



# Annual Report 2022

Walsall Black Sisters Collective



## Introduction

**Walsall BSC** is a registered charity that was established in July 1986 by a group of young Black women from Walsall. The group met to discuss the racial disparities that affected the Black Community; identify areas that were of concern and how they can help to address the inequality that existed at the time.

From their initial meeting they continued to meet regularly and out of this was formed the “Walsall Black Sisters Collective”. In the early years the group worked to highlight specific discriminations experienced by Black Women. The organisation grew and its aims and objectives became specific around education, training, welfare, self- help and child provision.

Our main aim is to provide a community-based provision for BME and the wider community within the borough of Walsall. Having been established for over 35 years now, we have a proven track record and play an integral role in meeting the health and social needs of local people; ensuring that services are appropriate and sensitive to meet their identified needs.

We work in partnership with statutory agencies and other voluntary organisations; ensuring that the services we provide demonstrate equality and that cultural needs are being met.

We are an organisation that is led by the community for the community. We advocate and ensure that local people are directly involved in the decision-making processes that affects their lives.

### U.S.P.

WBSC provides community activities to empower and develop deprived BME communities from various ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds in Walsall; addressing inequality and bringing long-lasting change to encourage community cohesion, cultural respect and a diverse community we can all be proud of.

### Our Vision

**A Walsall that values diversity, is caring, supporting and addresses the needs of communities**

### Mission Statement

To successfully provide an open quality service to the wider community of Walsall, enabling a better quality of life.



## CHAIR – Wendy Angus-Bovell

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, I am Wendy Angus-Bovell and was elected as Chair at our previous AGM in April 2021. It is an honour and privilege to be part of Walsall Black Sisters Collective (WBSC). I am continually impressed and amazed by the invaluable work we do for some of the most disadvantaged, vulnerable and marginalised individuals and communities in Walsall. I am in awe of our creativity, resilience, flexibility, adaptability and robustness, in delivering our services, aims and objectives. This has been tested to the extreme over the past eighteen months with some of the challenges we have had to manage such as the impact of the Pandemic, risks to funding, the loss of several of our much-loved service users and now the threat of the economic crisis nationally.

It cannot be overstated how difficult it was for WBSC and all those involved with us, during the Pandemic and the months of lock down. This period was challenging in ways we have never experienced before. Like many other organisations, we had no blueprint to guide us through this period. However, due to the brilliance of our committed staff and CEO, we were able to very quickly adapt our services to meet the new and complex presenting needs. We were able to deliver food parcels, provide telephone outreach and befriending support to our most vulnerable service users and the wider Walsall area throughout the Pandemic. In many cases, this was the only human contact some individuals received and it helped hugely in reducing feelings of anxiety, loneliness and isolation.

As we come out the other side of Covid, we are rebuilding our services, however, it has also given us an opportunity to review what our service offer will be going forward. Whilst our current services will remain at the core of our activity, such as our Elderly Persons Day Service, After School Club, Befriending, Counselling support for example, we are now able to explore new opportunities and options for growth to achieve our strategic objectives. We have an ambitious and exciting Vision for the future and are in the process of creating our Business Strategy and Plan for where we want to be in the next 3-5 years and how we will get there. As part of this, we will be changing our legal organisational status, which will allow us to become more self-financing, we are also looking at new business development opportunities that will help us to generate income and enable us to extend our range and reach of service provision.

Therefore, whilst there remain challenges ahead, there are opportunities and new possibilities for us to take advantage of too. All of this is supported by the longevity of WBSC, we celebrated our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a Gala Ball in March 2022. It was a much-anticipated event having been delayed for nearly a year due to Covid. It was a spectacular evening and a fitting tribute to WBSC for its resilience and ability to survive and still be relevant after this length of time. None of this would have been possible without our very loyal, committed and hardworking staff team, under the leadership of

our incredible CEO Maureen Lewis. I would thus like to say a heartfelt thank you to all our staff and volunteers on behalf of the Board, we appreciate all you do for WBSC. I would also like to thank our Funders and strategic partners for their on-going support, co-working and allegiance, that has helped us to remain the trusted, credible, respected and relevant organisation that we are locally.

We have a huge agenda over the next 12 months for us to achieve our strategic ambitions, aims and objectives. However, I am extremely optimistic and confident that we will continue to be successful in the delivery of our services, and that we also have the energy, motivation, experience and ability to take WBSC to the next level of its evolving journey.



“Making a

Walsall”

difference in

## CEO – Maureen Lewis



We have certainly had a busy year, with more work than ever before. Thanks to our staff team who have worked over and over to respond to the needs of service users.

We have forged great partnerships, which has enabled us to engage with new and more needy user.

WBSC has been highly recognised for the work we have done, especially during the pandemic, and is still being recognised as a trusted organisation that delivers to make a difference to the lives of local residence.

The work of WBSO have spoken for itself and have been recognised, locally and regionally through the number of nominations of awards, one being the MBCC Community Award, and the BBC WM Make a Difference Community Award.

## Future Planning

We have survived Covid-19 and is now on the road map of recovery, so it is important that the organisation strengthens itself, and establish ways in which the charity is sustained for the long-term. That we are financial sustainable, we work strategically, and what we do relates to what is happening in the borough of Walsall and the surrounding areas.

To that aim we are now putting together our Development and Sustainability Plan as well as to transition from a charity to a Community Interest Organisation (CIO) which would also give us greater fund-raising potential.

Services & Activities delivered:



## Spotlight on our Vulnerable Adults Project

WBSC's vulnerable adults' projects addressing issues that impact on the health, social care and mental well-being of residents

The Be A Friend Project focuses on the long-term effects of COVID-19 as the country moved out the restrictions and into recovery. It provides an even greater emphasis on getting people through the effects of the pandemic, supporting recovery activities to re-engage communities.



### 1. Addressing Loneliness & Isolation

Everyone needs social connections to survive and thrive and being alone may leave older adults become more vulnerable to loneliness and isolation, which can affect their health and wellbeing. And statistically older adults are at higher risk for social isolation and loneliness due to changes in health and social connections that comes with growing older.

#### 1.1: Day Centre

To address these concerns our Tree of Life Day care provides a vibrant and holistic support for older adults who are lonely and isolated. We provide a pickup and drop off service to enable older adults to access our service and engage in activities such as art and craft, games & quizzes, trips and outings, bingo, chair and stand-up exercise, celebration events and lots more. We provide a hot nutritious meal freshly cooked on site and for some people this is the only hot nutritious meal they have in a week.



The day care has all relevant policies/procedures and is more structured to the needs of service users, staff and volunteers. During the pandemic some of our members passed away which caused a reduction in membership and due to more publication via the media our membership is being to increase.



#### 1.2: Befriending

Our befriending service provides face to face and telephone befriending service to lonely and isolated older adults within their homes, hospitals, and residential settings. The demand for befriending has increased

greatly and we are receiving more and more referrals from local authority, voluntary and community organisations, and we face the challenge of keeping up with the high demand.

Currently we have three paid befrienders who provide 20 hours of face-to-face befriending visits per week, this also included telephone calls. Our Support worker is also providing weekly befriending calls. In total there are 85 individuals receiving befriending support.

Befrienders provides companionship and stimulating conversation, and in some cases, this could be the only contact a person has. Our befriending support service helps to improve connections to the local community and wider social networks and is an opportunity in making a valued and valuable contribution to people's lives.

### **1.3: Engagement Partnerships**

We are proactive in planning activities which re-engage the community in social activities. This is demonstrated by building authentic connections with community groups and organisations such as Health Watch, Bloxwich Community Partnerships, Manor Farm Association, Ahmadiyya Muslim Association, Walsall Council, One You Walsall, WHG, Accord Housing, Nehemiah Court and many more. As partner organisations we can recognise and communicate the needs and interest of all communities and work together on joint initiatives to encourage re-engagement of communities.



## **2. Addressing Mental Well-being**

### **2.1: Well-being Activities**

We are addressing mental health through the provision of our Mental Wellbeing Project which encompass coffee mornings, walking for health, mental awareness sessions, health and nutrition, exercise sessions, and counselling. These initiatives are mainly accessed by women from varied ages and culture; however, men are not excluded.

Our Mental Wellbeing project enables women with mental health to come together and forge new friendships and gain knowledge about other cultures and norms. It also helps to build the confidence of women where they can support each other and develop better coping mechanisms to tackle issues in their life.



## 2.2: Counselling Service

We supported many vulnerable people who have experienced trauma, domestic violence, low self-esteem and lack of confidence through counselling/therapeutic sessions. To date we have helped 79 people who needed an outlet to clear their minds.

We have had positive feedback from clients on how much our counselling service has helped them.



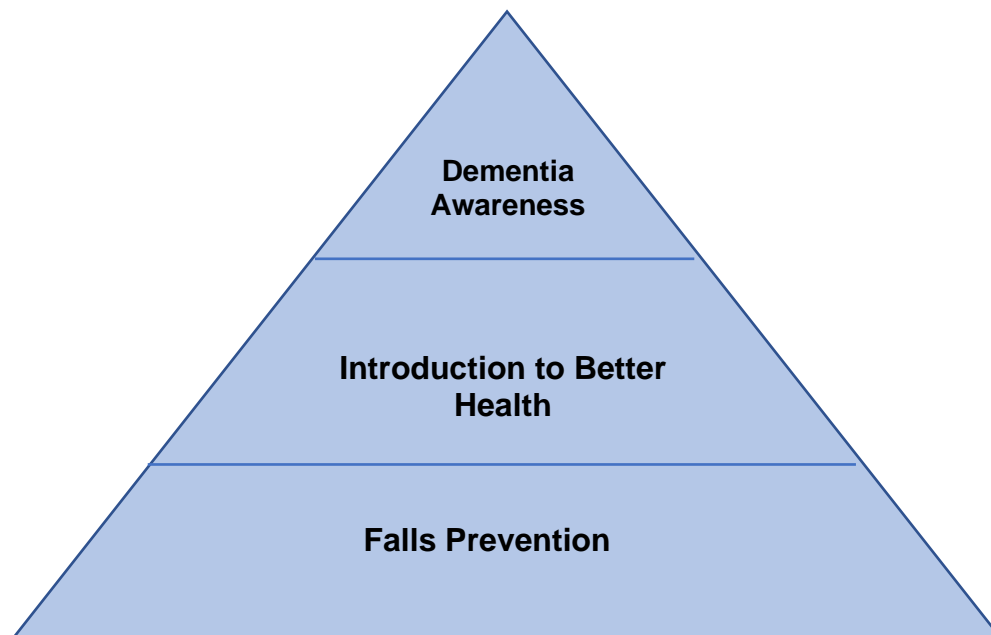
## 3. Improving Peoples Quality of Life

### 3.1: Housing Crisis Support

Due to the cost-of-living crisis many people are struggling to cope with bills etc, therefore 123 people have benefitted from our Crisis Support Funds, which supports utility payment, food and white goods. We have also supported the community to claim their council tax rebate.

We still provide food parcels when requested and ensure that our food bank is stocked up.

We have facilitated many activities for the sole purpose of improving the quality of life for service users and the wider communities. Some of the activities are:



We constantly liaise and advocate on individual's behalf to ensure that they are receiving the care and support they are entitled to within their homes and, ensure that

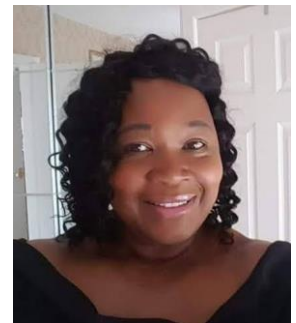
assessments are carried out by social services to improve the quality of life of our service users.

### **3.2: Health & Wellbeing Event**

Our Health & Wellbeing event was a great success. Approximately 53 people attended. The day consisted of keynote speakers presenting their services i.e., Street Team, Sickle Cell & Thalassemia, Inequality in children birth outcomes, Mental Health and Self-Care Management. Also, we had 13 organisations showcasing their services via information stalls.

The event was very well attended and there was opportunity to network and obtain valid information for people to take away with them. Also, the food was excellent.

**Evadne Lewin**  
Vulnerable Adults Co-ordinator



## Finance

### Income & Expenditure Account 2021-2022

#### Income

Accumulated fund	£2,987.56
Making Connections Walsall (MCW Walsall)	£1,333.35
Walsall Council	£2,034.34
ASC fees	£6,466.65
Day Care- Elderly	£8,475.80
WMBC - Daycare	£588.60
Walsall Women Empowerment	£13,284.88
Big Lottery	£91,796.00
Near Neighbours	£1,015.33
Repayments	£825.01
Charges	£5,878.60
Government Funding	£24,000.00
Walsall MBC	£23,267.69
Loan	£10,000.00
Community Development	£3,750.00
Job Retention Scheme	£8,537.42
Resetting Grant	£4,158.64
Repayments	£2,630.00
Housing Support	£5,000.00
Mental Wellbeing	£5,500.00
Kickstart	£10,030.11

<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>£231,559.98</b>
----------------------	--------------------

#### Expenditure

Payroll	£146,580.23
Rent & Rates	£503.53
Utilities & Service charges	£2,283.54
Heat & Light	£0.00
Stationery	£1,364.63
Insurance	£5,987.94
Transport & Travel	£3,889.70
Repairs & Maintenance	£4,720.59
Repayments	£10,000.00
Activities & Events	£14,443.00
Postage	£255.75
Professional fees	£10,822.65
Telephone	£2,596.81
Building & Maintenance	£332.80

Food	£7,285.76
Materials & Resource	£5,033.82
Volunteers Expenses	£1,603.33
Petty Cash	£12,400.00
Capital	£1,448.92
Lease agreement	£1,901.33
Counselling Service	£3,560.00
Training	£2,283.97
Women Empowerment	£43.65
Charges	£390.46
T.V. Licence	£159.00
Room Hire	£4,600.00
Care Costs	£876.00
Marketing	£398.00
Housing Support Funding	£3,660.00
Membership	£50.00
Bookkeeping Services	£183.75
Fees	£645.00
Miscellaneous	£358.02

<b>Total Expenditure:</b>	<b>£250,662.18</b>
---------------------------	--------------------

<b>Balance:</b>	<b>-£19,102.20</b>
-----------------	--------------------

Balance Brought Forward:	44,816.00
--------------------------	-----------

£25,713.80



**WALSALL BLACK SISTERS COLLECTIVE**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022**

**CHARITY NUMBER : 1009687**

**WALSALL BLACK SISTERS COLLECTIVE**  
**CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2022**

- 1 Income and Expenditure Account
- 2 Schedule of Expenditure
- 3 Balance Sheet
- 4 Independent Examiner's Report

## WALSALL BLACK SISTERS COLLECTIVE

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**  
**Year ended 31 March 2022**

	£	2022 £	£	2021 £
<b>INCOME</b>				
<b>Restricted</b>				
Big Lottery grant	91,796		150,318	
Walsall Council grants :				
Making Connections Walsall grant	4,833		2,667	
Kickstart grant	10,030		-	
Community Development grant	5,000		-	
Adult Social Care grant	8,868		-	
Housing Support Fund & Food Bank grant	7,000		-	
CE Reset grant	4,159		-	
Neighbourhood Natters grant	-		2,642	
Baron Davenport grant	-		500	
Winter Grant	-		2,000	
Womens Empowerment workshop	-		8,934	
Police Crime Commission	-		2,533	
Heart of England	-		8,000	
	-----	131,686	-----	177,593
<b>Unrestricted</b>				
Money Manager Interest	6		-	
WBSC Accumulated Fund	17,910		4,453	
After School Club Fees	5,357		3,609	
Room Hire and Charges	11,396		-	
Day care - Elderley	6,865		8,218	
HMRC CJRS grants	7,037		14,400	
Walsall Council COVID-19 grants	39,500		55,538	
Government Apprentice Grant	1,500		-	
Charities Aid Foundation grant	-		8,454	
	-----	89,571	-----	94,672
		-----		-----
		<b>221,257</b>		<b>272,265</b>
<b>Less : Expenditure</b>		<b>230,417</b>		<b>168,449</b>
<b>EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME</b>		<b>- 9,160</b>		<b>103,817</b>
		-----		-----

## WALSALL BLACK SISTERS COLLECTIVE

## EXPENDITURE

Year ended 31 March 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
Payroll	149,070	111,191
Rent and Rates	305	305
Heat and Light	530	1,448
Stationery	2,790	4,140
Printing	174	97
Postage	545	346
Computer Costs	419	-
Insurance	4,359	4,811
Motor expenses & Travel	6,583	2,614
Repairs and Maintenance	5,269	11,589
Events	16,952	3,776
Professional Fees	9,853	6,362
Membership	85	35
Telephone	2,763	2,232
Training	2,284	3,560
Health and Safety	354	762
Food	7,087	10,973
Materials and Resource	2,098	126
Volunteers Expenses	1,538	914
Sundries	541	351
Marketing	278	173
Lease Agreement	3,100	1,377
TV & Zoom Licence	303	158
Room Hire & charges	4,534	700
Bess Care	-	412
Women Empowerment	386	-
Bank Charges	66	-
Counselling	5,040	-
Crisis support Project	3,110	-
	<u>230,417</u>	<u>168,449</u>

## WALSALL BLACK SISTERS COLLECTIVE

## BALANCE SHEET

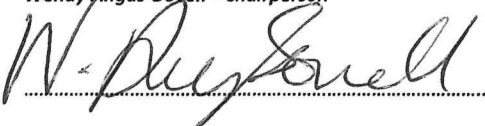
Year ended 31 March 2022

	£	2022 £	£	2021 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Motor Vehicles	32,016		32,016	
Office Equipment	2,738		2,738	
Computer Equipment	8,021		7,322	
		42,775		42,076
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Bank Account	79,337		11,556	
Deposit Account	11		75,005	
Cash in hand	409		310	
		79,757		86,871
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>122,532</u>		<u>128,946</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b>				
HMRC - PAYE		3,196		1,862
NEST Pension		-		-
Attachment of Earnings		26		-
Accruals		2,370		984
		<u>5,592</u>		<u>2,846</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>116,940</u>		<u>126,100</u>
Represented by:-				
<b>ACCUMULATED FUND</b>				
Balance brought forward		126,101		22,284
Excess of expenditure over income :-		- 9,160		103,817
		<u>116,940</u>		<u>126,101</u>

The income funds of the charity include £60,000 which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees. It is the charity's policy to regard a general reserve requirement equivalent to 3 months running costs of the charity's charitable and administrative expenditure.

*Signed on behalf of the trustees :*

*Wendy Angus-Bovell - Chairperson*



.....  
*Date of Approval*  
15 February 2023

**WALSALL BLACK SISTERS COLLECTIVE**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022**

**CHARITY NUMBER : 1009687**

**WALSALL BLACK SISTERS COLLECTIVE**

**CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**for the Year Ended 31 March 2022**

- 1 Income and Expenditure Account**
- 2 Schedule of Expenditure**
- 3 Balance Sheet**
- 4 Independent Examiner's Report**

## WALSALL BLACK SISTERS COLLECTIVE

## INCOME &amp; EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Year ended 31 March 2022

		2022		2021
	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>				
<b>Restricted</b>				
Big Lottery grant	91,796		150,318	
Walsall Council grants :				
Making Connections Walsall grant	4,833		2,667	
Kickstart grant	10,030		-	
Community Development grant	5,000		-	
Adult Social Care grant	8,868		-	
Housing Support Fund & Food Bank grant	7,000		-	
CE Reset grant	4,159		-	
Neighbourhood Natters grant	-		2,642	
Baron Davenport grant	-		500	
Winter Grant	-		2,000	
Womens Empowerment workshop	-		8,934	
Police Crime Commission	-		2,533	
Heart of England	-		8,000	
		131,686		177,593
<b>Unrestricted</b>				
Money Manager Interest	6		-	
WBSC Accumulated Fund	17,910		4,453	
After School Club Fees	5,357		3,609	
Room Hire and Charges	11,396		-	
Day care - Elderley	6,865		8,218	
HMRC CJRS grants	7,037		14,400	
Walsall Council COVID-19 grants	39,500		55,538	
Government Apprentice Grant	1,500		-	
Charities Aid Foundation grant	-		8,454	
		89,571		94,672
		<u>221,257</u>		<u>272,265</u>
<b>Less : Expenditure</b>		<b>230,417</b>		<b>168,449</b>
<b>EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME</b>		<u><u>- 9,160</u></u>		<u><u>103,817</u></u>

## WALSALL BLACK SISTERS COLLECTIVE

## EXPENDITURE

Year ended 31 March 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
Payroll	149,070	111,191
Rent and Rates	305	305
Heat and Light	530	1,448
Stationery	2,790	4,140
Printing	174	97
Postage	545	346
Computer Costs	419	-
Insurance	4,359	4,811
Motor expenses & Travel	6,583	2,614
Repairs and Maintenance	5,269	11,589
Events	16,952	3,776
Professional Fees	9,853	6,362
Membership	85	35
Telephone	2,763	2,232
Training	2,284	3,560
Health and Safety	354	762
Food	7,087	10,973
Materials and Resource	2,098	126
Volunteers Expenses	1,538	914
Sundries	541	351
Marketing	278	173
Lease Agreement	3,100	1,377
TV & Zoom Licence	303	158
Room Hire & charges	4,534	700
Bess Care	-	412
Women Empowerment	386	-
Bank Charges	66	-
Counselling	5,040	-
Crisis support Project	3,110	-
	<u>230,417</u>	<u>168,449</u>

## WALSALL BLACK SISTERS COLLECTIVE

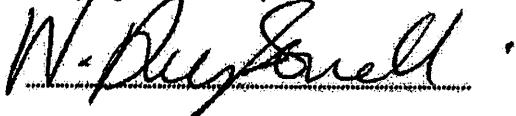
BALANCE SHEET  
Year ended 31 March 2022

	£	2022 £	£	2021 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Motor Vehicles	32,016		32,016	
Office Equipment	2,738		2,738	
Computer Equipment	8,021		7,322	
		<u>42,775</u>		<u>42,076</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Bank Account	79,337		11,556	
Deposit Account	11		75,005	
Cash in hand	409		310	
		<u>79,757</u>		<u>86,871</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u><u>122,532</u></u>		<u><u>128,946</u></u>
<b>CREDITORS</b>				
HMRC - PAYE		3,196		1,862
NEST Pension		-		-
Attachment of Earnings		26		-
Accruals		2,370		984
		<u>5,592</u>		<u>2,846</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u><u>116,940</u></u>		<u><u>126,100</u></u>
Represented by:-				
<b>ACCUMULATED FUND</b>				
Balance brought forward		126,101		22,284
Excess of expenditure over income :-		- 9,160		103,817
		<u>116,940</u>		<u>126,101</u>

The income funds of the charity include £60,000 which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees. It is the charity's policy to regard a general reserve requirement equivalent to 3 months running costs of the charity's charitable and administrative expenditure.

Signed on behalf of the trustees :

Wendy Angus-Boydell - Chairperson



Date of Approval  
15 February 2023

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WALSALL BLACK SISTERS COLLECTIVE  
YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2022  
CHARITY NUMBER 1009657**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 set out on pages 1-3.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act
- to follow the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of the independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statements below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



.....  
Mrs SD Cooke FCCA

Director

Rice & Co (Brownhills) Ltd

90 High Street

Brownhills

Walsall

WS8 6EW

Date: 15 February 2023