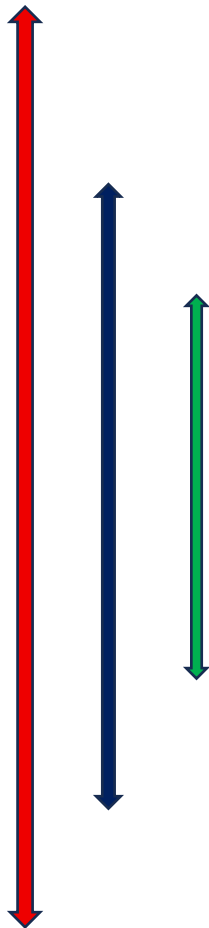




Charity Number: 1208273

Gambian Community in Nottinghamshire



Annual Activity Report 2024/2025

54-56 Thurgarton Street, NG2 4AG, Nottingham

Chair's Statement

I am pleased to present the charity's first Annual Report following our formal registration as a charity in England and Wales. This report outlines the activities undertaken during the year, the progress made in developing the organisation, and the challenges encountered in delivering our charitable objectives.

The year under review represents an important milestone in the organisation's development. During this period, the charity transitioned from a community-based organisation to a formally registered charity. A significant achievement was the notable progress in the realisation of our long-standing objective to secure a property that will serve as the charity's operational base and a centre for community engagement and activities.

Throughout the year, the charity continued to provide access to community space for worship, educational activities and social engagement. We also benefited from the expertise and support of members of the local donor community, which enabled us to strengthen our procedures and further develop a more structured and professional approach to governance and operations. In addition, the charity expanded its volunteer base, supporting both the delivery of activities and the development of new fundraising initiatives.

The charity also broadened its programme of activities to include more proactive youth engagement initiatives. Working in partnership with local community organisations and statutory bodies, these activities aim to encourage positive engagement among minoritised young people and support pathways away from crime, including violent crime, and towards employment, skills development and constructive participation in society.

During the year, the charity worked with local partners to facilitate focus group discussions with young people on issues including knife crime and Black youth access to mental health services. We also collaborated with Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust to deliver a targeted African Community workshop in glaucoma. These activities demonstrate the charity's role in supporting engagement with communities that are often considered harder to reach.

The year also presented several challenges. Demand for support from service users increased significantly, reflecting wider pressures associated with the rising cost of living, housing instability and employment insecurity. In response, the charity sought to strengthen partnerships that would enable us to better meet emerging needs within the community. Our ongoing collaboration with Muslim Hands and FareShare has enabled hundreds of families each week to access highly subsidised fresh groceries and essential food items sourced from local supermarkets. We have also developed links with local homelessness support organisations to assist individuals seeking guidance and support.

Overall, the year was characterised by both challenge and progress. The trustees remain committed to strengthening the charity's capacity, maintaining effective partnerships and continuing to develop services that respond to the needs of the communities we serve.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank our volunteers, partners, donors and supporters for their continued commitment and contribution to the work of the charity.

Baba Njie

(Trustees' Board Chair)

Who We Are

Vision:

A thriving, inclusive, and empowered community in which people of African heritage - particularly young people - are supported to achieve their full potential, live free from violence, attain educational success, practice their faith with dignity, and contribute positively to British society and the wider global community.

Mission:

We seek to create safe and supportive spaces that promote positive role models, strengthen families, encourage educational achievement, and foster religious tolerance and community cohesion.

Our Values:

Inclusivity

Tolerance

Integrity

Accountability

Transparency

Activities and Beneficiary Numbers:

We reached tens of thousands of service users over the year under review through our multiple service and community support stands.

Activity/service provision	Beneficiary Numbers
Access to Friday congregation and regular five daily prayers	Weely - over 1200 people
Weekend educational sessions	Weekly - 90 children and 35 adults
Communal Iftar	Over 2000
Youth engagement sessions	Over 500
Cultural education/activities sessions	Over 1000
Community engagement (workshops, summer events)	Over 3000
Community Pantry	Weekly – 60 to 70 families
Homelessness support	5
Emergency relief support (immigration fee, health surcharge, Zakat)	135
Eid outdoor congregation	Over 2000

- **Space for Worship and Religious Education**



Prayer session at the centre

The charity continues to maintain its centre as an accessible community space for religious worship, learning and community engagement. The facility provides for the five daily congregational prayers and the weekly Friday (Jumu'ah) prayer, while also hosting regular weekend Madrasah sessions offering religious education for children, young people and adults.

The Masjid remains central to the spiritual and communal life of many service users. By providing a welcoming and accessible place for worship, the charity supports the religious practice of the community while strengthening social connections, mutual support and a sense of belonging among worshippers.

The weekend Madrasah programme provides structured religious education for children and young people. Through these sessions, participants develop knowledge of their faith alongside values that encourage moral responsibility, respect for others and positive citizenship. Adult learning sessions are also delivered to support ongoing religious education and personal development within the wider community.

In addition to worship and education, the Masjid plays an important pastoral and community support role. The centre provides space and assistance for families during key life events such as marriages, baby naming ceremonies and bereavements. During times of personal or family difficulty, the Masjid committee works with community members and worshippers to facilitate practical and humanitarian support through charitable giving and community assistance initiatives.

The centre welcomes visitors and worshippers from a diverse range of backgrounds. Our inclusive approach to community engagement and cultural understanding ensures that the space remains open and accessible to all members of the community, reflecting the charity's commitment to promoting social cohesion and mutual respect.

During the year under review, the Masjid recorded an estimated 60,000 visits by worshippers, including regular and returning attendees. Educational participation also remained strong, with over 150 learners attending the weekend Madrasah and adult learning sessions.

Through these activities, the charity advances its charitable objectives by providing accessible facilities for worship, supporting religious education and promoting community cohesion, thereby delivering clear public benefit to the communities it serves.

- **Communal Iftar Programme**



Communal Iftar session at the centre

To promote community cohesion and shared social responsibility, the charity organises weekly communal Iftar gatherings at its centre during the holy month of Ramadan. These events are typically held on Saturdays throughout the month and are delivered with the support of a large number of volunteers who assist with catering, coordination and general organisation. Their contributions ensure that the spirit of generosity, collective care and community participation associated with Ramadan is actively promoted.

At Iftar time, the centre opens its doors to families and individuals from the wider community to share a nutritious evening meal provided free of charge. These gatherings offer an important opportunity for community members to come together in a welcoming environment, strengthening social connections and fostering a sense of belonging.

In addition to supporting religious observance, the communal Iftar programme also plays an important social role. Many participants use the opportunity to build new relationships, reconnect with others and reduce experiences of social isolation and loneliness within the community.

During the year under review, the charity hosted communal Iftar events across the four Saturdays of Ramadan, providing meals to an estimated 2,000 people. The programme was delivered through the collective efforts of volunteers, community donors and supporters who contributed their time and resources to ensure its success.

Through this initiative, the charity advances its objectives by promoting community engagement, encouraging charitable giving and providing inclusive opportunities for individuals and families to participate in communal activities that strengthen social cohesion.

- **Community Pantry Initiative**



The FareShare team outside the centre

During the year under review, the charity responded to increasing levels of financial hardship within the community arising from the ongoing cost-of-living pressures, rising food prices and growing economic insecurity affecting many households. In response, the charity strengthened its food support initiative through partnerships with established charitable organisations and through community-led volunteer efforts.

A key element of this work has been the charity's partnership with Muslim Hands and FareShare, through which families are able to access highly subsidised fresh groceries and essential food items sourced from local supermarkets and food redistribution networks. This initiative operates on a regular basis and provides affordable access to nutritious food for households that may otherwise struggle to meet rising living costs.

Through this programme, hundreds of families each week have been able to purchase fresh produce and essential groceries at a minimal cost. The initiative has not only supported food security but has also helped reduce food waste by redistributing surplus food from supermarkets to those in need.

Youth Engagement sessions

Young people and their perspective matters to us. Through ongoing partnership with local and statutory organisations, the charity facilitated direct access and engagement with young people in a focus group on violent crime including knife crime, knife crime awareness training and on barriers for black men (17-25) accessing mental health services courtesy of Nottingham Community and Voluntary Service (NCVS).

- **Improving Mental Health Access for Young Black People Aged 17-25 in Nottingham**



Focus group discussion at Forest Sports Zone, Gregory Boulevard, NG7 6LD

This NCVS enabled engagement constituted a community-led initiative exploring barriers to mental health support for young Black men aged 17–25 in Nottingham. The project aimed to better understand how young people perceive mental health, identify obstacles to accessing support, and propose practical recommendations to reduce inequalities and improve outcomes. The insights were gathered through focus group discussions designed to centre the lived experiences of participants and inform culturally relevant strategies for service improvement.

Methodology

Two focus groups were conducted with a total of 20 young Black men recruited through community networks in Nottingham. Participants were aged between 17 and 25.

The first group consisted of football players aged 19–25 from a local adult football team. Discussions took place in a private space at the Forest Recreation Ground following training sessions. The second group included young men aged 17–23 who were students, volunteers, or community members at the charity's centre.

Participants provided informed consent and conversations were recorded to ensure accurate transcription.

Findings and Conclusion

The findings highlight significant personal, cultural, and systemic barriers affecting young Black people's access to mental health support in Nottingham. Stigma, limited awareness, lack of trust in services, cultural expectations, and underrepresentation within the mental health workforce all contribute to the challenges faced by young Black men seeking support. These barriers often discourage open discussion about mental health and delay engagement with professional services.

Addressing these inequalities requires culturally informed, community-led approaches that prioritise trust, representation, and accessibility. By centring the voices and lived experiences of young people, services can become more responsive to the specific needs of Black communities. Collaboration with community leaders, families, faith groups, and youth organisations is essential in building supportive environments where mental health can be discussed openly and without stigma.

The insights gathered through this project emphasise the importance of expanding access to support beyond traditional clinical settings and strengthening community-based networks. Initiatives such as peer support groups, culturally competent service delivery, and mental health awareness programmes within community spaces can help bridge existing gaps in provision.

This work has contributed valuable evidence to ongoing discussions about health inequalities affecting young Black men. The outcomes of the focus group discussions were compiled into a report and presented to NCVS with the aim of informing strategic policy development and programme design. The intention is that these findings will support a review of current approaches and help shape more inclusive and effective strategies for improving access to mental health services among young Black men in Nottingham.

Ultimately, sustained progress will depend on continued engagement with communities, investment in culturally competent support systems, and a commitment from policymakers and service providers to address the structural factors that contribute to mental health inequalities.

- **Knife Crime Awareness Workshop: Proactively Engaging the Youth Community**



Greenway Community Centre, Nottingham, NG2 4DF

A knife crime awareness workshop was delivered for young members of the local youth community in response to growing concerns about youth violence and knife-related offences. The session formed part of the organisation's wider commitment to safeguarding young people, promoting community safety, and supporting early prevention initiatives.

The workshop aimed to raise awareness of the dangers and consequences associated with knife crime while providing a safe and supportive environment for open discussion. Key objectives included increasing youth engagement, creating meaningful learning opportunities, and equipping participants with the knowledge and confidence to make positive and informed life choices.

The session was designed to be interactive and youth focused. It began with introductory activities to create a comfortable and inclusive atmosphere, encouraging participants to engage openly in discussions. This was followed by a presentation that included a video scenario illustrating the realities and consequences of knife crime. Facilitators and guest speakers shared personal experiences and insights, which resonated strongly with attendees and helped contextualise the issue in real-life terms.

Participants then took part in facilitated group discussions that explored the root causes of knife crime, its wider social impact, and the role individuals and communities can play in

preventing violence. These discussions encouraged participants to reflect on peer pressure, social influences, and the importance of making responsible decisions.

The workshop provided valuable educational outcomes for attendees. Participants gained a clearer understanding of the legal consequences associated with carrying and using knives, as well as the long-term impact such actions can have on victims, families, and communities. The session also highlighted the risks and dangers associated with knife possession and addressed common misconceptions surrounding personal safety and self-protection.

In addition, participants were introduced to positive alternatives and support pathways available within the community. Information was shared about opportunities such as educational programmes, vocational training initiatives, mentoring schemes, and counselling services designed to support young people in making constructive choices and developing their potential.

By combining real-life stories, statistical information, and interactive discussion, the workshop effectively raised awareness of the seriousness and prevalence of knife crime. Importantly, it also encouraged young people to see themselves as active contributors to positive change within their communities. The preventative approach of the session empowered participants with knowledge and confidence, helping them recognise the value of safe choices and constructive opportunities.

Overall, the knife crime awareness workshop was highly successful. The strong level of engagement from participants demonstrated both the relevance of the topic and the importance of providing safe spaces for young people to discuss difficult issues. The workshop fostered reflection, dialogue, and a shared commitment to promoting safer communities.

Building on the positive feedback received from participants and community members, the organisation intends to deliver further workshops and awareness initiatives in the future. These activities will continue to support young people, strengthen community resilience, and contribute to long-term violence prevention efforts.

Community Engagement sessions

These take the form of two broad strands. Training, skills development, information dissemination/awareness creation, and cultural engagement, learning and socialisation.

- **Glaucoma Community Sensitisation and Outreach Session**



54-56 Thurgarton Street, NG2 4AG, Nottingham

We delivered a community sensitisation and outreach sessions in partnership with the Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) Unit of Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust. The initiative aimed to strengthen community engagement in health research and increase awareness of glaucoma among individuals of African Community (AC) heritage, a population group known to be disproportionately affected by the condition.

Glaucoma is a chronic eye disease that damages the optic nerve, which connects the eye to the brain. It primarily affects peripheral (side) vision and often develops without noticeable symptoms in its early stages, making early detection difficult. The most common form is open-angle glaucoma, where the eye's drainage channels appear open but do not function effectively, leading to increased pressure that can gradually damage the optic nerve.

Management of glaucoma depends on the stage and severity of the disease. Treatment options may include medicated eye drops to reduce eye pressure, laser therapy for early-stage disease, or surgical intervention in more advanced cases. Continuous monitoring within hospital eye services is essential to assess whether the condition remains stable or is progressing.

A key focus of the outreach session was the importance of early diagnosis. Glaucoma is the second leading cause of severe visual impairment in the United Kingdom, yet much of the associated vision loss is preventable if the condition is detected and treated early. Late diagnosis remains the primary cause of irreversible blindness linked to glaucoma. During the

session, it was highlighted that more than half of people living with glaucoma are unaware they have the condition.

Evidence also indicates that glaucoma may develop at a younger age among individuals of African heritage and can progress more rapidly, increasing the risk of severe vision loss. In response, the session aimed to improve understanding of glaucoma within the community and encourage early engagement with screening and eye health services.

Specifically, the outreach initiative sought to:

- Identify potential barriers to accessing eye health services and glaucoma screening within African communities.
- Explore community perceptions regarding the delivery of screening services in accessible settings such as community centres, workplaces, and faith institutions.
- Encourage proactive engagement with eye health screening to support early detection and timely treatment.

The engagement was led by Professor Anthony King, Consultant Glaucoma Specialist Ophthalmologist, and delivered through an interactive audio-visual presentation. The presentation was followed by a structured question-and-answer segment, allowing participants to engage directly with the specialist, ask questions, and clarify common misconceptions about glaucoma and eye health.

Attendance and Participation

The session was attended by more than 30 adult men and women from the African Community. Participants demonstrated strong engagement throughout the event, contributing to discussions and completing research questionnaires designed to support ongoing studies. During the session, ten individuals also registered for glaucoma screening, reflecting increased awareness and willingness to access preventive services.

The event also provided an opportunity for attendees to seek advice and clarification on other eye health concerns and available screening services.

Feedback and Outcomes

Feedback from participants and healthcare professionals was overwhelmingly positive. Attendees particularly valued the opportunity to interact directly with medical specialists within a familiar and trusted community environment. This setting helped encourage open dialogue and increased confidence in accessing health services.

Several participants, particularly women in attendance, expressed interest in future health education sessions on topics such as menopause and wider wellbeing. The charity recognises

this expressed need and will explore opportunities to incorporate similar health-focused discussions into future community programmes.

Overall, the outreach session successfully strengthened collaboration between healthcare providers and the community, raised awareness of glaucoma risk within the African Community population, and supported recruitment for targeted research and screening initiatives. The event also reinforced the importance of community-based engagement in addressing health inequalities and improving access to preventive healthcare services.

- **Gambian Community Cultural Event**



Greenway Community Centre, Nottingham, NG2 4DF

The charity organised a community cultural event celebrating the heritage, traditions and diversity of the Gambian community at the Greenway Community Centre, Nottingham, NG2 4DF. The event formed part of the charity's broader commitment to promoting community cohesion, cultural awareness and social engagement among residents. It brought together individuals and families from across the community, providing an inclusive platform for cultural expression and interaction.

The event showcased a variety of traditional music and dance performances presented by different cultural groups within the community. These performances highlighted the richness of Gambian cultural traditions and created an engaging environment where participants could share and celebrate their heritage. The programme encouraged intergenerational participation and fostered a sense of unity among attendees.

A notable highlight of the event was the performance of the traditional masquerade known as 'Zimba'. The act featured a performer dressed in elaborate costume and mask, delivering rhythmic dance movements accompanied by expressive gestures and storytelling elements. The Zimba masquerade is an important cultural tradition that reflects historical narratives and communal values. Its inclusion in the event provided an opportunity for attendees, particularly younger members of the community, to experience and learn about this distinctive cultural practice. The performance was met with great enthusiasm and was widely appreciated by those present.

Food also played a central role in the event, contributing to the sense of togetherness and shared cultural identity. A variety of traditional Gambian dishes were prepared and served by volunteers and community members. Popular foods included jollof rice, meat pie, ebbeh, supa and fufu, which attracted many attendees eager to enjoy familiar flavours from their cultural heritage. The preparation and service of these meals reflected strong community collaboration, with volunteers working together to ensure that guests were warmly welcomed and well catered for.

In addition to the main dishes, a selection of traditional desserts and snacks was also made available. One of the most popular items was 'chakiri', which was enjoyed by many attendees throughout the event. The preparation of these treats involved contributions from several families within the community, many of whom shared recipes that have been passed down through generations. These culinary elements helped reinforce the cultural authenticity of the event and provided opportunities for participants to share stories and memories connected to their traditions.

The event also included interactive activities designed to enhance engagement and create a lively atmosphere. A 360-degree photo booth proved particularly popular with attendees of all ages. The photo booth allowed individuals and families to capture dynamic images and videos of their experience, which many later shared through social media and community networks. This activity added an element of creativity and enjoyment while helping participants document and remember the occasion.

Overall, the event was considered a great success and demonstrated the value of cultural gatherings in strengthening community relationships. The atmosphere throughout the day was characterised by music, laughter and a strong sense of community pride. Participants expressed appreciation for the opportunity to celebrate their heritage while connecting with others in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Feedback from attendees also helped identify opportunities for improvement in future events. The charity plans to secure a larger venue to better accommodate participants and provide additional seating. Consideration is also being given to expanding the range of food options available and introducing more activities for children and young people. Improvements to crowd coordination and venue layout will also be implemented to enhance accessibility and overall visitor experience.

Through initiatives such as this cultural event, the charity continues to promote community cohesion, cultural appreciation and meaningful engagement among diverse members of the community.

- **A Day of Unity and Triumph: The Community Fundraising Football Event**



Forest Sports Zone, Gregory Boulevard, Hyson Green, NG7 6LD, Nottingham

The charity's annual fundraising football event was a resounding success in the year under review, showcasing the community's spirit and dedication. Held on a sunny Saturday, the event brought together people from all walks of life to support a worthy cause while celebrating multiculturalism and sportsmanship.

One of the standout features of the day was the incredible diversity of food choices. Stalls lined the perimeter, offering a tantalizing array of Gambian delicacies and international favourites. From savoury snacks such as meat pies and spring rolls, to spicy 'benachin' and fresh desserts, there was something to satisfy every palate. This culinary diversity reflected the multicultural nature of the community, with people from different backgrounds coming together to share their love for food and support the cause.

The event was a melting pot of communities, with families, friends, and individuals from various ethnic and cultural backgrounds uniting in a shared purpose. The atmosphere was electric, with laughter, music, and the vibrant colours of traditional Gambian attire filling the air. It was heartening to see people from different generations and backgrounds interacting, fostering a sense of belonging and strengthening community bonds. The football teams displayed tremendous effort and sportsmanship throughout the day. Players showcased their skills and passion for the game, entertaining the crowds with thrilling matches and impressive displays of teamwork. The dedication and commitment of the teams were evident, as they battled it out on the field to raise funds and awareness for the cause.

Children were not left out of the fun, with a range of activities organized to keep them entertained. From face painting and arts to mini-sports and games, there was plenty to keep the little ones engaged and happy. The children's activities added an extra layer of joy to the event, making it a truly family-friendly occasion.

The presence of the National Health Service (NHS) was a welcome addition to the event. Representatives from the NHS were on hand to provide information and advice on health-related issues, conduct basic health checks, and answer questions from the public. This initiative was particularly valuable, as it raised awareness about important health topics and provided community members with access to essential healthcare resources.

Overall, the Gambian fundraising football event was a resounding success. It not only raised a significant amount of money for a worthy cause but also brought together a diverse community in a celebration of unity, culture, and sportsmanship. The event's success is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the organizers, volunteers, and participants who came together to make a positive impact.

- **Relief and Humanitarian Support Services**

Providing relief and humanitarian assistance remains a central objective of the charity's work. In response to the evolving needs of our service users, the organisation continues to adapt the scope and nature of its support to address emerging challenges. Increasing financial pressures, housing insecurity, and unexpected immigration-related costs have created significant hardship for vulnerable members of the community. As a result, the charity has strengthened its efforts to provide practical assistance aimed at preventing destitution and supporting individuals facing acute financial or social difficulties.

Our centre remains attentive to changing behavioural patterns among service users and actively encourages supportive conversations that allow individuals to share concerns and seek assistance when needed. Where cases of vulnerability are identified—either through direct requests for help or through observations by leadership and volunteers—appropriate interventions are initiated to ensure individuals receive timely and appropriate support.

These interventions take several forms. In some cases, we coordinate community appeals to mobilise support for individuals facing urgent financial hardship. The organisation also provides targeted signposting and referrals to relevant charities, housing services, and benefactor organisations, particularly for individuals at risk of homelessness. Additional support includes guidance with means-testing processes and assistance with applications for immigration fee waivers, helping individuals manage unexpected financial obligations associated with immigration processes.

In addition to these activities, the charity continues to facilitate the collection and distribution of *Zakatul Fitr* during the holy month of Ramadan. Funds collected through this charitable contribution are distributed directly to individuals and families within the community who are experiencing financial hardship, ensuring that those most in need receive timely support.

Through these initiatives, Gambian Community in Nottinghamshire remains committed to providing compassionate and responsive humanitarian assistance, while working closely with community members and partner organisations to ensure that vulnerable individuals receive the support and guidance they need during times of difficulty.

- **Eid Outdoor Congregation Service**



Unit B1, Bar Lane Industrial Estate, Bar Ln, Nottingham NG6 0JA

In keeping with the Prophetic tradition of holding Eid prayers in a large open communal setting, the charity facilitates access to a sports hall within a local industrial complex to host the congregational prayers for Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha.

The venue welcomes worshippers from across the city of Nottingham and its surrounding suburbs, creating a shared space where the wider Muslim community can come together to mark these important occasions. Each year, the gathering brings together families, elders, and young people in a spirit of unity, reflection, and celebration.

Beyond the prayer itself, the event offers a valuable opportunity for younger generations to experience and learn community values in practice—respect, generosity, and togetherness. The atmosphere of meeting and greeting, exchanging warm wishes, and sharing gifts with children reflects the cherished traditions historically associated with open Eid gatherings.

Through this service, the charity helps preserve the communal spirit of Eid, strengthening bonds across the community while ensuring that these traditions continue to be experienced and passed on to future generations.

- **Property Acquisition and Fundraising**

During the reporting period, the charity achieved a significant milestone by making a successful bid to Nottingham City Council for the purchase of the former St Ann's Play Centre, which is intended to serve as the organisation's permanent base and community engagement centre. This development represents an important and exciting step forward in the charity's growth and long-term sustainability.

Securing this property will support the realisation of one of the charity's core strategic objectives: establishing a dedicated community space that can host a wide range of social, educational, cultural, and faith-based activities. In addition to expanding programme delivery

and community access, ownership of the property will reduce the organisation's recurring operational costs by eliminating the rental expenses currently associated with hired premises.

To facilitate the acquisition, the Trustees have been actively engaging with relevant stakeholders, including financial institutions, to arrange an appropriate loan facility to support the purchase. These discussions remain ongoing and form part of the organisation's wider financial planning and sustainability strategy.

The development has been warmly received by service users and the wider community. This support has been reflected in a notable increase in charitable giving, including personal donations through standing orders, direct cash contributions, and a range of community-led fundraising activities. Volunteers and supporters have played a particularly important role in this effort, organising small-scale fundraising initiatives such as pastry and cake sales to help contribute towards the charity's long-term vision.

In addition, the charity has strengthened its partnership with Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust. Through this collaboration, the organisation secured a valuable sponsorship package that enabled the purchase of essential equipment to support training activities and community engagement programmes at the centre.

The charity was also successful in attracting new external funding support from APS International Ltd for its communal Iftar initiative. This programme, which brings community members together during the month of Ramadan, had previously relied largely on individual donations and acts of personal generosity. The new funding support has helped strengthen the sustainability of this important community activity.

Overall, these developments represent a major step forward in strengthening the organisation's infrastructure, expanding its partnerships, and enhancing its capacity to deliver meaningful services to the community.

Amad's Story

Amad, a man in his 50s, had long been a familiar and valued member of our community. A hardworking individual, he regularly attended daily prayers at the centre. As his family lives overseas, he would periodically travel to spend extended periods with them in Chad, usually maintaining his tenancy in the UK to ensure he had a home to return to.

After returning from one such trip, members of the community noticed changes in Amad's energy levels and overall demeanour. He began attending every daily prayer at the centre, suggesting he was no longer working. He also spent extended periods in the prayer hall, often remaining long after the final prayer of the day engaged in additional prayers. Each night he would be the last person to leave, even asking one of the designated key holders if he could lock up the centre himself.

Over time, we discovered the reason: Amad had been sleeping at the centre because he had become homeless.

In a conversation with our team, Amad explained that after returning to the UK he had been unable to resume work due to illness. He later shared medical evidence confirming that he had been diagnosed with prostate cancer and was undergoing chemotherapy, which had taken a significant physical toll on him. Without the ability to work, he had lost his accommodation.

Our team stepped in to support him. We helped Amad register for Universal Credit and apply for housing support, guiding him through the process and providing the necessary signposting. We also issued a letter confirming that he had been sleeping at the centre during specific dates, enabling him to provide the address history required for his application.

As a result of this support, Amad was successfully granted accommodation and now lives in a safe and suitable place that allows him to focus on his recovery.

Sometime later, Amad returned to the centre with a small donation of £10. Handing it over, he said:

"You gave me compassion and care, and you helped me keep my dignity."

For us, Amad's story is a powerful reminder of the importance of community, compassion, and timely support for those facing unexpected hardship.

Sponsors and Partners:



Charity Registration Number : 1208273

THE GAMBIAN COMMUNITY NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MAY 2025

THE GAMBIAN COMMUNITY NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

Trustee	Mr Baba Njie, Mr. Tijan Janneh, Mr Abdoulie Jah, Mr. Edirisa Touray
Charity Number	1189304
Registered Office	Gambian Community Center 56-58 Thurgaton Street, Sneinton, Nottingham NG2 4AG
Independent Examiner	Jomma Financial Ltd 4 Easegill Court Top Valley Nottingham NG5 9LU

THE GAMBIAN COMMUNITY NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

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THE GAMBIAN COMMUNITY NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of **The Gambian Community Nottinghamshire** for the year ended **31 May 2025**.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the **Charities Act 2011**.

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the **Charities Act 2011**. In carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities Act 2011, 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.

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.

Name: Lamin Fatty
for and on behalf of Jomma Financial Ltd
Date: 30TH March 2026

THE GAMBIAN COMMUNITY NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

Recommended categories by activity	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Income and endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	2	32,333.00	32,333.00
Total		32,333.00	32,333.00
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	3	00.00	00.00
Charitable activities	4	42,690.00	42,690.00
Other	5	00.00	00.00
Total		42,690.00	42,690.00
Net income/(expenditure)		(10,357.00)	(10,357.00)
Net movement in funds		(10,357.00)	(10,357.00)
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward		100,321.00	100,321.00
Total funds carried forward		89,964.00	89,964.00

THE GAMBIAN COMMUNITY NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

BALANCE SHEET

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

Recommended categories by activity	Notes	Total Funds 2025 £
Funds of the Charity		
Unrestricted funds	6	89,964.00
Restricted income funds	6	00.00
Endowment funds	6	00.00
Total funds		89,964.00

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 30th March 2026 and signed on its behalf by:



Edirisa Touray
Secretary

Date : 30th March 2026

THE GAMBIAN COMMUNITY NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted by the Charity, which is a public benefit entity, in the preparation of the accounts are as follows.

1.1 Basis of preparation

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the inclusion of charitable properties and fixed asset investments and investment properties at valuation.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with "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) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

These accounts are presented in pounds sterling and rounded to the nearest pound.

1.2 Going concern

The Trustees have prepared financial projections, taking into consideration the current economic conditions and have, at the time of approving these accounts, a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

2. Income from Donations and Legacies

Analysis	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds 2025 £
General grants provided by Government/other charities	32,333.00	32,333.00
Legacies	00.00	00.00
	32,333.00	32,333.00

3. Expenditure on Raising Funds

Analysis	Total funds 2025 £
Fundraising activities	00.00
	00.00

4. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

Analysis	Total funds 2025 £
Bank charges	00.00
Charity management & administration	00.00
Charity running cost	42,690.00
Cost of services	00.00
Legal/professional fees	00.00
	42,690.00

5. Other Expenditure

Analysis	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds 2025 £
Other Expenditure	00.00	00.00
	00.00	00.00

6. Charity funds

6.1 Details of material funds held and movements during the CURRENT reporting period

Fund names	Fund balances brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Fund balances carried forward £
Unrestricted funds	100,321.00	32,333.00	42,690.00	00.00	00.00	89,964.00
Total	100,321.00	32,333.00	42,690.00	00.00	00.00	89,964.00

6.2 Transfers between funds

This Year

	Amount £
Between unrestricted and restricted funds	00.00
Between endowment and restricted funds	00.00
Between endowment and unrestricted funds	00.00

Charity Registration Number : 1208273

THE GAMBIAN COMMUNITY NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MAY 2025

THE GAMBIAN COMMUNITY NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

Trustee	Mr Baba Njie, Mr. Tijan Janneh, Mr Abdoulie Jah, Mr. Edirisa Touray
Charity Number	1189304
Registered Office	Gambian Community Center 56-58 Thurgaton Street, Sneinton, Nottingham NG2 4AG
Independent Examiner	Jomma Financial Ltd 4 Easegill Court Top Valley Nottingham NG5 9LU

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

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THE GAMBIAN COMMUNITY NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of **The Gambian Community Nottinghamshire** for the year ended **31 May 2025**.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in **accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011**.

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section **145 of the Charities Act 2011**. **In carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.**

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities Act 2011, 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.

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.

Name: Lamin Fatty
for and on behalf of Jomma Financial Ltd
Date: 30TH March 2026