

**STEPNEY COMMUNITY TRUST**  
**(A Registered Charity and Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Directors' Report and Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

**STEPNEY COMMUNITY TRUST****Contents**

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## STEPNEY COMMUNITY TRUST

### COMPANY INFORMATION

Directors: Bodrul Alom  
Muktar Hussain (Deceased)  
Ahmed Hassan  
Mohammed Abdul Malik  
Mohammed Enam Uddin  
Mrs Rafia Khan  
Ms Aameena Begum

Secretary: Bodrul Alom

Registered Office: 46 Myrdle Street  
London E1 1HL

Business Address: 46 Myrdle Street  
London E1 1HL

Company Registration Number: 2036918

Charity Registration Number: 297771

Bankers: National Westminster Bank PLC  
Whitechapel Road (B) Branch  
Black Lion House  
45 Whitechapel Road  
London  
E1 1DU

Independent Examiner: Muhit & Co  
Chartered Certified Accountants & Tax Advisers  
Unit 4  
80A Ashfield Street  
London  
E1 2BJ

## **STEPNEY COMMUNITY TRUST**

### **Directors/Trustee's Report**

For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023.

STEPNEY COMMUNITY TRUST is a grassroots community organisation. It operates in areas with high levels of poverty and deprivation, surrounded by prosperity and affluence. Over several decades the Trust has supported deprived and disadvantaged communities in Stepney and surrounding areas of East London.

Through grassroots activities, it has developed good expertise in accessing and supporting hard-to-reach people and providing them with much-needed activities/services in a culturally sensitive way. These include vocational training courses designed to inspire, motivate and up-skill disadvantaged people to go forward in life.

#### **Structure, Governance and Management**

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 of the accounts and comply with the governing rule and applicable law.

#### **Governing document**

The charity was originally founded in 1982. It was registered as a company limited by guarantee in July 1986 (2036918) and as a charity in October 1987 (297771).

#### **How the Trust was Founded**

Stepney Community Trust (formerly St Mary's Centre) was founded in 1982 by Soyful Alom, who was involved with the organisation, directly and indirectly, until 2010.

#### **Appointment of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees has the power to appoint additional Trustees or remove Trustees as it considers fit.

#### **Appointment of Directors**

The Board of Directors has the power to appoint additional or remove directors as it considers fit.

The Trustees and Directors in office in the year are set out on page 2. The Trustees and Directors have no beneficial interest in the organisation other than as members.

#### **Trustees**

Mohammed Abdul Malik, Bodrul Alom, Muktar Hussain (died in November 2022), Mohammed Enam Uddin, Hassan Ahmed, Mrs Rafia Khan and Ms Aameena Begum.

#### **Directors**

Abdul Malik, Bodrul Alom, Muktar Hussain (Died in November 2022), Enam Uddin, Hassan Ahmed and Mrs Rafia Khan and Ms Aameena Begum.

## **STEPNEY COMMUNITY TRUST**

### **Company Secretary**

Bodrul Alom

### **Organisation**

The Trustees/Directors meet regularly to manage the affairs of the charity. The day-to-day running of the charity is the responsibility of the Secretary, who oversees staff and volunteers and reports directly to the Board of Trustees.

### **Staff and Volunteers**

Dr Muhammad Ahmedullah, Shamili Hoque, Rafia Khatun, Hawarun Nessa, Shabnam Khan, Rukshana Khanam, Sultana Begum, Salma Begum, Hayat Attusi and Muhammed Azizi.

### **Volunteers**

All our volunteers dedicate at least six hours or more a week of their time. They are there to support the charity's various activities and gain new skills and experiences to enhance their employment prospects.

### **Public benefit Statement**

The Trustees and Directors consider that they have complied with Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 concerning the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission.

### **Objectives and Activities**

STEPNEY COMMUNITY TRUST is a grassroots community organisation that aims:

"To enhance and improve the area's social welfare; educational, employment and economic prospects; living environment; and enabling residents to access opportunities for development and improving their physical and mental health and the quality of life in general".

### **What the Trust offers to the community**

Due to the pandemic and lockdowns in recent years, the Trust, as a voluntary and charity sector organisation, has experienced increasing difficulties in fundraising. In such a difficult time, the Trust found itself limited by what it could offer to address the changing needs of the local community. However, despite the socio-economic and financial constraints, it has worked very hard to deliver the following projects during the last financial year.

#### **Life Skills Project**

SCT has developed and delivered this exciting 'Life Skills Project', and its activities included ESOL, ICT and Job search. It also included opportunities for local people to overcome social isolation by attending weekly tea mornings, promoting community cohesion and developing social skills and self-confidence.

#### **Urban Garden Project**

The food growing project was aimed at local women and managed by volunteers. In the urban garden in the backyard of the Trust's building, local women created a miniature ecosystem with raised beds, a small herb area, peach and pear trees,

## STEPNEY COMMUNITY TRUST

smaller plants on square and rectangular boxes and Comfrey to generate plant food. The space was divided into small sections and allocated to local women that joined the project. They learnt about sowing and how to look after, grow and harvest organic food, gaining theoretical and practical knowledge. The women were divided into groups of three and allocated spaces. They grew vegetables and herbs and organised a harvest celebration by cooking and eating together with the wider local community.

### **Heritage Project - Home Machinists (Seamstresses) (2019-2022)**

This initiative, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, sought to record, document and share the experience of Bangladesh seamstresses working from home from 1970-2000. Nineteen community participants were recruited, and they were provided with oral history and research methodology training and practical support in carrying out the interviews. Unfortunately, due to the Covid Pandemic, the project faced significant challenges and experienced delays. However, we have managed to interview thirty-six individuals, primarily women seamstresses of the past, and organised a project completion celebration in May 2022 at the Rich Mix Centre. The celebration event included an exhibition and a theatrical performance based on the experiences of Bangladeshi women seamstresses based on the interviews.

A book with transcribed interviews and research carried out by thirteen project participants who completed the project was also part of the project. But, unfortunately, it needed a bit longer to complete. The book called 'I sewed, I sewed and I sewed' was completed in October 2022 and was launched with the exhibition and several public discussion sessions at the Rich Mix Centre. Subsequently, the Trust organised several author events with the exhibition in several venues in Tower Hamlets. The demand for the book has been quite high, and most of the five hundred copies printed have been distributed.

### **Sewing Project**

This has been a very popular project offering creative activities for local women. The local women who joined have widely utilised the project activities to get involved in socialising and mutual peer support, making things for themselves to wear and utilise at home. As stated previously, this project has been the source of one of the most popular and widely used activities by local women at the Trust.

### **Health Project (Healthy in Mind and Body)**

Following the pandemic and lockdowns, social isolation and mental health issues affect almost everyone in every location in the country. Likewise, local people are no exception to this unexpected experience and suffering. The charity widened its scope by organising segregated mental health activities for men and women living there to promote good mental and physical health. These activities were initially difficult to arrange but eventually became extremely popular with the local residents.

### **Future Projects**

For the last two quarters, the Trustees, Staff and Volunteers were engaged in consultation with local residents and users to develop two projects. 'English for Life' and 'English for All' was designed to provide a new way of ESOL training based on flexible learning approaches combined with social and health activities to promote "connections, learning together and volunteering". Also, we gathered information in

## STEPNEY COMMUNITY TRUST

developing a heritage project on jute, the golden fibre of Bengal, and submitted and application for funding to the National Lottery Heritage Fund in January 2023. We are currently exploring potential funding for these and other projects that we have been working to develop.

### **Achievement and Performance**

During the past twelve months, in addition to our regular programmes, we have successfully organised and facilitated some unforgettable activities and events, including day trips for women users of the project, celebration and conclusion events of the Seamstresses Project, Christmas and New Year party and Eid Re-unions Party.

### **Small Company Provisions**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Signed on behalf of the Board: *A. Malik*

M A Malik (Director/Acting Chair of Trustees)

Approved by the Board on *18<sup>th</sup>* June 2023

## **STEPNEY COMMUNITY TRUST**

### **Independent Examiner's Report to the Directors for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

The financial statements laid out in this report on pages 7 have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the SORP, Accounting and Reporting by Charities Commission issued in April 2005 and applicable Accounting Standards and the Charities Act 1993.

### **Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees/Directors and the Examiner**

As the Charity's Trustees, and the directors of the company for the purpose of Company Law you are responsible for the preparation of the Financial Statements. The Trustees consider that an Audit is not required for this year (under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011) and that an Independent Examiner is needed.

It is our responsibility to:

- Examine the Financial Statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act.
- Follow the procedure laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act and
- State whether particular matters have come to our attention.

### **Basis of Independent Examiners' Report**

The examination of the accounts was carried out in accordance with the general direction given by the Charities Commissioner. The examination includes:

- A review of the accounting records kept by the Charity.
- A comparison of the accounts presented with those records made available.
- It includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts.

Finally obtaining explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters relating to the accounts. The examination also includes examination of any such matters of evidence relevant to the account of disclosures in the financial statements. It includes assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances consistently applied and adequately disclosed. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### **Independent Examiners' Statement**

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

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

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities.
- have not been met; or



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

**Opinion**

In our opinion the financial statement prepared give a true and fair view of the charity's state of affairs as at 31 March 2023 giving that the incoming resources and their application in the year then ended have been properly prepared with general direction given by the Charities Commissioner.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Muhit & Co', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

**Muhit & Co**

**Chartered Certified Accountants & Tax Advisers**

18<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**STEPNEY COMMUNITY TRUST**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

	Notes	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE</b>					
<b>Incoming Resources</b>					
Grants and Donations	2	0	55,887	55,887	55,988
Bank Interest			132	132	41
Other Income (HMRC JRS)		-	0	-	7,020
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>		<u>0</u>	<u>56,019</u>	<u>56,019</u>	<u>63,049</u>
<b>Resources Expended</b>					
Direct Charitable Expenditure			15,203	15,203	20,562
Governance Cost			37,245	37,245	48,360
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>		<u>0</u>	<u>52,448</u>	<u>52,448</u>	<u>68,922</u>
Net Incoming Resources for the year		0	3,571	3,571	(5,873)
Funds at 1 April 2022		<u>23,567</u>	<u>31,002</u>	<u>54,569</u>	<u>60,442</u>
<b>Funds at 31 March 2023</b>		<u>23,567</u>	<u>34,573</u>	<u>58,140</u>	<u>54,569</u>

The notes on pages 11 to 13 form part of these accounts.

**STEPNEY COMMUNITY TRUST**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**as at 31 March 2023**

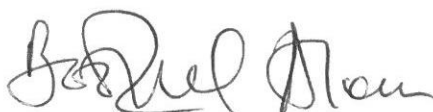
	Notes		Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Tangible Assets			<u>95,503</u>	<u>97,896</u>
<b>Current assets</b>				
Cash at Bank and in Hand			47,292	42,892
Debtors			2,742	2,528
			<u>50,034</u>	<u>45,420</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6		(3,837)	(6,320)
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>46,197</u>	<u>39,100</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>141,700</u>	<u>136,996</u>
<b>Net assets</b>			<u>141,700</u>	<u>136,996</u>
<b>Net assets</b>				
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>	7			
Restricted Fund			23,567	23,567
Unrestricted Fund			34,573	31,002
Capital Reserve			83,560	82,427
<b>Total Funds</b>			<u>141,700</u>	<u>136,996</u>


These accounts have been prepared in accordance with special provisions relating to small companies within part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

For the year ended 31 March 2023, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and no notice has been deposited under section 476.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and preparation of accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the Board on May 2023 and signed by:

  
**BODRUL ALOM**  
 Secretary

  
**M A MALIK**  
 Director/ Acting Chair

**STEPNEY COMMUNITY TRUST**  
**Notes to the Statement of Financial Activities**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

**1 Accounting policies**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities. They have also been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act, 1993 and comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting by Charities' (issued on January 2015).

**Capitalisation and depreciation of tangible fixed assets:**

All assets costing more than £1,000 are capitalised. The cost of tangible fixed assets is written-off by equal installments over the expected useful lives as follows:

Freehold property (40% on cost)	2% straight line basis
Furniture, fittings and equipment	25% reducing balance method

**Grants Received for Freehold Property**

It has been treated as a reserve and 2% of the grant per year is transferred to revenue account.

Capital reserve is against the freehold property of the charity.

**Fund accounting**

**Unrestricted funds**

Consists of general funds which the centre may use for its purpose at its discretion.

**Restricted funds**

Are those where the donor has imposed restrictions on the use of the funds which are legally binding.

**Incoming Resources**

Income only recognised where there is entitlement for the period.

Funds at 1 April 2021

**2 Resources Expended**

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred.

A clause in the agreement relating to the capital grant awarded by the Greater London Council in respect of the acquisition of the freehold property at 46 Myrdle Street, London E1 1HL states that if the property is sold within 30 years of the date of acquisition, a reimbursement of the of the part of the grant will become due and a charge has been recorded on the property.

**3 Staff Costs**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net Salaries	14,773	14,773
PAYE and NIC	175	175
Student Loan	0	0
Pension	353	353
	<u>15,301</u>	<u>15,301</u>

**4 Debtors**

Trade debtors		0
Other debtors	2,528	2,528
	<u>2,528</u>	<u>2,528</u>

**5 Creditors**

Amount falling due within one year		
Provision for capital expenses ( Rent received)	3,485	3,485
Deffered income	0	0
Other creditors	352	2,835
	<u>3,837</u>	<u>6,320</u>

**STEPNEY COMMUNITY TRUST**  
**Notes to the Statement of Financial Activities**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

<b>6 Tangible Assets</b>	<b>Freehold Property</b>	<b>Fixtures, fittings &amp; equipment</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 April 2022	109,320	65,174	174,494
Addition			0
At 31 March 2023	<u>109,320</u>	<u>65,174</u>	<u>174,494</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 April 2022	20,997	55,601	76,598
Charges for the year	0	2,393	2,393
At 31 March 2023	<u>20,997</u>	<u>57,994</u>	<u>78,991</u>
<b>Net Book Value</b>			
At 31 March 2023	<u>88,323</u>	<u>7,180</u>	<u>95,503</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>88,323</u>	<u>9,573</u>	<u>97,896</u>

**7 Going Concern**

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis with the expectation that the company would be able to obtain sufficient grants to continue its activities in the future.

**8 Operative Income**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
The operating income is stated after charging:		
Depreciation	2,393	3,191
&		
After Crediting		
Bank interest received	132	42

**9 Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds**

	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Tangible Assets		95,503	95,503
Current Assets		50,034	50,034
Current Liabilities		-3,837	-3,837
Balance at 31 March 2023	<u>0</u>	<u>141,700</u>	<u>141,700</u>

**10 Movement of Funds**

	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
At 1 April 2022	23,567	31,002	54,569
Incoming Resources	0	56,019	56,019
Outgoing Resources	-	(52,448)	(52,448)
At 31 March 2023	<u>23,567</u>	<u>34,573</u>	<u>58,140</u>

**STEPNEY COMMUNITY TRUST**  
**Notes to the Statement of Financial Activities**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Grants/Donations</b>			<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
The National Lottery Heritage Fund		5,530	5,530	0
The National Lottery Community Fund (A4A)	0	9,640	9,640	9,892
Postcode Society Trust	0	0	0	19,526
East End Community Foundation		9,856	9,856	2,931
Hall Hire	0	1,100	1,100	1,200
Paddington Development Trust	0	0	0	3,939
The Childwick Trust	0	1,500	1,500	0
London Catalyst		3,000	3,000	
The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust		3,000	3,000	
The Merchant Taylors' Foundation		4,960	4,960	
The Worshipful Company of Basketmakers'		2,000	2,000	
Wakefield and Tetley Trust		3,501	3,501	
Training and Evaluation (Contract)	0	0	0	6,840
Rental	0	10,200	10,200	10,200
Donation		810	810	800
Users' Contribution		80	80	120
Other/Copier	0	710	710	540
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>55,887</b>	<b>55,887</b>	<b>55,988</b>
 HMRC JRS GRANT		0	0	7,020
Bank Interest Received		132	132	41
	<b>-</b>	<b>56,019</b>	<b>56,019</b>	<b>63,049</b>
 <b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
<b>Direct Charitable Expenditure</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
			<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Salaries and Employer's NIC		8,264	8,264	15,084
Volunteers' Expenses	-	2,553	2,553	979
Hall Hire	-	342	342	1,320
Project Development		6,850	6,850	3,286
Programme and Activities		6,546	6,546	2,271
LB Tower Hamlets- Council tax		3,237	3,237	
Books and Literatures	-	8	8	25
Other legal and professional	-	-	-	6,548
Water Rates	-	543	543	1,014
Light and Heat		1,732	1,732	2,463
Telephone and Internet		592	592	631
Printing, Postage & Stationery		5,409	5,409	1,120
Repairs and Maintenance		6,871	6,871	3,609
Insurance and Licensing		1,598	1,598	1,342
Cleaning	-	1,461	1,461	193
Training- Staff and Management		631	631	4,785
Accountancy and Book Keeping		900	900	720
Travelling	-	450	450	430
Administrative and Development Expenses	-	1,562	1,562	1,038
Grant Returned to City of London/ CBT		-	-	17,276
Pension		46	46	341
Website Management		234	234	53
General Expenses		226	226	1,203
Depreciation	-	2,393	2,393	3,191
	<b>-</b>	<b>52,448</b>	<b>52,448</b>	<b>68,922</b>
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,571</b>	<b>3,571</b>	<b>(5,873)</b>