, social skills, and aspirations.

Conclusion

Between October 2024 and October 2025, the Multi-Sport Activities programme has provided safe, engaging, and meaningful opportunities for young people and families to stay active, develop new skills, and connect with their community. Care Link West Midlands remains committed to using sport as a tool for wellbeing, empowerment, and inclusion.

5. Youth Club

Programme Overview

The Youth Club provides a safe, welcoming, and creative space for young people aged 11–18 to socialise, learn new skills, and access support. Sessions run weekly and include recreational activities, workshops, mentoring, and cultural events. The programme is designed to foster confidence, teamwork, and leadership while addressing the social and emotional needs of young people, particularly those from migrant and minority communities.

Key Achievements (2024–2025)

- Engaged over 100 young people, with regular weekly attendance from 45 participants.

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- Delivered 20 skills-based workshops covering topics such as digital literacy, CV writing, leadership, and healthy relationships.
- Established a youth leadership panel, enabling participants to co-design club activities and take active roles in decision-making.
- Partnered with local police and community organisations to run awareness sessions on safety, wellbeing, and community engagement.
- Organised two trips (one cultural, one recreational), broadening horizons and building stronger peer bonds.

Impact Story

A 15-year-old participant initially attended the Youth Club reluctantly, struggling with low confidence and limited friendships. Through consistent participation in leadership activities and peer support groups, she developed new social skills and gradually took on a mentor role for younger members. By summer 2025, she had delivered a short workshop on creative writing to her peers and expressed interest in pursuing a career in youth work. Her transformation reflects the programme's impact in building self-belief, leadership, and a sense of belonging among young people.

Conclusion

From October 2024 to October 2025, the Youth Club has continued to play a vital role in supporting young people's growth, resilience, and wellbeing. By combining fun, learning, and empowerment, Care Link West Midlands ensures that young people have the tools and confidence to thrive both within their communities and in their future ambitions.

6. Supporting the Ageing

Programme Overview

The Supporting the Ageing programme is designed to enhance the quality of life for older people across the West Midlands. It provides companionship, practical assistance, and access to activities that reduce isolation and promote wellbeing. Services include weekly social groups, home visits, digital literacy sessions, exercise classes, and signposting to health and welfare support. The programme particularly supports older people from migrant and minority backgrounds, ensuring they feel connected, valued, and independent.

Key Achievements (2024–2025)

- Reached over 80 older people through regular activities and home-based support.
- Established a weekly “Befriending Internet Coffee Club & Connect” group that grew to 40 consistent attendees.
- Delivered digital inclusion workshops, helping 25 older participants learn how to use smartphones and video calls to stay in touch with loved ones through emails.
- Partnered with local health services to provide wellbeing checks and information sessions on nutrition, exercise, and managing long-term conditions.
- Recruited and trained 12 volunteers to provide befriending and practical support.

Impact Story

One participant, aged 74, joined the programme after losing her husband and experiencing deep loneliness. Through weekly group sessions and befriending visits, she gradually re-engaged with her community. She learned how to use WhatsApp to connect daily with her grandchildren abroad and began attending gentle exercise classes. She now describes herself as “feeling alive again” and has taken on a peer-support role, encouraging others to participate. Her story demonstrates how the programme restores hope and independence among older people.

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Testimonies

- *“I look forward to Thursdays all week – it’s the one place I know I’ll see friends and feel included.”* – Programme participant
- *“Learning to use my phone has changed everything. I can see my daughter and grandchildren’s faces every day, even though they live far away.”* – Programme participant
- *“Supporting the Ageing has given my mum a new lease of life. She’s happier, healthier, and more confident than she has been in years.”* – Family member

Conclusion

Between October 2024 and October 2025, the Supporting the Ageing programme has helped reduce isolation, improve wellbeing, and build stronger community connections for older people. Care Link West Midlands remains committed to ensuring that ageing is experienced with dignity, independence, and joy.

Programme Overview

The *Refugees in the Green Home* programme supports newly arrived refugees by providing safe housing, skills development, and pathways to integration within the West Midlands community. The programme focuses on offering stable accommodation alongside workshops in sustainable living, gardening, and energy efficiency. This approach helps participants not only adjust to life in the UK but also develop practical skills, confidence, and a sense of belonging.

Key Achievements (2024–2025)

- Provided safe accommodation to 25 refugee families during the year.
- Established three community gardens, enabling residents to grow vegetables, share cultural recipes, and build community connections.
- Delivered 12 training sessions on sustainable living, covering topics such as recycling, energy conservation, and healthy cooking.
- Partnered with local councils and housing providers to expand referral networks and improve access to long-term housing solutions.
- Facilitated English language and employment-readiness workshops, supporting participants towards independence.

Impact Story

A young family of four arrived in the UK after fleeing conflict, feeling overwhelmed and uncertain about their future. Through the Green Home programme, they were provided with safe housing and introduced to gardening sessions. The father discovered a passion for horticulture and began volunteering with a local community garden, while the mother attended English classes and gained confidence in communicating. Their children thrived in the safe environment, making friends and excelling at school. By the end of the year, the family moved into independent housing and expressed their gratitude for the “fresh start” the programme had provided.

Testimonies

- *“When we arrived, we had nothing. Green Home gave us safety, dignity, and hope.”* – Programme participant
- *“Planting and growing vegetables reminded me of home. It helped me heal.”* – Programme participant
- *“The support from Care Link West Midlands gave our family the confidence to begin again.”* – Programme participant

Conclusion

From October 2024 to October 2025, *Refugees in the Green Home* has provided safety, stability, and opportunity for refugees rebuilding their lives in the West Midlands. By combining housing support with sustainable living

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and community engagement, Care Link West Midlands continues to create pathways for independence, dignity, and long-term integration.

Looking Ahead:

As we look to the future, we remain committed to expanding our services and reaching even more people in need. Our priorities for the coming year include:

- A unique initiative called *Bridging Generations* will be launched in the next 3 years at Care Link West Midlands to foster meaningful connections between younger and older residents in Sandwell. The program aims to combat social isolation, preserve local heritage, and enhance community well-being by facilitating intergenerational activities.
- Expanding our Floating Support service to assist more individuals at risk of homelessness.
- Growing our Homework Club to include additional resources and more specialised tutoring.
- Increasing the reach of our Mental Health Support services, particularly in underserved communities.
- Introducing new sports and activities to our Multi-Sport programme, with a focus on inclusivity and accessibility.
- Developing new leadership and career programmes within the Youth Club to equip young people for the future.

DIFFICULTIES AND SETBACKS DURING THE YEAR

Although the year 2024/2025 was a success and that all the planned activities took place, few things didn't work very well:

1. Attendance to meetings was sometimes constrained by daily home commitments.
2. With low levels of training, education and employment, some beneficiaries were challenged by poverty as they live on low income. That has made it difficult for some service users not to be able to attend support sessions because of lack of finance.
3. As the organisation's travel budget was also limited, there was no much the organisation could do to help service users on low income who could not attend support sessions because of lack of transport money. This was particularly difficult during the high rise in the cost of living crisis period.

FUTURE PLANS

As for meeting the costs of the organisation beyond 2025, our organisation will tap in additional funding available from other Trusts and Foundations to be approached in the future as soon as the current trustees' annual report and accounts 2025 are out.

We want to say a huge thank you to all our partners and supporters (*National Lottery Community Fund-Reaching Communities, The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust; National Lottery Community Fund-Awards for All; National Grid Electricity Distribution's Community Matters; The Souter Charitable Trust*), for supporting us with funding and delivery and ensuring we maximise the impact we have on our community and for supporting our organisation to thrive during difficult time, inspiring us and driving the support we provide.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2022. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005.

Brief statement of the organisation's policy on reserves

Care Link West Midlands's policy is to hold sufficient free reserves to cover core expenditure (defined as planned unrestricted expenditure) for three months. This is to allow Care Link West Midlands to continue some

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

level of operation in the event of a sudden deterioration in its finances and to give a degree of freedom to explore opportunities. To achieve this, we will aim to put £250 per month into reserves from income until that level is achieved.

At 30th September 2025, our free reserves were nearly £7,003 which equate to about four months of planned forward core expenditure. We are comfortable with this level for this year given the continued turbulence in the economy.

SMALL COMPANY PROVISIONS

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The trustees assess on an annual basis the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charity and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. The principal risks faced by the charity are the security of its funding streams and the operational risks from working with young people in areas dealing with sensitive subjects. The trustees mitigate the risk to funding streams by diversifying as much as possible the sources of income. The operational risks are mitigated by having an effective safeguarding policy to which all staff adhere to. In addition, there is a staff handbook which reflects updated policies and procedures on whistle blowing and staff data handling and protection. Like all charities we have been affected by the on-going Cost of Living Crisis which began towards the end of May 2022 and has continued through the financial year ending 30th Sept 2025, we have managed this by maintaining a reduced level of financial risk in the budget and utilising free reserves to ensure a balanced income and expenditure budget in the financial year 30th Sept 2025.

SAFEGUARDING

The charity trustees take their responsibility in relation to safeguarding seriously and have adopted a Safeguarding policy to protect vulnerable people from abuse and to prevent abuse from happening in the first place.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All trustees give of their time freely and no trustee remuneration was paid in the year. The trustees and staff are required to disclose all relevant interests and where necessary withdraw from decisions where a conflict arises. The trustees also confirm that there is an appropriate and approved anti-bribery policy.

INFORMATION ON FUNDRAISING PRACTICES

The charity does not fundraise from the general public, but focuses its activities on specific charitable foundations. Therefore the trustees do not consider that the requirements of the fundraising code to be applicable to the charity.

FUTURE PLANS

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

As for meeting the costs of the organisation beyond 2025, our organisation will tap in additional funding available from other Trusts and Foundations to be approached in the future as soon as the current trustees' annual report and accounts 2025 are out.

Conclusion

This past year has been one of growth, resilience, and impact. We are incredibly proud of the work we have

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

accomplished and are excited about the opportunities ahead. Thank you for being a part of this journey with us. Together, we will continue to make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

This report was approved by the trustees, on and signed on their behalf by: **WalingaminaShomari**
(Secretary)



Date: 02/10/2025

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands Year ended 30 September 2025

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of CENTRAL AFRICA REFUGEE LINK, WEST MIDLANDS ('the charity') for the year ended 30 September 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.



Godfrey Massa (Certified Accountant)
Independent Examiner

472 BEARWOOD ROAD
SMETHWICK
WEST MIDLANDS
ENGLAND
B66 4HA

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

**Statement of Financial Activities for the year
Ended 30 September 2025**

		2025	2024
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Note	£	£	£
Income and endowments			
Donations and legacies	9,350	103,165	112,515
	<u>9,350</u>	<u>103,165</u>	<u>112,515</u>
Total income	<u>9,350</u>	<u>103,165</u>	<u>112,515</u>
Expenditure			
Expenditure on charitable activities	2,347	88,933	91,279
	<u>2,347</u>	<u>88,933</u>	<u>91,279</u>
Total expenditure	<u>2,347</u>	<u>88,933</u>	<u>91,279</u>
Net income and net movement in funds	<u>7,003</u>	<u>14,232</u>	<u>21,236</u>
Other recognised gains and losses			
Other recognised gains/(losses)	(79,908)	46,625	(33,283)
	<u>(72,905)</u>	<u>60,857</u>	<u>(12,047)</u>
Net movement in funds	<u>(72,905)</u>	<u>60,857</u>	<u>(19,515)</u>
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward	68,102	20,450	88,552
	<u>(4,803)</u>	<u>81,307</u>	<u>76,504</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u>(4,803)</u>	<u>81,307</u>	<u>76,504</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 18 to 26 form part of these financial statements.

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

**Statement of Financial Position for the year ended
30 September 2025**

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	10	44,482	39,982
Current assets			
Debtors	11	–	4,404
Cash at bank and in hand		32,023	10,883
		32,023	15,287
Net current assets		32,023	15,287
Total assets less current liabilities		76,505	55,269
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		81,307	78,594
Unrestricted funds		(4,803)	(23,324)
		76,504	55,270
Total charity funds	12	76,504	55,270

For the year ending 30 September 2025 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 02/10/2025, and are signed on behalf of the board by:



Mr Walingamina Shomari
Trustee

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 September 2025

1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales and a registered charity in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is 91 Hurst Road, Smethwick, West Midlands, United Kingdom.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

For the purposes of impairment testing, when it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

For impairment testing of goodwill, the goodwill acquired in a business combination is, from the acquisition date, allocated to each of the cash-generating units that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination, irrespective of whether other assets or liabilities of the charity are assigned to those units.

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in the statement of financial activities, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

4. Limited by guarantee

5. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Donations			
Donations	2,950	–	2,950
Members Contributions	6,400	–	6,400

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Grants			
Souter Charitable Trust	–	2,000	2,000
Harborne Parish Land Charity	–	–	–
The Everton Trust	–	–	–
CB & HH Taylor 1984	–	–	–
National Grid Comm. Matters	–	–	–
Lillie C Johnson Trust	–	–	–
The 29th May 1961 Charity	–	–	–
Reaching Communities	–	–	–
National Lottery Community Fund-reaching Communities	–	71,315	71,315
The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust	–	5,000	5,000
National Community Fund-Awards for All	–	19,850	19,850
National Grid Electricity Distribution's Community Matters	–	5,000	5,000
	<u>9,350</u>	<u>103,165</u>	<u>112,515</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations			
Donations	6,850	–	6,850
Members Contributions	4,250	–	4,250
Grants			
Souter Charitable Trust	–	–	–
Harborne Parish Land Charity	–	6,360	6,360
The Everton Trust	–	10,000	10,000
CB & HH Taylor 1984	–	1,000	1,000
National Grid Comm. Matters	–	7,150	7,150
Lillie C Johnson Trust	–	500	500
The 29th May 1961 Charity	–	5,000	5,000
Reaching Communities	–	70,180	70,180
National Lottery Community Fund-reaching Communities	–	–	–
The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust	–	–	–
National Community Fund-Awards for All	–	–	–
National Grid Electricity Distribution's Community Matters	–	–	–
	<u>11,100</u>	<u>100,190</u>	<u>111,290</u>

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

6. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Awards for All Refugees in The Green Home	–	10,725	10,725
The Link Age Project: The Baron Davenports Charity	2,347	–	2,347
General Support Activities: Members Contributions and Donations	–	–	–
Supporting Young People: The Eveson Trust	–	–	–
Supporting YP Moving Into adulthood: CB & HH Taylor 1984	–	–	–
Cost of Living: National Grid Community Matters	–	3,880	3,880
Tackling Inequalities Through Arts: Lillie C Johnson Trust	–	–	–
Supporting YP With Mental Health: The 29th May 1961 Charity	–	4,850	4,850
Supporting Refugees with Cost of Living: Reaching Communities	–	69,478	69,477
	<u>2,347</u>	<u>88,933</u>	<u>91,279</u>
	<u><u>2,347</u></u>	<u><u>88,933</u></u>	<u><u>91,279</u></u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Awards for All Refugees in The Green Home	–	–	–
The Link Age Project: The Baron Davenports Charity	8,850	–	8,850
General Support Activities: Members Contributions and Donations	–	6,300	6,300
Supporting Young People: The Eveson Trust	–	10,650	10,650
Supporting YP Moving Into adulthood: CB & HH Taylor 1984	–	1,000	1,000
Cost of Living: National Grid Community Matters	–	7,150	7,150
Tackling Inequalities Through Arts: Lillie C Johnson Trust	–	500	500
Supporting YP With Mental Health: The 29th May 1961 Charity	–	5,000	5,000
Supporting Refugees with Cost of Living: Reaching Communities	–	58,071	58,072
	<u>8,850</u>	<u>88,671</u>	<u>97,522</u>
	<u><u>8,850</u></u>	<u><u>88,671</u></u>	<u><u>97,522</u></u>

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

7. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly £	Total funds 2025 £	Total fund 2024 £
Awards for All Refugees in The Green Home	10,725	10,725	–
The Link Age Project: The Baron Davenports Charity	2,347	2,347	8,850
General Support Activities: Members Contributions and Donations	–	–	6,300
Supporting Young People: The Eveson Trust	–	–	10,650
Supporting YP Moving Into adulthood: CB & HH Taylor 1984	–	–	1,000
Cost of Living: National Grid Community Matters	3,880	3,880	7,150
Tackling Inequalities Through Arts: Lillie C Johnson Trust	–	–	500
Supporting YP With Mental Health: The 29th May 1961 Charity	4,850	4,850	5,000
Supporting Refugees with Cost of Living: Reaching Communities	69,477	69,477	58,072
	<u>91,279</u>	<u>91,279</u>	<u>97,522</u>

8. Staff costs

The average head count of employees during the year was Nil (2024: Nil).

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2024: Nil).

9. Trustee remuneration and expenses

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and machinery £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 October 2024	45,034	25,521	70,555
Additions	–	4,500	4,500
At 30 September 2025	<u>45,034</u>	<u>30,021</u>	<u>75,055</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 October 2024 and 30 September 2025	<u>30,573</u>	–	<u>30,573</u>
Carrying amount			
At 30 September 2025	<u>14,461</u>	<u>30,021</u>	<u>44,482</u>
At 30 September 2024	<u>14,461</u>	<u>25,521</u>	<u>39,982</u>

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

11. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other debtors	–	4,404
	<u>–</u>	<u>4,404</u>

12. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 October 2024	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains and losses £	At 30 September 2025 £
General funds	67,987	9,350	(2,347)	–	74,990
Unrestricted fund 7 - desc in a/cs	115	–	–	(79,908)	(79,793)
	<u>68,102</u>	<u>9,350</u>	<u>(2,347)</u>	<u>(79,908)</u>	<u>(4,803)</u>

	At 1 October 2023	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains and losses £	At 30 September 2024 £
General funds	54,219	11,100	(8,850)	–	56,469
Unrestricted fund 7 - desc in a/cs	115	–	–	(79,908)	(79,793)
	<u>54,334</u>	<u>11,100</u>	<u>(8,850)</u>	<u>(79,908)</u>	<u>(23,324)</u>

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

Restricted funds

	At 1 October 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains and losses £	At 30 September 2025 £
Restricted Fund 1 - desc in a/cs	–	103,165	(88,933)	–	14,232
Restricted fund 7 - desc in a/cs	–	–	–	46,625	46,625
Restricted fund 8 - desc in a/cs	20,450	–	–	–	20,450
	<u>20,450</u>	<u>103,165</u>	<u>(88,933)</u>	<u>46,625</u>	<u>81,307</u>

	At 1 October 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains and losses £	At 30 September 2024 £
Restricted Fund 1 - desc in a/cs	–	100,190	(88,671)	–	11,519
Restricted fund 7 - desc in a/cs	–	–	–	46,625	46,625
Restricted fund 8 - desc in a/cs	20,450	–	–	–	20,450
	<u>20,450</u>	<u>100,190</u>	<u>(88,671)</u>	<u>46,625</u>	<u>78,594</u>

The following pages do not form part of the financial statements.

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 30 September 2025	2025	2024
	£	£
Income and endowments		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	2,950	6,850
Members Contributions	6,400	4,250
Souter Charitable Trust	2,000	–
Harbone Parish Land Charity	–	6,360
The Everton Trust	–	10,000
CB & HH Taylor 1984	–	1,000
National Grid Comm. Matters	–	7,150
Lillie C Johnson Trust	–	500
The 29th May 1961 Charity	–	5,000
Reaching Communities	–	70,180
National Lottery Community Fund-reaching Communities	71,315	–
The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust	5,000	–
National Community Fund-Awards for All	19,850	–
National Grid Electricity Distribution's Community Matters	5,000	–
	112,515	111,290
Total income	112,515	111,290
Expenditure		
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Wages and salaries	37,117	35,567
Rent	9,600	11,550
Light and heat	2,415	2,450
Legal and professional fees	715	3,045
Volunteer Expenses	7,832	9,975
General Support	8,422	5,359
Training and Empowerment	6,903	6,290
Venue Hire	2,065	5,646
Materials and Resources	–	500
Marketing & Publicity	2,300	4,350
Activity Costs	6,205	7,050
Consultancy and Advice	1,700	2,400
Refreshment and Snacks	1,957	2,735
Assorted Equipment	3,448	–
Recruitment	600	605
	91,279	97,522
Total expenditure	91,279	97,522
Net income	21,236	13,768

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

	2025	2024
	£	£
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Awards for All Refugees in The Green Home		
<i>Activities undertaken directly</i>		
Volunteer Costs	2,152	–
General Support	5,125	–
Assorted Equipment	3,448	–
	10,725	
The Link Age Project: The Baron Davenports Charity		
<i>Activities undertaken directly</i>		
Wages/Salaries	–	2,280
Rent	–	1,250
Direct charitable activity 3 - legal and professional fees	–	250
Volunteer Costs	–	1,250
General Running Expenses	2,347	500
Training and Empowerment	–	250
Hire of Venue	–	250
Materials and resources	–	500
Project Management and Publicity	–	1,820
Consultancy and Advice	–	250
Refreshment and Snacks	–	250
	2,347	8,850
General Support Activities: Members Contributions and Donations		
<i>Activities undertaken directly</i>		
Wages/salaries	–	1,690
Direct charitable activity 5 - legal and professional fees	–	1,380
Volunteer Costs	–	375
Training & Empowerment	–	210
Venue Hire	–	1,280
Marketing & Publicity	–	330
Activity Costs	–	300
Consultancy & Advice	–	350
Refreshment & Snacks	–	385

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands	2025 £	2024 £
Brought forward		6,300
	—	6,300
Supporting Young People: The Eveson Trust		
<i>Activities undertaken directly</i>		
wages/salaries	—	2,081
Direct charitable activity 8 - rent	—	2,500
Legal and professional fees	—	700
Volunteer Expenses	—	1,400
General Support Costs	—	3,639
Training	—	330
	—	10,650
Supporting YP Moving Into adulthood: CB & HH Taylor 1984		
<i>Activities undertaken directly</i>		
General Running Expenses	—	520
Hire of Venue	—	480
	—	1,000
Cost of Living: National Grid Community Matters		
<i>Activities undertaken directly</i>		
wages/salaries	1,000	1,050
Volunteer Costs	730	750
Training and Empowerment	750	1,000
Hire of Venue	200	2,100
Project Management & Publicity	850	750
Activity Costs	350	1,500
	3,880	7,150
Tackling Inequalities Through Arts: Lillie C Johnson Trust		
<i>Activities undertaken directly</i>		
General Running Expenses	—	500
Supporting YP With Mental Health: The 29th May 1961 Charity		
<i>Activities undertaken directly</i>		
Wages/salaries	—	2,200
Volunteer Expenses	1,200	750
General Running Expenses	950	200
Hire of Venue	750	500
Activity Costs	1,750	1,050
Consultancy and Advice	200	300
	4,850	5,000
Supporting Refugees with Cost of Living: Reaching Communities		
<i>Activities undertaken directly</i>		

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages/salaries	36,117	26,266
Direct charitable activity 13 - rent	9,600	7,800
Direct charitable activity 13 - light & heat	2,415	2,450
Direct charitable activity 13 - legal and professional fees	715	715
Volunteer Costs	3,750	5,450
Training & Empowerment	6,153	4,500
Hire of Venue	1,115	1,036
Marketing & Publicity	1,450	1,450
Activity Costs	4,105	4,200
Consultancy and Advice	1,500	1,500
Refreshment and Snacks	1,957	2,100
Recruitment	600	605
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	69,477	58,072
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Expenditure on charitable activities	<hr/>	<hr/>
	91,279	97,522
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

CENTRAL AFRICA REFUGEE LINK, WEST MIDLANDS

England & Wales - Charity number 1202174

Accounts

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 06218206

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1202174 (*previously 1109505*)

**Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 September 2024
for**

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

GM ACCOUNTANCY

Chartered Certified Accountants
472A BEARWOOD ROAD
SMETHWICK
WEST MIDLANDS
ENGLAND
B66 4HA

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

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Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 30 September 2024

Chairperson's Introduction to the Report:

As we reflect on the year from 01 October 2023 to 30 September 2024, we are immensely proud of the impact we have made across our services. Our commitment to supporting individuals, families, and young people remains steadfast as we work together to create positive changes in our community. This report highlights our key achievements and the difference we made through Floating Support, the Homework Club, Mental Health Support, Multi-Sport activities, and the Youth Club.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our staff, volunteers, donors, and partners for your continued dedication and support. Without you, none of this would be possible.

Ange Mwihabuntu, Chairperson

Introduction to the Report

The trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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) (effective 1 January 2015).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity Name Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

Trading Name: Care Link West Midlands

Charity Registration Number (*unincorporated*) 1109505

Date of Registration: 17/05/2005

Charity Registration Number (*incorporated*) **1202174**

Date Incorporated: **03/03/2023**

Company Registration Number 06218206

Date of Registration: 18/04/2007

Principal Office (Business): 1st Floor, 130 Cape Hill, Smethwick. West Midlands, B66 4PH

Registered Office (Mail delivery): 91 Hurst Road, Smethwick, West Midlands, B67 6LY

Venues of Activities:

1. Saturday Homework Club/Smethwick:

84A High Street, Smethwick, B66 1AQ

2. Youth Club: 1st Floor, 130 Cape Hill, Smethwick, West Midlands, B66 4PH

3. Saturday Homework Club/Coventry:

St Margaret's Church, 50 Walsgrave Road, Coventry, CV2 4EB

E-mail : office@carelinkwestmidlands.org.uk

Web site : www.carelinkwestmidlands.org.uk

Tel: 01215652612

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

Mobile: 07881563472

Bank

TSB Bank, 537 Bearwood Rd, Smethwick, West Midlands, B66 4BQ

Tel 08450725555

Independent Examiner

GM ACCOUNTANCY, Chartered Certified Accountants, 472A BEARWOOD ROAD, SMETHWICK, WEST MIDLANDS, ENGLAND, B66 4H

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

BACKGROUND, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES OF CARE LINK WEST MIDLANDS

Background

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands [trading as Care Link West Midlands] start date 16.10.2004 is a registered charitable organisation set up to provide general support services including advocacy, advice, information, education, training and the relief of poverty of refugees & asylum seekers from Central Africa in West Midlands living in West Midlands.

Care Link West Midlands uses the expertise of 5 Trustees and 5 volunteers (3 full-time and 2 part-time) in its effort to achieve its goals and activities. These activities are mainly the advancement of education of refugee children, the relief of poverty, the preservation and protection of good health, the provision of facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation of refugees and asylum seekers. Care Link West Midlands provides assistance to refugees and migrants of similar backgrounds by helping them to settle and fully establish themselves in West Midlands with independence and dignity.

The organisation runs a number of activities on a regular basis:

- Drop-in Centre (Advice, support & guidance)
- Sewing & Tailoring Training Club
- Job Club
- Befriending Internet Coffee Club
- Cookery Club
- Homework Club & Multi-sports Club.
- Awareness raising campaigns, etc.

Objectives and aims of Care Link West Midlands

1. To support refugees, asylum seekers and migrants from Central Africa region living in West Midlands through education/training, medical/health support and the relief of poverty among the refugee community.
2. Provide services such as counselling, training, advocacy/advice and information.

Activities of Care Link West Midlands

To achieve its mission, Care Link West Midlands has 4 main programmes:

1. Floating Support (General Support programme)

This is a programme that helps refugees and asylum seekers get support with their general needs (e.g. health, education, accommodation, leisure etc). Needs are assessed individually using a special information tool to identify what a particular person requires. Once the need is established, then a support plan is drawn, and a support worker will work with each individual to address those needs. In some circumstances, service users are sign-posted to specialist services for additional support.

2. Mental Health Awareness and Support programme

This is a programme that focuses on helping refugees and asylum seekers who are suffering from some degree of mental health problems to get the type of support they need by helping them access the most appropriate services.

3. Youth Club programme

The Youth Club programme helps young people to have access to a wide range of services they need (e.g. employment, further education, skills training, family matters, youth matters, etc)

4. Saturday Homework Club programme

The Saturday Homework club is a programme which helps poorly performing refugee, asylum seeking children and other under achieving pupils with their educational assignments in order to raise their academic achievements and so assisting their integration into mainstream education.

These activities are successfully carried out thanks to kind support from well-wishers, members' contributions and funding from grants making Trusts and Foundations.

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Care Link West Midlands is a charitable company governed by a memorandum and articles of association, incorporated on 18 APR 2007. The organisation was founded in 2005 as an unincorporated charitable trust called Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands and trading as Care Link West Midlands (charity number: 1109505). All activities, liabilities and assets transferred to the charitable company (**1202174**) on 03/03/ 2023. Therefore, **Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands registered as an unincorporated charitable trust under Charity Commission No: 1109505** was removed from the Central Register of Charities with effect from the date of 01 Aug 2024.

The object of the care Link West Midlands as a charitable company is to:

- 1. To preserve and protect the physical and mental health of persons from central African French speaking countries who are seeking asylum or who are granted refugee status and their dependants living in the West Midlands region (hereinafter, the “beneficiaries”).*
- 2. To advance the education and training of those persons defined in object 1 as beneficiaries by any charitable means that the trustees may from time to time determine.*
- 3. To advance the education of public in general about issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.*
- 4. The relief of financial hardship to those persons defined in object 1 as beneficiaries by any charitable means that trustees may from time to time determine.*
- 5. The provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life of those persons defined in object 1, who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances.*

Our vision is of a connected and supportive society where people of different faiths, beliefs and cultures have strong, productive and lasting relations. The organisation is governed by a board of trustees who meet regularly during the year. Finance and Compliance Committees meet before each board meeting to monitor and review relevant matters in more depth.

The board of trustees is authorised to appoint new trustees, as required, who are selected on the basis of their relevant skills, experience and knowledge and the active contribution they can make to the organisation. New trustees are briefed on the organisation’s constitution, strategic plan, policies and procedures. They receive a copy of the previous years’ financial statements and a copy of the constitution, and are expected to sign a declaration of interests form.

Trustees are responsible for the strategic direction of the organisation and delegate management to the Operations Manager. The Operations Manager reports to the board on organisational performance against operational plans approved by the Board. The Operations Manager is Head of Operations and reports regularly via the Finance Committee on the financial position of the organisation.

The organisation seeks to create an internal culture that embodies the inclusive and welcoming values that we want to see in wider society, and are delighted that in summer 2023, more than 90% of staff and volunteers surveyed said they are proud to work at this charity, enjoy the work they do, and believe they are making a difference.

The charity is grateful to its team of staff, consultants, freelancers, interns and volunteers for their outstanding dedication, hard work and commitment during the year.

The structure of Care Link West Midlands represents the following hierarchy:

1. The General Assembly of Members (GAM): highest organ of important decisions. It is responsible for determining the general policy of the organisation. It meets once a year to decide on important decisions affecting the organisation.

2. The Management Committee (MC): the governing body of the organization elected by GAM. It acts on any matters referred to it by the General Assembly of Members and considers for approval the recommendations made by GAM. It consists of 5 Trustees: 1 Chairperson; 1 Vice-chairperson; 1 Secretary; 1 Treasurer and 1 Adviser:

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

3. The Secretariat: part of the organisation that deals with the daily management of the organisation's activities.

It is composed of a small paid staff of experienced men and women with a thorough experience in community matters and spread over 4 programmes:

- a. Floating Support (FS)
- b. Mental Health Awareness & Support (MHAS)
- c. Saturday Homework Club (SHWC)
- d. Youth Club (YC)

The Secretariat consists of 6 people (office based):

- a) 5 Volunteers (3 full time, 2 part-time)
- b) 1 paid staff (Part-time).

GOVERNING DOCUMENTS & POLICIES

A number of policies are available. The main governing documents are our Constitution, our Memorandum of Association and our Business Plan. Among the policies available, we have:

- o Equal Opportunity Policy
- o Protection from Abuse
- o Safeguarding Policy
- o Health & Safety
- o Drug Abuse Policy
- o Volunteer Policy
- o Recruitment & Selection Policy
- o Needs Assessment & Support Planning Policy
- o Complaints & Whistle Blowing Policy
- o Code of Conduct & Acceptable and Unacceptable Behaviour
- o Financial Control Policy
- o General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) policy

All these policies are reviewed yearly.

THE TRUSTEES

Care Link West Midlands's Trustees are elected by Annual General Meeting (AGM) in accordance with the organisation's constitution. The following served as Trustees and as members of Care Link West Midlands's management committee during the year up to the AGM which took place on Thursday 3rd October 2019:

Ms A. Mwihabuntu, Chairperson
Ms D Uwase, Vice Chairperson
Mr. W Shomari, Secretary/Operations Manager
Mr. B Ntivunwa, Treasurer
Mrs O Bogdanova, Advisor

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

Responsibilities of the Trustees

The charity's Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare Financial Statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the Financial Statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law).

The trustees must not approve the Financial Statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the income and expenditure of the charity for that period.

In preparing these Financial Statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether 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 operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with the Charities 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.

Conflict of interest

The organisation has adopted a policy to address conflicts of interest so as to ensure that its activities, and those of its staff and service users, are and are seen to be conducted to the highest standards of ethics and integrity.

Risk Management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Public Benefit

The Charities Act 2011 requires charities to demonstrate that their work is of direct benefit to the public. When planning Care Link West Midlands's activities each year, the Trustees take due regard of the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Within the constraint of resources, and subject to any eligibility criteria for a specific service, Care Link West Midlands's services, described above, are available to all refugees and people claiming asylum. Services are offered in many of our clients' languages, without charging fees, and recognising the difficulties many face in meeting travelling costs. Our work on sector capacity building, refugee integration and education of the general public about refugee issues benefits the whole community by supporting community cohesion. Our work on policy, legislation and advocacy advances human rights and access to employment, education and health care, and combats destitution.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE YEAR 2023-2024 (1ST OCTOBER 2023 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2024)

The following is a brief summary of services we have delivered to our Service Users for the last whole year. We did our best to reach the aims and values of the organization in making sure we give the best quality of service to all our Service Users. Our objectives targeted Asylum Seekers and Refugees from Central Africa with different backgrounds:

1. Floating Support Service

Overview:

Our Floating Support service is designed to help individuals who are facing challenges such as homelessness, mental health issues, or housing instability. We provide tailored one-to-one support to help clients maintain their housing, access benefits, and connect with essential services.

Key Achievements:

- We supported **150 clients** throughout the year, assisting them in navigating housing issues and improving their overall stability.
- **90%** of clients remained in secure housing after receiving our services.
- We helped over **60 individuals** apply for or access housing benefits and financial assistance.
- Through partnership with local authorities, we provided **emergency support** for **30 clients** facing immediate homelessness.

Impact Story:

One of our clients, Sarah, was at risk of losing her home due to financial difficulties and health issues. Through our Floating Support service, she was able to access benefits, manage her finances more effectively, and receive mental health support. Today, Sarah is in stable housing and continues to work towards independence. Her story is one of resilience and hope.

2. Homework Club

Overview:

The Homework Club provides academic support to children and young people in the community who may be struggling in school or who lack the resources at home to succeed in their studies. We offer a safe, structured environment where students can receive tutoring, use learning materials, and develop their skills.

Key Achievements:

- **42 students** regularly attended the Homework Club, representing a 20% increase from the previous year.
- **78%** of students reported improved academic performance in at least one subject.
- **10 volunteer tutors** contributed over **400 hours** of tutoring.
- We provided **10 laptops and learning materials** to students who otherwise would not have access to these resources at home.

Impact Story:

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

Ahmed, an 11-year-old student, joined the Homework Club in October 2023. Struggling with math and literacy, he received weekly tutoring and access to digital resources. By the end of the school year, Ahmed had significantly improved his reading and math scores, and his teachers noted his increased confidence and engagement in class.

3. Mental Health Support

Overview:

Our Mental Health Support services provide counselling, workshops, and peer support for individuals struggling with mental health issues, including anxiety, depression, and stress. We also offer resources for families to better support their loved ones.

Key Achievements:

- We supported **75 individuals** through counselling and mental health workshops.
- **95%** of clients reported an improvement in their mental well-being following our interventions.
- Introduced a new **Peer Support Group** that now has **25 active members**, providing a space for individuals to share their experiences and support one another.
- Delivered **mental health awareness workshops** to over **50 attendees**, including families, teachers, and community members.

Impact Story:

David, a young man struggling with depression, began attending our Peer Support Group after a particularly difficult year. Through connecting with others facing similar challenges and receiving ongoing counselling, David has regained his sense of purpose and reports feeling more optimistic about his future.

4. Multi-Sport Activities

Overview:

Our Multi-Sport programme encourages physical activity and healthy living among young people and adults. We offer a variety of sports, including football, basketball, and athletics, as a way to promote fitness, teamwork, and social connection.

Key Achievements:

- Over **30 participants** joined our Multi-Sport activities, with a focus on inclusivity and reaching underserved groups.
- Partnered with local sports clubs to offer **coaching and mentoring** to over **20 young athletes**.
- Hosted a **Community Sports Day** in July 2024, with over **30 attendees**, celebrating health and fitness in the community.
- Launched a new **women's fitness programme**, attracting **20 regular participants**.

Impact Story:

Maria, a 14-year-old, was introduced to our football programme in January 2024. Initially shy and hesitant, she quickly developed her skills and grew in confidence. Maria now plays for a local football team and has taken on a leadership role within her group, mentoring younger girls interested in sports.

5. Youth Club

Overview:

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

The Youth Club offers a safe and supportive space for young people to socialize, learn new skills, and engage in positive activities. From creative arts to leadership development, the Youth Club is a place where young people can grow in confidence and discover their potential.

Key Achievements:

- **50 young people** regularly attended the Youth Club, engaging in activities ranging from music and art workshops to leadership training.
- We partnered with local schools and community organisations to provide **career guidance and employment workshops** to **30 young people**.
- **20 young leaders** were trained through our Leadership Development Programme, equipping them with the skills to mentor their peers and contribute positively to their communities.
- Introduced a new **Digital Skills Workshop**, helping **30 young people** gain basic computer and coding skills.

Impact Story:

Katie, a 16-year-old member of the Youth Club, joined our Leadership Development Programme in early 2024. Initially reserved, Katie soon began to thrive, taking on leadership roles in various projects. She now helps run the Digital Skills Workshop and is considering a career in technology.

6. Supporting the Ageing

The Supporting the ageing project ran several activities which ranged from community events and setting up a befriending scheme, to offering all kinds of social activities, groups, and initiatives such as basic IT- skills learning (e.g., setting up an email account, doing your shopping online, searching the internet safely, how to stay safe online, using YouTube, using Skype, using computer as a useful tool, etc.), chat to each other, plenty of opportunities for one-to-one interactions, playing table tennis, painting, exercise classes, English language conversation buddy, etc.. Throughout this period, the project helped to knit stronger ties between **12** children/young people and **18** older people in the local community

Achievements

- The project has provided opportunities for both generations to interact around computer and internet lessons.
- The project delivered bespoke activities to share collections (E. g. lived storytelling, etc.)
- The project delivered engaging activities (E.g., wall activities & games, etc.
- The project delivered Activity Workshops

Participant Testimonial:

"I never thought I'd learn so much from a teenager! This program has given me friends and skills I never expected."

— **Ketura, 72**

"Listening to their stories made me see our town in a whole new way. It's like having a hundred grandparents!"

— **Lomami, 14**

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

Looking Ahead:

As we look to the future, we remain committed to expanding our services and reaching even more people in need. Our priorities for the coming year include:

- A unique initiative called *Bridging Generations* will be launched in the next 3 years at Care Link West Midlands to foster meaningful connections between younger and older residents in Sandwell. The program aims to combat social isolation, preserve local heritage, and enhance community well-being by facilitating intergenerational activities.
- Expanding our Floating Support service to assist more individuals at risk of homelessness.
- Growing our Homework Club to include additional resources and more specialised tutoring.
- Increasing the reach of our Mental Health Support services, particularly in underserved communities.
- Introducing new sports and activities to our Multi-Sport programme, with a focus on inclusivity and accessibility.
- Developing new leadership and career programmes within the Youth Club to equip young people for the future.

DIFFICULTIES AND SETBACKS DURING THE YEAR

Although the year 2023/2024 was a success and that all the planned activities took place, few things didn't work very well:

1. Attendance to meetings was sometimes constrained by daily home commitments.
2. With low levels of training, education and employment, some beneficiaries were challenged by poverty as they live on low income. That has made it difficult for some service users not to be able to attend support sessions because of lack of finance.
3. As the organisation's travel budget was also limited, there was not much the organisation could do to help service users on low income who could not attend support sessions because of lack of transport money. This was particularly difficult during the high rise in the cost of living crisis period.

FUTURE PLANS

As for meeting the costs of the organisation beyond 2024, our organisation will tap in additional funding available from other Trusts and Foundations to be approached in the future as soon as the current trustees' annual report and accounts 2024 are out.

We want to say a huge thank you to all our partners and supporters, for supporting us with funding and delivery and ensuring we maximise the impact we have on our community and for supporting our organisation to thrive during difficult time, inspiring us and driving the support we provide.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2022. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005.

Brief statement of the organisation's policy on reserves

Care Link West Midlands's policy is to hold sufficient free reserves to cover core expenditure (defined as planned unrestricted expenditure) for three months. This is to allow Care Link West Midlands to continue some level of operation in the event of a sudden deterioration in its finances and to give a degree of freedom to explore opportunities. To achieve this, we will aim to put £250 per month into reserves from income until that level is achieved.

At 30th September 2024, our free reserves were nearly £6,300 which equate to about four months of planned forward core expenditure. We are comfortable with this level for this year given the continued turbulence in the economy.

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

SMALL COMPANY PROVISIONS

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The trustees assess on an annual basis the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charity and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. The principal risks faced by the charity are the security of its funding streams and the operational risks from working with young people in areas dealing with sensitive subjects. The trustees mitigate the risk to funding streams by diversifying as much as possible the sources of income. The operational risks are mitigated by having an effective safeguarding policy to which all staff adhere to. In addition, there is a staff handbook which reflects updated policies and procedures on whistleblowing and staff data handling and protection. Like all charities we have been affected by the on-going Cost of Living Crisis which began towards the end of May 2022 and has continued through the financial year ending 30th Sept 2023, we have managed this by maintaining a reduced level of financial risk in the budget and utilising free reserves to ensure a balanced income and expenditure budget in the financial year 30th Sept 2023.

SAFEGUARDING

The charity trustees take their responsibility in relation to safeguarding seriously and have adopted a Safeguarding policy to protect vulnerable people from abuse and to prevent abuse from happening in the first place.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All trustees give of their time freely and no trustee remuneration was paid in the year. The trustees and staff are required to disclose all relevant interests and where necessary withdraw from decisions where a conflict arises. The trustees also confirm that there is an appropriate and approved anti-bribery policy.

INFORMATION ON FUNDRAISING PRACTICES

The charity does not fundraise from the general public, but focuses its activities on specific charitable foundations. Therefore the trustees do not consider that the requirements of the fundraising code to be applicable to the charity.

FUTURE PLANS

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

As for meeting the costs of the organisation beyond 2024, our organisation will tap in additional funding available from other Trusts and Foundations to be approached in the future as soon as the current trustees' annual report and accounts 2023 are out.

Conclusion

This past year has been one of growth, resilience, and impact. We are incredibly proud of the work we have accomplished and are excited about the opportunities ahead. Thank you for being a part of this journey with us. Together, we will continue to make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

This report was approved by the trustees, on and signed on their behalf by: **Walingamina Shomari**
(Secretary)



Date: 20/11/2024

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands Year ended 30 September 2024

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of CENTRAL AFRICA REFUGEE LINK, WEST MIDLANDS ('the charity') for the year ended 30 September 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.



Godfrey Massa (Certified Accountant)
Independent Examiner

472 BEARWOOD ROAD
SMETHWICK
WEST MIDLANDS
ENGLAND
B66 4HA

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

**Statement of Financial Activities for the Year
Ended 30 September 2024**

		2024		2023	
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	5	11,100	100,190	111,290	28,012
Total income		<u>11,100</u>	<u>100,190</u>	<u>111,290</u>	<u>28,012</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities	6,7	8,850	88,671	97,522	54,474
Total expenditure		<u>8,850</u>	<u>88,671</u>	<u>97,522</u>	<u>54,474</u>
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds					
		<u>2,250</u>	<u>11,519</u>	<u>13,768</u>	<u>(26,462)</u>
Other recognised gains and losses					
Other recognised gains/(losses)		(79,908)	46,625	(33,283)	(33,283)
Net movement in funds		<u>(77,658)</u>	<u>58,144</u>	<u>(19,515)</u>	<u>(59,745)</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		54,334	20,450	74,784	101,246
Total funds carried forward		<u>(23,324)</u>	<u>78,594</u>	<u>55,270</u>	<u>41,501</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Balance Sheet 30 September 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	10	39,982	36,536
Current assets			
Debtors	11	4,404	4,404
Cash at bank and in hand		10,883	561
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		15,287	4,965
Net current assets		<hr/>	<hr/>
		15,287	4,965
Total assets less current liabilities		<hr/>	<hr/>
		55,269	41,501
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		78,594	29,513
Unrestricted funds		(23,324)	11,988
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total charity funds	12	55,270	41,501
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

For the year ending 30 September 2024 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on **20/11/2024**, and are signed on behalf of the board by:



Mr Walingamina Shomari
Trustee

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 September 2024

1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales and a registered charity in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is 91 Hurst Road, Smethwick, West Midlands, United Kingdom.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

For the purposes of impairment testing, when it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

For impairment testing of goodwill, the goodwill acquired in a business combination is, from the acquisition date, allocated to each of the cash-generating units that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination, irrespective of whether other assets or liabilities of the charity are assigned to those units.

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in the statement of financial activities, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

4. Limited by guarantee

5. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations			
Donations	6,850	–	6,850
Members Contributions	4,250	–	4,250
Grants			
Lloyds Bank Foundation	–	–	–
Local Giving	–	–	–
Genr1	–	–	–
Souter Charitable Trust	–	–	–
The Albert Hunt Trust	–	–	–
Harborne Parish Lands Charity	–	6,360	6,360
The Eveson Trust	–	10,000	10,000
CB & HH Taylor 1984	–	1,000	1,000

National Grid Comm. Matters	–	7,150	7,150
Lillie C Johnson Trust	–	500	500
The 29th May 1961 Charity	–	5,000	5,000
Reaching Communities	–	70,180	70,180
	11,100	100,190	111,290

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Donations			
Donations	–	–	–
Members Contributions	11,100	–	11,100
Grants			
Lloyds Bank Foundation	–	2,250	2,250
Local Giving	–	500	500
Gen1	–	1	1
Souter Charitable Trust	–	3,000	3,000
The Albert Hunt Trust	–	2,000	2,000
Harborne Parish Lands Charity	–	9,161	9,161
The Everton Trust	–	–	–
CB & HH Taylor 1984	–	–	–
National Grid Comm. Matters	–	–	–
Lillie C Johnson Trust	–	–	–
The 29th May 1961 Charity	–	–	–
Reaching Communities	–	–	–
	11,100	16,912	28,012

6. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Cost of Living : Lloyds Bank Foundation	–	–	–
Job Club : The Norton Foundation	–	–	–
The Link Age Project: The Baron Davenports Charity	8,850	–	8,850
Tool For Youth Employment: The Van Veste Foundation	–	–	–
General Support Activities: Members Contributions and Donations	–	6,300	6,300
Youth Leaving Penal Justice: The Joseph H & H JS Charity	–	–	–
Supporting Young People: The Eveson Trust	–	10,650	10,650
Supporting YP Moving Into Adulthood: CB & HH Taylor 1984	–	1,000	1,000
Cost of Living: National Grid Community Matters	–	7,150	7,150
Tackling Inequalities Through Arts: Lillie C Johnson Trust	–	500	500
Supporting YP With Mental Health: The 29th May 1961 Charity	–	5,000	5,000
Supporting Refugees with Cost of Living: Reaching Communities	–	58,071	58,072
	8,850	88,671	97,522

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Cost of Living : Lloyds Bank Foundation	–	2,250	2,250
Job Club : The Norton Foundation	–	500	500
The Link Age Project: The Baron Davenports Charity	–	10,993	10,993
Tool For Youth Employment: The Van Veste Foundation	–	3,000	3,000
General Support Activities: Members Contributions and Donations	–	15,732	15,732
Youth Leaving Penal Justice: The Joseph H & H JS Charity	–	21,999	21,999
Supporting Young People: The Eveson Trust	–	–	–
Supporting YP Moving Into Adulthood: CB & HH Taylor 1984	–	–	–
Cost of Living: National Grid Community Matters	–	–	–
Tackling Inequalities Through Arts: Lillie C Johnson Trust	–	–	–
Supporting YP With Mental Health: The 29th May 1961 Charity	–	–	–
Supporting Refugees with Cost of Living: Reaching Communities	–	–	–
		54,474	54,474

7. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly £	Total funds 2024 £	Total fund 2023 £
Cost of Living : Lloyds Bank Foundation	–	–	2,250
Job Club : The Norton Foundation	–	–	500
The Link Age Project: The Baron Davenports Charity	8,850	8,850	10,993
Tool For Youth Employment: The Van Veste Foundation	–	–	3,000
General Support Activities: Members Contributions and Donations	6,300	6,300	15,732
Youth Leaving Penal Justice: The Joseph H & H JS Charity	–	–	21,999
Supporting Young People: The Eveson Trust	10,650	10,650	–
Supporting YP Moving Into Adulthood: CB & HH Taylor 1984	1,000	1,000	–
Cost of Living: National Grid Community Matters	7,150	7,150	–
Tackling Inequalities Through Arts: Lillie C Johnson Trust	500	500	–
Supporting YP With Mental Health: The 29th May 1961 Charity	5,000	5,000	–
Supporting Refugees with Cost of Living: Reaching Communities	58,072	58,072	–
	97,522	97,522	54,474

8. Staff costs

The average head count of employees during the year was Nil (2023: Nil).

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2023: Nil).

9. Trustee remuneration and expenses

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and machinery £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 October 2023	45,034	22,075	67,109
Additions	–	3,446	3,446
At 30 September 2024	45,034	25,521	70,555
Depreciation			
At 1 October 2023 and 30 September 2024	30,573	–	30,573
Carrying amount			
At 30 September 2024	14,461	25,521	39,982
At 30 September 2023	14,461	22,075	36,536

11. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Other debtors	4,404	4,404

12. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 October 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains and losses £	At 30 September 2024 £
General funds	54,219	11,100	(8,850)	–	56,469
Unrestricted fund 7 - desc in a/cs	115	–	–	(79,908)	(79,793)
	54,334	11,100	(8,850)	(79,908)	(23,324)

	At 1 October 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains and losses £	At 30 September 2024 £
General funds	80,681	11,100	–	–	91,781
Unrestricted fund 7 - desc in a/cs	115	–	–	(79,908)	(79,793)
	80,796	11,100	–	(79,908)	11,988

Restricted funds

	At 1 October 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains and losses £	At 30 September 2024 £
Restricted Fund 1 - desc in a/cs	–	100,190	(88,671)	–	11,519
Restricted fund 7 - desc in a/cs	–	–	–	46,625	46,625
Restricted fund 8 - desc in a/cs	20,450	–	–	–	20,450
	<u>20,450</u>	<u>100,190</u>	<u>(88,671)</u>	<u>46,625</u>	<u>78,594</u>

	At 1 October 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains and losses £	At 30 September 2024 £
Restricted Fund 1 - desc in a/cs	–	16,912	(54,474)	–	(37,562)
Restricted fund 7 - desc in a/cs	–	–	–	46,625	46,625
Restricted fund 8 - desc in a/cs	20,450	–	–	–	20,450
	<u>20,450</u>	<u>16,912</u>	<u>(54,474)</u>	<u>46,625</u>	<u>29,513</u>

The following pages do not form part of the financial statements.

	2024	2023
	£	£
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 30 September 2024		
Income and endowments		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	6,850	–
Members Contributions	4,250	11,100
Lloyds Bank Foundation	–	2,250
Local Giving	–	500
Genrl	–	1
Souter Charitable Trust	–	3,000
The Albert Hunt Trust	–	2,000
Harborne Parish Land Charity	6,360	9,161
The Everton Trust	10,000	–
CB & HH Taylor 1984	1,000	–
National Grid Comm. Matters	7,150	–
Lillie C Johnson Trust	500	–
The 29th May 1961 Charity	5,000	–
Reaching Communities	70,180	–
	<u>111,290</u>	<u>28,012</u>
Total income	<u><u>111,290</u></u>	<u><u>28,012</u></u>
Expenditure		
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Wages and salaries	35,567	16,873
Rent	11,550	1,753
Light and heat	2,450	2,250
Legal and professional fees	3,045	–
Impairment	–	20,000
Volunteer Expenses	9,975	638
General Support	5,359	9,181
Training and Empowerment	6,290	–
Venue Hire	5,646	–
Materials and Resources	500	–
Marketing & Publicity	4,350	300
Activity Costs	7,050	–
Consultancy and Advice	2,400	–
Refreshment and Snacks	2,735	–
Fiscal Sponsorship	–	3,479
Recruitment	605	–
	<u>97,522</u>	<u>54,474</u>
Total expenditure	<u><u>97,522</u></u>	<u><u>54,474</u></u>
Net income/(expenditure)	<u><u>13,768</u></u>	<u><u>(26,462)</u></u>

	2024	2023
	£	£
	2024	2023
	£	£
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Cost of Living: Lloyds Bank Foundation		
<i>Activities undertaken directly</i>		
Direct charitable activity 1 - light & heat	–	2,250
	_____	_____
Job Club : The Norton Foundation		
<i>Activities undertaken directly</i>		
General Support	–	500
	_____	_____
The Link Age Project: The Baron Davenports Charity		
<i>Activities undertaken directly</i>		
Wages/Salaries	2,280	10,993
Rent	1,250	–
Direct charitable activity 3 - legal and professional fees	250	–
Volunteer Costs	1,250	–
General Running Expenses	500	–
Training and Empowerment	250	–
Hire of Venue	250	–
Materials and resources	500	–
Project Management and Publicity	1,820	–
Consultancy and Advice	250	–
Refreshment and Snacks	250	–
	_____	_____
	8,850	10,993
	_____	_____
Tool For Youlth Employment: The Van Veste Foundation		
<i>Activities undertaken directly</i>		
Fiscal Sponsorship	–	3,000
	_____	_____
General Support Activities: Members Contributions and Donations		
<i>Activities undertaken directly</i>		
Wages/salaries	1,690	5,880
Rent	–	1,563
Direct charitable activity 5 - legal and professional fees	1,380	–
Volunteer Costs	375	308
General Support	–	7,681
Training & Empowerment	210	–
	_____	_____
Carried forward	3,655	15,432
	2024	2023
	£	£
Brought forward	3,655	15,432
Venue Hire	1,280	–
Marketing & Publicity	330	300
Activity Costs	300	–
Consultancy & Advice	350	–
Refreshment & Snacks	385	–
	_____	_____
	6,300	15,732
	_____	_____
Youth Leaving Penal Justice: The Joseph H & H JS Charity		
<i>Activities undertaken directly</i>		
Rent	–	190
Direct charitable activity 6 - impairment	–	20,000

	2024	2023
	£	£
Volunteer Costs	–	330
General Support	–	1,000
Fiscal Sponsorship/ In-kind Assistance	–	479
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	–	21,999
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Supporting Young People: The Eveson Trust		
<i>Activities undertaken directly</i>		
wages/salaries	2,081	–
Direct charitable activity 8 - rent	2,500	–
Legal and professional fees	700	–
Volunteer Expenses	1,400	–
General Support Costs	3,639	–
Training	330	–
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	–	–
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	10,650	–
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Supporting YP Moving Into Adulthood: CB & HH Taylor 1984		
<i>Activities undertaken directly</i>		
General Running Expenses	520	–
Hire of Venue	480	–
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,000	–
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cost of Living: National Grid Community Matters		
<i>Activities undertaken directly</i>		
wages/salaries	1,050	–
Volunteer Costs	750	–
Training and Empowerment	1,000	–
Hire of Venue	2,100	–
Project Management & Publicity	750	–
Activity Costs	1,500	–
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	7,150	–
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Tackling Inequalities through Arts: Lillie C Johnson Trust		
<i>Activities undertaken directly</i>		
General Running Expenses	500	–
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Supporting YP With Mental Health: The 29th May 1961 Charity		
<i>Activities undertaken directly</i>		
Wages/salaries	2,200	–
Volunteer Expenses	750	–
General Running Expenses	200	–
Hire of Venue	500	–
Activity Costs	1,050	–
Consultancy and Advice	300	–
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	5,000	–
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Supporting Refugees with Cost of Living: Reaching Communities		
<i>Activities undertaken directly</i>		
Wages/salaries	26,266	–
Direct charitable activity 13 - rent	7,800	–
Direct charitable activity 13 - light & heat	2,450	–
Direct charitable activity 13 - legal and professional fees	715	–
Volunteer Costs	5,450	–
Training & Empowerment	4,500	–
Hire of Venue	1,036	–

	2024	2023
	£	£
Marketing & Publicity	1,450	–
Activity Costs	4,200	–
Consultancy and Advice	1,500	–
Refreshment and Snacks	2,100	–
Recruitment	605	–
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	58,072	–
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Expenditure on charitable activities	<hr/> 97,522 <hr/>	<hr/> 54,474 <hr/>

CENTRAL AFRICA REFUGEE LINK, WEST MIDLANDS

England & Wales - Charity number 1202174

Accounts

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 06218206
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1202174 (*previously 1109505*)

**Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 September 2023
for**

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

GM ACCOUNTANCY

Chartered Certified Accountants
472A BEARWOOD ROAD
SMETHWICK
WEST MIDLANDS
ENGLAND
B66 4HA

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

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Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 30 September 2023

Introduction

The trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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) (effective 1 January 2015).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity Name Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands

Trading Name: Care Link West Midlands

Charity Registration Number (*unincorporated*) 1109505

Date of Registration: 17/05/2005

Charity Registration Number (*incorporated*) **1202174**

Date Incorporated: **03/03/2023**

Company Registration Number 06218206

Date of Registration: 18/04/2007

Principal Office (Business): 1st Floor, 130 Cape Hill, Smethwick, West Midlands, B66 4PH

Registered Office (Mail delivery): 91 Hurst Road, Smethwick, West Midlands, B67 6LY

Venues of Activities:

1. **Saturday Homework Club/Smethwick:**
84A High Street, Smethwick, B66 1AQ
2. **Youth Club:** 1st Floor, 130 Cape Hill, Smethwick, West Midlands, B66 4PH
3. **Saturday Homework Club/Coventry:**
St Margaret's Church, 50 Walsgrave Road, Coventry, CV2 4EB

E-mail : office@carelinkwestmidlands.org.uk

Web site : www.carelinkwestmidlands.org.uk

Tel: 01215652612

Mobile: 07881563472

Bank

TSB Bank, 537 Bearwood Rd, Smethwick, West Midlands, B66 4BQ

Tel 08450725555

Independent Examiner

GM ACCOUNTANCY, Chartered Certified Accountants, 472A BEARWOOD ROAD, SMETHWICK, WEST MIDLANDS, ENGLAND, B66 4H

BACKGROUND, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES OF CARE LINK WEST MIDLANDS

Background

Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands [trading as Care Link West Midlands] start date 16.10.2004 is a registered charitable organisation set up to provide general support services including advocacy, advice, information, education, training and the relief of poverty of refugees & asylum seekers from Central Africa in West Midlands living in West Midlands.

Care Link West Midlands uses the expertise of 5 Trustees and 5 volunteers (3 full-time and 2 part-time) in its effort to achieve its goals and activities. These activities are mainly the advancement of education of refugee children, the relief of poverty, the preservation and protection of good health, the provision of facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation of refugees and asylum seekers. Care Link West Midlands provides assistance to refugees and migrants of similar backgrounds by helping them to settle and fully establish themselves in West Midlands with independence and dignity.

The organisation runs a number of activities on a regular basis:

- Drop-in Centre (Advice, support & guidance)
- Sewing & Tailoring Training Club
- Job Club
- Befriending Internet Coffee Club
- Cookery Club
- Homework Club & Multi-sports Club.
- Awareness raising campaigns, etc.

Objectives and aims of Care Link West Midlands

1. To support refugees, asylum seekers and migrants from Central Africa region living in West Midlands through education/training, medical/health support and the relief of poverty among the refugee community.
2. Provide services such as counselling, training, advocacy/advice and information.

Activities of Care Link West Midlands

To achieve its mission, Care Link West Midlands has 4 main programmes:

1. *Floating Support (General Support programme)*

This is a programme that helps refugees and asylum seekers get support with their general needs (e.g. health, education, accommodation, leisure etc). Needs are assessed individually using a special information tool to identify what a particular person requires. Once the need is established, then a support plan is drawn, and a support worker will work with each individual to address those needs. In some circumstances, service users are sign- posted to specialist services for additional support.

2. *Mental Health Awareness and Support programme*

This is a programme that focuses on helping refugees and asylum seekers who are suffering from some degree of mental health problems to get the type of support they need by helping them access the most appropriate services.

3. *Youth Club programme*

The Youth Club programme helps young people to have access to a wide range of services they need (e.g. employment, further education, skills training, family matters, youth matters, etc)

4. *Saturday Homework Club programme*

The Saturday Homework club is a programme which helps poorly performing refugee, asylum seeking children and other under achieving pupils with their educational assignments in order to raise their academic achievements and so assisting their integration into mainstream education.

These activities are successfully carried out thanks to kind support from well-wishers, members' contributions and funding from grants making Trusts and Foundations.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Care Link West Midlands is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The organisation was founded in 2005 as an unincorporated charitable trust called Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands and trading as Care Link West Midlands (charity number: 1109505). All activities, liabilities and assets transferred to the CIO (1202174) on 03/03/ 2023.

The object of the CIO is to:

1. *To preserve and protect the physical and mental health of persons from central African French speaking countries who are seeking asylum or who are granted refugee status and their dependants living in the West Midlands region (hereinafter, the “beneficiaries”).*
2. *To advance the education and training of those persons defined in object 1 as beneficiaries by any charitable means that the trustees may from time to time determine.*
3. *To advance the education of public in general about issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.*
4. *The relief of financial hardship to those persons defined in object 1 as beneficiaries by any charitable means that trustees may from time to time determine.*
5. *The provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life of those persons defined in object 1, who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances.*

Our vision is of a connected and supportive society where people of different faiths, beliefs and cultures have strong, productive and lasting relations. The organisation is governed by a board of trustees who meet regularly during the year. Finance and Compliance Committees meet before each board meeting to monitor and review relevant matters in more depth.

The board of trustees is authorised to appoint new trustees, as required, who are selected on the basis of their relevant skills, experience and knowledge and the active contribution they can make to the organisation. New trustees are briefed on the organisation’s constitution, strategic plan, policies and procedures. They receive a copy of the previous years’ financial statements and a copy of the constitution, and are expected to sign a declaration of interests form.

Trustees are responsible for the strategic direction of the organisation and delegate management to the Operations Manager. The Operations Manager reports to the board on organisational performance against operational plans approved by the Board. The Operations Manager is Head of Operations and reports regularly via the Finance Committee on the financial position of the organisation.

The organisation seeks to create an internal culture that embodies the inclusive and welcoming values that we want to see in wider society, and are delighted that in summer 2023, more than 90% of staff and volunteers surveyed said they are proud to work at this charity, enjoy the work they do, and believe they are making a difference.

The charity is grateful to its team of staff, consultants, freelancers, interns and volunteers for their outstanding dedication, hard work and commitment during the year.

The structure of Care Link West Midlands represents the following hierarchy:

1. **The General Assembly of Members (GAM):** highest organ of important decisions. It is responsible for determining the general policy of the organisation. It meets once a year to decide on important decisions affecting the organisation.
2. **The Management Committee (MC):** the governing body of the organization elected by GAM. It acts on any matters referred to it by the General Assembly of Members and considers for approval the recommendations made by GAM. It consists of 5 Trustees: 1 Chairperson; 1 Vice-chairperson; 1 Secretary; 1 Treasurer and 1 Adviser:
3. **The Secretariat:** part of the organisation that deals with the daily management of the organisation’s activities.
It is composed of a small paid staff of experienced men and women with a thorough experience in community matters and spread over 4 programmes:
 - a. Floating Support (FS)
 - b. Mental Health Awareness & Support (MHAS)
 - c. Saturday Homework Club (SHWC)
 - d. Youth Club (YC)
 The Secretariat consists of 6 people (office based):
 - a) 5 Volunteers (3 full time, 2 part-time)
 - b) 1 paid staff (Part-time).

GOVERNING DOCUMENTS & POLICIES

A number of policies are available. The main governing documents are our Constitution, our Memorandum of Association and our Business Plan. Among the policies available, we have:

- o Equal Opportunity Policy
- o Protection from Abuse
- o Safeguarding Policy
- o Health & Safety
- o Drug Abuse Policy

- o Volunteer Policy
- o Recruitment & Selection Policy
- o Needs Assessment & Support Planning Policy
- o Complaints & Whistle Blowing Policy
- o Code of Conduct & Acceptable and Unacceptable Behaviour
- o Financial Control Policy
- o General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) policy

All these policies are reviewed yearly.

THE TRUSTEES

Care Link West Midlands's Trustees are elected by Annual General Meeting (AGM) in accordance with the organisation's constitution. The following served as Trustees and as members of Care Link West Midlands's management committee during the year up to the AGM which took place on Thursday 3rd October 2019:

- Ms A. Mwihabuntu, Chairperson
- Ms D Uwase, Vice Chairperson
- Mr. W Shomari, Secretary/Operations Manager
- Mr. B Ntivunwa, Treasurer
- Mrs O Bogdanova, Advisor

Responsibilities of the Trustees

The charity's Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare Financial Statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the Financial Statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law).

The trustees must not approve the Financial Statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the income and expenditure of the charity for that period.

In preparing these Financial Statements, the Trustees are required to:

- o select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- o observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- o make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- o state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed
- o and explained in the Financial Statements;
- o prepare the Financial Statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity
- o will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with the Charities 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.

Conflict of interest

The organisation has adopted a policy to address conflicts of interest so as to ensure that its activities, and those of its staff and service users, are and are seen to be conducted to the highest standards of ethics and integrity.

Risk Management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Public Benefit

The Charities Act 2011 requires charities to demonstrate that their work is of direct benefit to the public. When planning Care Link West Midlands's activities each year, the Trustees take due regard of the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Within the constraint of resources, and subject to any eligibility criteria for a specific service, Care Link West Midlands's services, described above, are available to all refugees and people claiming asylum. Services are offered in many of our clients' languages, without charging fees, and recognising the difficulties many face in meeting travelling costs. Our work on sector capacity building, refugee integration and education of the general public about refugee issues benefits the whole community by supporting community cohesion. Our work on policy, legislation and advocacy advances human rights and access to employment, education and health care, and combats destitution.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE YEAR 2022-2023 (1ST OCTOBER 2022 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023)

The following is a brief summary of services we have delivered to our Service Users for the last whole year. We did our best to reach the aims and values of the organization in making sure we give the best quality of service to all our Service Users. Our objectives targeted Asylum Seekers and Refugees from Central Africa with different backgrounds.

1. GENERAL SUPPORT/FLOATING SUPPORT PROGRAMME

During the year under review, Care Link West Midlands used its experience of working with refugees (through local network, website, newsletter, flyers, word of mouth, social media, e-mails, telephone) to ensure that our beneficiaries are able to access the group's support. Beneficiaries were recruited based on their entry onto our waiting lists drafted after a survey carried out in September 2022 to identify the service users' needs. There was an intake of 10 - 15 refugees each month that would be on a rolling programme to receive support for 2-3 months before exiting the programme and then recruit a next lot of 10 - 15.

Under the General support programme, Care Link West Midlands supported **98** people of whom 48 were young people, 20 families 15 were older people and 15 were other people from local communities. Beneficiaries were mainly refugees facing multiple barriers included those with low skill levels, no qualifications, low literacy levels, English as a second language and those recovering from mental health problems. Co-ordinated by 2 support workers and six volunteers, each client received up to 18 hours one-on-one worth of support service including advice on getting back into work or education and increasing their employability. This included help with job search and applications, assessing skills, and understanding the labour market and education system. The programme also included a mapping of local provision, and culminated in a report for Leading Learning and Skills with Press Release by West Midlands Leaders Board.

Achievements

- 37 out of 98 clients found employment or enrolled in education (in further and in higher education).
- 97 service users reported increased self-esteem and confidence through encouragement received from support workers.

Case Study

Our success is built on the successes of the people that use our services. Read one of their personal stories below (*translated from French language*) to find out more about how Care Link West Midlands has helped them on their journey towards resilient, independent and fulfilling lives.

❖ The Benjamin's Story, 23

"Not speaking the language made me feel really alone," says Benjamin (not his real name) who arrived from D R Congo last May and is now studying English and IT at college.

The area where Benjamin's family is from, Ituri in north-eastern DRC near the border with Rwanda and Uganda, was becoming increasingly dangerous. After he was arrested by mistake and then released, he made the difficult decision to leave his family and flee.

"Everything is different here," he says. "The language, the weather, the food, the travel. In DRC we would travel by car or motorbike, but here it is by bus or train.

"I want to be able to translate things, and go shopping or go to places. But I always need help for everything because of my English. It is so important to speak the language."

After gaining refugee status, Benjamin sought assistance from Care Link West Midlands and the organisation found a college for him where he is now studying English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and speaks to Care Link West Midlands both in English and with the help of a friend who acts as an interpreter.

When he first arrived, he said he practiced English with other young people seeking asylum in the hostel where he lived and with volunteers at a local church.

He says trying to learn the language has been the biggest challenge about living in Britain so far.

“Once I started to get to know people through Care Link West Midlands’s network, I felt less lonely. Being able to speak English has changed everything,” he says.

“I’m very far from home and I miss my family. I know they are alive. But I cannot do anything to help them. I feel worried about them all the time. My wife is still in Ituri, DRC. I would like her to come and live here, but that cannot happen until my situation has changed, until I have a job.

“I have tried to make new friends here, because without friends you cannot live. I have met people through college and the place where I live, I use social media.”

Asked about his hopes for the future, he says: “I felt the safety here. I felt that my life would be better.” Benjamin is now studying and hopes to find a job so that he will eventually be able to bring his wife to Britain from DRC.

2. MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS AND SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Under this programme, Care Link West Midlands delivered frontline support services to **45** refugees, migrants and asylum seekers from mainly African heritage. Since covid-19 through the cost-of-living crisis, our organisation has adapted its delivery of services to accommodate the complex needs of our service users. During the year, our organisation delivered its support services partly online / by phone and partly face-to-face.

To address service users’ mental health needs, Care Link West Midlands:

1. Organised weekly drop-in emotional wellbeing and support sessions for BME people for a better mental health.
2. Ran a Job Club twice per week for young people to coach them in job seeking techniques, CV writing/updating, job search, interview techniques and organising work experience.
3. Signposted and supported refugees to enrol in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).
4. Encouraged BME people to participate in weekly life skills workshops (e.g. budgeting, setting up a home, maintaining tenancy, etc.).
5. Ran weekly befriending activities including, advocacy, assistance with completion of forms, peer support, club visits, etc. by volunteers.
6. Empowered and built refugees’ confidence and self-esteem by giving them opportunities to talk at the community centre each month, each attracting an average of 90+ people on refugees’ matters.
7. Produced information booklets on local support and advice about living and working in the area, information which was printed and loaded onto organisation’s website as free download.
8. Organised 1-2-1 tutorial sessions on a weekly basis to allow the service users to acquire work related skills to help build their resilience, confidence and self-esteem in employment.

Success stories

‘Care Link West Midlands is a family to me. I don’t hesitate to share my personal concern with the staff. They are the one who help me with advice, orientation and make me comfort with the situation I’m going through. Care Link West Midlands is my home.’ - Daniel, 49 (not his real name)

“Care Link West Midlands has given me socializing and helping me search for a career path, jobs and housing and there is also an artistic part they offer and I LOVE that!”- Beatrice, 55

“The Centre is important to me mainly for the support I get in this place, and when I say support I mean emotional, financial, sharing ideas and community relationship.”- Bob, 65

3. YOUTH CLUB PROGRAMME

A lot of activities have happened under this programme. Our organisation tackled suffering and isolation among **65** disadvantaged young people living in the deprived wards of the Borough of Sandwell and the city of Birmingham at large who have less chances to accessing opportunities for a better future and in danger or at risk of engaging in criminal activities (e.g. gang culture, drugs dealing, money laundering, gambling addiction, etc.) if issues they had at heart were not dealt with at an early stage (i.e. unemployment, poverty, poor housing, debts, not being aware of how the system works, etc.).

The organisation being volunteer-led, it provided a number of services to disadvantaged young people including youth advocacy, militancy, developing employability skills as well as life skills, support with education, training and employment.

The group organised training sessions around employability skills; signposted young people to appropriate services, connected young people to opportunities; showed case; told stories; developed dialogue about various issues related to youth matters and discussed the importance of resources, policies and advocacy, etc.

The organisation made sure that BME young people got the practical help they needed and could stay safe and healthy.

Despite the challenges BME youth faced, Care Link West Midlands kept vital services running, providing advice, support, opportunities, and practical help to BME young people who needed this support the most.

Case Study

Every day, our inspirational young people change their lives for the better with our support. We are proud of every young person whose life we have touched.

Take a few moments out of your day to read, share and celebrate one young person with our success stories.

Our work wouldn't be possible without the support of our network of funders, partners and supporters. You play a key role in young people achieving their potential.

❖ Overcoming Low Confidence and Discovering New Career Prospects – Jeremy's Story

Jeremy, 19, moved to Birmingham in 2022 just before the high rise in the cost of living crisis, this combined with social anxiety led him to become very socially isolated with little no confidence to leave the house. He has a lot going on at home and left school at an early age so has been NEET for many years.

After working with a youth worker at Care Link West Midlands, Jeremy was referred to Growing Hope to help with thinking about adult life and planning for the future. We have been spending sessions working on identifying personal values and interests as a way to help with potential career direction.

Alongside this we've been trying different activities outside of Jeremy's comfort zone where he feels he would benefit from support including; going to a cafe, buying groceries, going out for walks in his local area, and learning how to take the bus.

A key barrier Jeremy identified in his life is his lack of social group, ideally, one that understands the needs of young people with autism – so together we have researched local groups and found a suitable one he would like to attend each week to learn independence skills and make friends. We have also been looking at different online courses to enable Jeremy to gain his Functional Skills for English and Maths qualifications outside of a traditional classroom environment.

Jeremy is receiving long-term support from Growing Hope to allow us to keep working towards overcoming the barriers he's identified in his life. At the same time, we are covering job searching skills for the future like writing CVs and learning how to apply for jobs.

4. SATURDAY HOMEWORK CLUB

In 2022/2023 Care Link West Midlands ran a mixed-gender after school club and drop-in at 84A High St, Smethwick, B66 1AQ for 35 children aged between 5 and 14. The club provided positive activities for the children, with the first hour being a drop-in for up to 20 11-14 year olds who wanted to drop in on their way home from school, and the second hour delivering a structured programme of activities including Maths, English, Science homework, arts, cooking, sport and physical activity, drama and team building. The children named this club as Just Fun.

The club has evolved and benefits vulnerable children identified being in need of extra support outside school environment. Just Fun sessions provide a positive, safe, fun space where 35 young people aged 5-14 have the opportunity to form and build new relationships, take part in activities that will build their confidence in a positive environment and either learn new skills or develop and improve the skills that they already have.

The primary focus of the group is to engage children in positive activities as well as community events to help break down barriers and promote community cohesion especially among underperforming refugee children identified as bored and lacking motivation to do much other than spending their time on the streets,

The programme organised weekly sports activities as well as monthly youth talks that included guest speakers that brought up and discussed issues in the local area, such as drugs and gangs.

The Just Fun Club during 2022/2023 aimed to help children discover “who they were, what they would like to be and how could they get There”. It delivered an accredited personal development and life skills programme to children and young people, with a focus on improving emotional health and wellbeing and identifying children's unique potential to maximise their life chances. The club also aimed to reduce barriers to education, employment and training by providing a range of services including alternative education, one-to-one mentoring services, group workshops, and open access youth work within a multi-agency framework.

In 2022/23 the programme delivered workshops to 35 school children from local schools that were not performing very well at school in subject matter such as Maths, English or Science. The workshops centred on community cohesion by encouraging children to work on their experiences and feelings by breaking down barriers and perceived differences.

❖ **Learner's success story**

We are very proud of our learners and what they have achieved. Read below one of their success stories.

Andrea, 13

I found Care Link West Midlands's Homework Club with support from my mum. Due to bullying, I was not performing well in school so I needed to find an environment where I would be able to learn extra and get support with my school homeworks. Getting a qualification is very important to me but I almost gave up hope because I came across so many barriers. I am glad I found Care Link West Midlands's learning centre. It is nothing compared to my school environment.

I am very passionate about animals- I am a huge animal lover. I would love to either get a qualification in Equine Studies or Animal Conservation. I need to get my English and Maths qualifications so I can go to university.

I like coming to afterschool Homework Club at Care Link West Midlands because not only does it give me something to do it helps me use my brain a bit more. It is a very comfortable environment, and it is a place where I can socialise. I am enjoying it and I am happy here. Tutors are understanding of the anxieties and struggles of learner and when I talk to them it doesn't feel like I am talking to someone who will scold me or make me feel bad- because of my past and this was important to me. Tutors respect me and treat me like a learner.

Andrea says that she now feels more self-confident in classes and with fellow learners. When writing she no longer writes everything in capital letters and is able to log on to the laptop confidently and on her own. Andrea would now like to work on improving her spelling, particularly when writing on paper and not the computer.

When asked if she'd recommend friends to Care Link West Midlands, Andrea said, "Yes of course I would, I love coming here."

DIFFICULTIES AND SETBACKS DURING THE YEAR

Although the year 2022/2023 was a success and that all the planned activities took place, few things didn't work very well:

1. Attendance to meetings was sometimes constrained by daily home commitments.
2. With low levels of training, education and employment, some beneficiaries were challenged by poverty as they live on low income. That has made it difficult for some service users not to be able to attend support sessions because of lack of finance.
3. As the organisation's travel budget was also limited, there was not much the organisation could do to help service users on low income who could not attend support sessions because of lack of transport money. This was particularly difficult during the high rise in the cost of living crisis period.

FUTURE PLANS

As for meeting the costs of the organisation beyond 2023, our organisation will tap in additional funding available from other Trusts and Foundations to be approached in the future as soon as the current trustees' annual report and accounts 2023 are out.

We want to say a huge thank you to all our partners and supporters, for supporting us with funding and delivery and ensuring we maximise the impact we have on our community and for supporting our organisation to thrive during difficult time, inspiring us and driving the support we provide.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2022. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005.

Brief statement of the organisation's policy on reserves

Care Link West Midlands's policy is to hold sufficient free reserves to cover core expenditure (defined as planned unrestricted expenditure) for three months. This is to allow Care Link West Midlands to continue some level of operation in the event of a sudden deterioration in its finances and to give a degree of freedom to explore opportunities. To achieve this, we will aim to put £250 per month into reserves from income until that level is achieved.

At 30th September 2023, our free reserves were nearly £6,000 which equate to about four months of planned forward core expenditure. We are comfortable with this level for this year given the continued turbulence in the economy.

SMALL COMPANY PROVISIONS

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The trustees assess on an annual basis the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charity and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. The principal risks faced by the charity are the security of its funding streams and the operational risks from working with young people in areas dealing with sensitive subjects. The trustees mitigate the risk to funding streams by diversifying as much as possible the sources of income. The operational risks are mitigated by having an effective safeguarding policy to which all staff adhere to. In addition, there is a staff handbook which reflects updated policies and procedures on whistleblowing and staff data handling and protection. Like all charities we have been affected by the on-going Cost of Living Crisis which began towards the end of May 2022 and has continued through the financial year ending 30th Sept 2023, we have managed this by maintaining a reduced level of financial risk in the budget and utilising free reserves to ensure a balanced income and expenditure budget in the financial year 30th Sept 2023.

SAFEGUARDING

The charity trustees take their responsibility in relation to safeguarding seriously and have adopted a Safeguarding policy to protect vulnerable people from abuse and to prevent abuse from happening in the first place.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All trustees give of their time freely and no trustee remuneration was paid in the year. The trustees and staff are required to disclose all relevant interests and where necessary withdraw from decisions where a conflict arises. The trustees also confirm that there is an appropriate and approved anti-bribery policy.

INFORMATION ON FUNDRAISING PRACTICES

The charity does not fundraise from the general public, but focuses its activities on specific charitable foundations. Therefore the trustees do not consider that the requirements of the fundraising code to be applicable to the charity.

FUTURE PLANS

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

As for meeting the costs of the organisation beyond 2023, our organisation will tap in additional funding available from other Trusts and Foundations to be approached in the future as soon as the current trustees' annual report and accounts 2023 are out.

This report was approved by the trustees, on and signed on their behalf by: **Walingamina Shomari (Secretary)**



Date: 20/11/2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Godfrey Massa has been re-appointed as independent examiner for the ensuing year.

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Central Africa Refugee Link, West Midlands Year ended
30 September 2023**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 30 September 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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.



Godfrey Massa
Certified Accountant
GM Accountancy
472a
Bearwood Road
Smethwick
West Midlands
B66 4HA

Date: 20/11/2023

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 30 September 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	30.9.23 Total funds £	30.9.22 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		<u>11,100</u>	<u>16,912</u>	<u>28,012</u>	<u>-</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Microfinance Project		-	3,000	3,000	-
Core Cost		-	2,000	2,000	-
General		8,850	28,713	37,563	-
Supporting Older Women		-	9,161	9,161	-
Cost of Living		<u>-</u>	<u>2,750</u>	<u>2,750</u>	<u>-</u>
Total		<u>8,850</u>	<u>45,624</u>	<u>54,474</u>	<u>-</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		2,250	(28,712)	(26,462)	-
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>9,738</u>	<u>58,225</u>	<u>67,963</u>	<u>67,963</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>11,988</u></u>	<u><u>29,513</u></u>	<u><u>41,501</u></u>	<u><u>67,963</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet 30 September 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	30.9.23 Total funds £	30.9.22 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	4	11,986	24,550	36,536	32,625
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	5	-	4,404	4,404	6,607
Cash in hand		<u>2</u>	<u>559</u>	<u>561</u>	<u>28,731</u>
		2	4,963	4,965	35,338
		<u>2</u>	<u>4,963</u>	<u>4,965</u>	<u>35,338</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>2</u>	<u>4,963</u>	<u>4,965</u>	<u>35,338</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>11,988</u>	<u>29,513</u>	<u>41,501</u>	<u>67,963</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>11,988</u>	<u>29,513</u>	<u>41,501</u>	<u>67,963</u>
FUNDS	6				
Unrestricted funds				11,988	9,738
Restricted funds				<u>29,513</u>	<u>58,225</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>41,501</u>	<u>67,963</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 30 September 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

Balance Sheet - continued 30 September 2023

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 20/11/2023 and were signed on its behalf by:



W Shomari - Trustee

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 September 2023**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES****Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. 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.

Tangible fixed assets

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

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.

2. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 30 September 2023 nor for the year ended 30 September 2022.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 30 September 2023 nor for the year ended 30 September 2022.

3. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
NET INCOME	-	-	-
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	9,738	58,225	67,963
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>9,738</u>	<u>58,225</u>	<u>67,963</u>

4. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 October 2022	14,461	18,164	32,625
Additions	2,203	21,708	23,911
Impairments	-	(20,000)	(20,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 30 September 2023	<u>16,664</u>	<u>19,872</u>	<u>36,536</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 30 September 2023	<u>16,664</u>	<u>19,872</u>	<u>36,536</u>
At 30 September 2022	<u>14,461</u>	<u>18,164</u>	<u>32,625</u>

5. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	30.9.23	30.9.22
	£	£
Trade debtors	5,404	7,607
Accruals	<u>(1,000)</u>	<u>(1,000)</u>
	<u>4,404</u>	<u>6,607</u>

6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.10.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30.9.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	9,738	-	9,738
Members Contribution	<u>-</u>	<u>2,250</u>	<u>2,250</u>
	9,738	2,250	11,988
Restricted funds			
GENR1	58,225	(28,712)	29,513
	<u>67,963</u>	<u>(26,462)</u>	<u>41,501</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
Members Contribution	11,100	(8,850)	2,250
Restricted funds			
Lloyds Bank Foundation	2,250	(2,250)	-
Local Giving	500	(500)	-
GENR1	1	(28,713)	(28,712)
Souter Charitable Trust	3,000	(3,000)	-
Harborne Parish Lands Charity	9,161	(9,161)	-
The Albert Hunt Trust	<u>2,000</u>	<u>(2,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>16,912</u>	<u>(45,624)</u>	<u>(28,712)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>28,012</u>	<u>(54,474)</u>	<u>(26,462)</u>

7. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 30 September 2023.

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 30 September 2023

	30.9.23 £	30.9.22 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Gifts	2	-
Donations	11,100	-
Grants	<u>16,910</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>28,012</u>	<u>-</u>
Total incoming resources	28,012	-
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Materials and Resources	250	-
Project Management & Publicity	550	-
Activity Costs	500	-
Refreshment and Snacks	250	-
General Running Expenses	5,360	-
Hire of Venue	250	-
Project Man. & Monitoring	1,820	-
In-Kind Assistance	480	-
Fiscal Sponsorship	3,000	-
Consultancy & Advice	250	-
Volunteer Expenses	888	-
Rent	1,753	-
Utilities	2,250	-
Impairment losses for tangible fixed assets	<u>20,000</u>	<u>-</u>
	37,601	-
Support costs		
Other		
Wages	<u>16,873</u>	<u>-</u>
Total resources expended	<u>54,474</u>	<u>-</u>
Net (expenditure)/income	<u><u>(26,462)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>