

The background of the entire page is a photograph of three women of African descent hugging each other. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter. The woman on the right is smiling broadly, showing her teeth. The woman in the middle has her eyes closed and a gentle smile. The woman on the left is looking down with a soft expression. Their hands are visible, and they appear to be in a warm, supportive embrace.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

WALSALL BLACK
SISTERS COLLECTIVE

UNI QUE SELLING POINT

“We provide community activities to empower and develop deprived 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”.





WBSC literally saved my life!

Mission

Mission

We exist to serve the most vulnerable communities by delivering relevant, needed services which lessen the loneliness and isolation, improve health and wellbeing and which educate and inform.

Vision

A well-run, well-resourced organisation where staff and volunteers know their worth, are valued and work in a passionate and professional manner to deliver life changing services to our community.

Statement



**I love it here.
I love the activities;
I love the staff.
I feel at home here.**

Chair's Address

Wendy Angus-Bovell

Chair of Wallsall Black Sisters Collective



I am delighted to welcome you to our Annual Report 2022/23 and to share some of our achievements and progress over the past 12 months, and our exciting plans for the forthcoming year. It has been another busy and productive year for us at WBSC, following

our AGM last October, we engaged with consultants, namely Siobhan Harper-Nunes from Shakti Women. She has worked with us to create our business strategy and shape our vision for the next three years. This has been a significant piece of work and a major development for us. It clearly sets out our strategic plan and direction of travel over the next 1-3 years. It is both ambitious and aspirational whilst being deliverable at the same time.

This will see us transform into a CIO, implement a revised constitution and lever in new investment to grow and secure our financial stability. As part of this, we have taken the opportunity to review and create a new staffing structure that better fits with our strategic vision and will also add much needed capacity to our organisation.

As well as this, we have continued to provide our core services that include our, elderly persons day centre, counselling support, befriending including outreach support and the women's weekly coffee mornings. These have all been well attended and remain key support mechanisms for some of our most vulnerable and isolated members of Walsall. Sadly, after much deliberation, the Board and I had to make the very difficult decision to close our long running After School provision in October of last year. It was accepted that it was no longer viable for us to continue with it after an Ofsted inspection at that time.

Alongside the above, we have run some very successful events such as dementia awareness, health and wellbeing sessions and a fabulous Windrush Celebration at Caldmore Community Gardens in June 2022. It was a wonderful recognition and salute to all those who came over from the Caribbean and contributed to the rebuilding of this Country after the 2nd World War.

None of this would be possible without the commitment and hard work of our dedicated and loyal staff team led by our brilliant Chief Officer Maureen Lewis.

They constantly go over and beyond to ensure the smooth running of the service and that all those who access WBSC get the support and outcomes they need. On behalf of myself and the Board, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you and that we very much appreciate all that you do.

Once again, I would also like to thank our funders and strategic partners for their ongoing support, collaborative working and allegiance to us. This is much appreciated and as we move forward, at pace, with the implementation of our business strategy and plan, we look forward to strengthening those partnerships and establishing new ones within the West Midlands and beyond.

I am very excited and energised for the challenges, opportunities and the achievements we will deliver over the next 12 months and confident that we will continue to grow and evolve along this journey.

Chief Officer Statement



WBSC is a well-established charity and after 35 years are now working to ensure its longevity, by strengthening our internal structures and processes.

We have engaged with external consultants to help us in the process, to help set put 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.

The transition has brought challenges and has meant we have had to cut a few services, one of which was our After School Club, due to low dwindling numbers.

Despite this 2022 -2023 has certainly had a busy year, with more work than ever before. Thanks to our staff team who have worked over a beyond to respond to the needs of our community.

Glad to say we have continued to forge great partnerships, which has enabled us to provide a co-ordinated approach, to represent and address the needs of the most vulnerable.

Maureen Lewis

**Chief Executive Officer of Walsall
Black Sisters Collective**



“

**“IT GETS ME OUT OF THE HOUSE,
AND I’VE MADE FRIENDS. I ALSO
LEARN SOMETHING NEW EVERY
WEEK, AND I KNOW MORE ABOUT
WHAT ELSE IS AVAILABLE TO ME.
BEING HERE HAS SAVED ME!”**

Services & Activities

01



VULNERABLE ADULTS PROJECT

Health & Social Care
Befriending
Day Care

02



MENTAL WELLBEING

Counselling
Coffee Mornings
Walking For Health
Women's Support

03



HOLIDAY & FOOD PROGRAMME

Summer Holiday Programme
Provision of food
for low-income families

04



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

Building Confidence
& Self-Esteem
Employment & Training
Opportunities

05



COMMUNITY CELEBRATION EVENTS

International Women's Day
Windrush Celebration
Community Trip
Black History Month

06



AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Stimulating Play
Social Interaction in a safe
environment
Supporting parents
in work and training

07



COMMUNITY AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

Health & Wellbeing Conference
Dementia Awareness
Managing Diabetes

08



HOUSING CRISIS SUPPORT

Emergency Energy & White
Good Support
Food Parcel/Bank
Sign Posting

09



RESETTING PROGRAMME

Encouraging residents
back into activities
Improve Confidence
Form Friendships





Spotlight On The Hard To Reach

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 around loneliness and isolation.

01

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 outing. 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.

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.

02

Addressing Mental Wellbeing

“I came and haven’t looked back!”

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.



03

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.

Dementia Awareness

Introduction to Better Health

Falls Prevention

Key Achievements

People supported
in Walsall

1059

Day Care

452 hot nutritious meals
to elders



“At the other place, I’m the only black woman in the group and I feel like an outsider.”

Befriending

204 Supported



“It gets me out of the house, and I’ve made friends, I also learn something new every week and I know more about what else is available to me. Being here has saved me!”

Women’s Empowerment

84 Sessions
77 women supported.



I would encourage every woman to be a part of this community.

Counselling

252 sessions



I can see an improvement in my confidence and ability to make decisions which is a great change considering what I have gone through.

Key Achievements

Coffee & Chat

230

people supported.

Demential Awareness

38

people supported.

Black History Month

138

people attended

Community Health
& Wellbeing

92

People attended

Food Parcels

186

parcels delivered

Walking For Wellness

36

people attended

Commnuity Outings

52

people engaged

Housing, Emergency
& Benefit Support

96

people helped

What People Say

Coffee & Chat

"I come every week. it just makes me so happy."

Housing Emergency & Benefit Support

"I would encourage anyone to be a part of this community."

Dementia Awareness

"Mom likes it here, she feels seen".





Financials 2022-23

We have been working really hard to deliver projects that benefit our community over the last financial year. Here is how we have allocated our funds.

Take a look at our Income & Expenditure from 2022 - 2023.

Income & Expenditure

Year ended 31 March 2023

RESTRICTED	£	£	£	£
Big Lottery Grant	97,693		91,796	
Walsall Council Grants				
Walsall Connect	5,000		4,833	
Kickstart	595		10,030	
Community Development	5,000		5,000	
Adult Social Care	-		8,868	
Housing Support Fund & Food Bank	9,000		7,000	
Safe Place	10,000		-	
Resetting	7,916		4,159	
ESF Community Grants	15,298		-	
Walsall Wellbeing Grant	7,975		-	
Holiday Program	4,731		-	
Community Cohesion	1,137		-	
Heating/Winter Warm	1,500		-	
Other Walsall Grant	16,545			
			-	
Garfield Western	7,500		-	
Eveson Trust	10,000		-	
Baron Davenport Grant	600			
		200,130		131,686
UNRESTRICTED	£	£	£	£
Money Manager Interest	184		6	
Donations - Walsall Womens Forum	5,000		-	
Donations - Others	450		-	
WBSC Accumulated Fund	-		10,665	
Repayments	-		6,530	
After School Club Fees	6,560		5,357	
Room Hire & Charges	10,749		12,111	
Day care - Elderly	9,305		6,865	
HMRC CJRS Grants	-		7,037	
Walsall Council COVID Grants	-		39,500	
Government Apprentice Grant	-		1,500	

32,247 89,571

232,377 221,257

Less: Expenditure

240,689 230,417

EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME

8,312 9,160

Expenditure

Year ended 31 March 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
WAGES	158,198	149,090
RENT & RATES	305	305
HEAT & LGIHT	249	530
STATIONERY & PRINTING	1,945	2,965
POSTAGE	1,066	545
COMPUTER COSTS	976	419
INSURANCE	5,565	4,359
MOTOR EXPENSES & TRAVEL	5,953	6,583
REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	1,761	5,269
EVENTS	9,351	16,952
PROFESSIONAL FEES	13,730	9,853
MEMBERSHIP	-	85
TELEPHONE	2,337	2,763
TRAINING	405	2,284
HEALTH & SAFETY	-	354
FOOD	5,338	7,087
MATERIALS & RESOURCES	3,133	2,098
VOLUNTEERS EXPENSES	1,399	1,538
SUNDRIES	343	541
MARKETING	2,148	278
PHOTOCOPIER & PHONE SYSTEM	5,738	2,713
HYGENIE SERVICES	387	387
TV & ZOOM LICENCES	303	303
ROOM HIRE & CHARGES	1,555	4,534
WOMEN EMPOWERMENT	-	386
BANK CHARGES	197	66
COUNSELLING	4,454	5,040
CRISIS SUPPORT PROJECT	13,853	3,110
	240,689	230,417

Balance Sheet

Year ended 31 March 2023

		2023		2022
ASSETS	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Motor Vehicles	32,016		32,016	
Office Equipment	3,322		2,738	
Computer Equipment	8,021	43,359	8,021	42,775
CURRENT ASSETS				
Bank Account	3,718		79,337	
Deposit Account	65,198		11	
Cash in Hand	108	69,021	409	79,757
TOTAL ASSETS		112,379		122,532
CREDITORS				
HMRC - PAYE	1,989		3,196	
NEST - Pension	322		-	
Attachment of Earnings	-		26	
Accruals	1,440		2,370	
NET ASSETS		108,628		116,940
Represented by:-				
ACCUMULATED FUNDS:				
Balance brought forward		116,940		126,100
Excess of expenditure over income		8,312		9,160
		108,628		116,940
The income funds of a 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.				

TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH -- WSBC



Baron
Davenport's
Charity

Founded 1930



Department
for Work &
Pensions

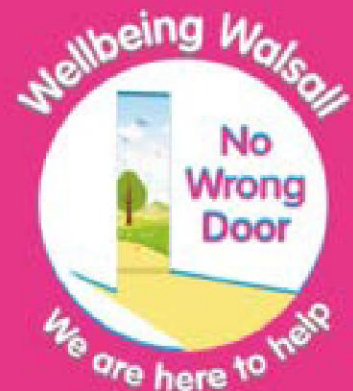
The
EVESON
Trust



**WALSALL COMMUNITY
NETWORK**



Garfield Weston
FOUNDATION



w Walsall **Connected**

WALSALL FOR ALL



Black Country Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust



WALSALL BLACK SISTERS COLLECTIVE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

CHARITY NUMBER : 1009687

WALSALL BLACK SISTERS COLLECTIVE

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

- 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 2023

	£	2023 £	£	2022 £
INCOME				
Restricted				
Big Lottery grant	97,693		91,796	
Walsall Council grants :				
Walsall Connect	5,000		4,833	
Kickstart	595		10,030	
Community Development	5,000		5,000	
Adult Social Care	-		8,868	
Housing Support Fund & Food Bank	9,000		7,000	
Safe Place	10,000		-	
Resetting	7,916		4,159	
ESF Community Grants	15,298		-	
Walsall Wellbeing Grant	7,975		-	
Holiday Program	4,371		-	
Community Cohesion	1,137		-	
Heating/Winter Warm	1,500		-	
Other Walsall Grants	16,545		-	
Garfield Western	7,500		-	
Eveson Trust	10,000		-	
Baron Davenport grant	600		-	
		200,130		131,686
Unrestricted				
Money Manager Interest	184		6	
Donations - Walsall Womens Forum	5,000		-	
Donations - Other	450		-	
WBSC Accumulated Fund	-		10,665	
Repayments	-		6,530	
After School Club Fees	6,560		5,357	
Room Hire and Charges	10,749		12,111	
Day care - Elderley	9,305		6,865	
HMRC CJRS grants	-		7,037	
Walsall Council COVID-19 grants	-		39,500	
Government Apprentice Grant	-		1,500	
		32,247		89,571
		232,377		221,257
Less : Expenditure		240,689		230,417
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME		- 8,312		- 9,160

WALSALL BLACK SISTERS COLLECTIVE

EXPENDITURE

Year ended 31 March 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages	158,198	149,070
Rent and rates	305	305
Heat and light	249	530
Stationery & printing	1,945	2,965
Postage	1,066	545
Computer costs	976	419
Insurance	5,565	4,359
Motor expenses & travel	5,953	6,583
Repairs and maintenance	1,761	5,269
Events	9,351	16,952
Professional fees	13,730	9,853
Membership	-	85
Telephone	2,337	2,763
Training	405	2,284
Health and safety	-	354
Food	5,338	7,087
Materials and resource	3,133	2,098
Volunteers expenses	1,399	1,538
Sundries	343	541
Marketing	2,148	278
Photocopier & phone system leases	5,738	2,713
Hygiene services	387	387
TV & zoom licences	303	303
Room hire & charges	1,555	4,534
Women empowerment	-	386
Bank charges	197	66
Counselling	4,454	5,040
Crisis support project	13,853	3,110
	<u>240,689</u>	<u>230,417</u>

3
WALSALL BLACK SISTERS COLLECTIVE

BALANCE SHEET
Year ended 31 March 2023

		2023		2022
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Motor Vehicles	32,016		32,016	
Office Equipment	3,322		2,738	
Computer Equipment	<u>8,021</u>		<u>8,021</u>	
		43,359		42,775
 CURRENT ASSETS				
Bank Account	3,718		79,337	
Deposit Account	65,195		11	
Cash in hand	<u>108</u>		<u>409</u>	
		69,021		79,757
 TOTAL ASSETS		 <u><u>112,379</u></u>		 <u><u>122,532</u></u>
 CREDITORS				
HMRC - PAYE		1,989		3,196
NEST - Pension		322		-
Attachment of Earnings		-		26
Accruals		<u>1,440</u>		<u>2,370</u>
		<u><u>3,751</u></u>		<u><u>5,592</u></u>
 NET ASSETS		 <u><u>108,628</u></u>		 <u><u>116,940</u></u>
 Represented by:-				
ACCUMULATED FUND				
Balance brought forward		116,940		126,100
Excess of expenditure over income :-		<u>- 8,312</u>		<u>- 9,160</u>
		<u><u>108,628</u></u>		<u><u>116,940</u></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 :

Sonia McLaughlin - Treasurer

SE McLaughlin

Date of Approval : 11th October 2023

WALSALL BLACK SISTERS COLLECTIVE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

CHARITY NUMBER : 1009687

WALSALL BLACK SISTERS COLLECTIVE

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

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WALSALL BLACK SISTERS COLLECTIVE

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Year ended 31 March 2023

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	£	£	£	£
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Signed on behalf of the trustees :

Sonia McLaughlin - Treasurer

SE McLaughlin

Date of Approval : *11th October 2023*

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WALSALL BLACK SISTERS COLLECTIVE
YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2023
CHARITY NUMBER 1009657**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023 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.



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Mrs SD Cooke FCCA
Director
Rice & Co (Brownhills) Ltd
90 High Street
Brownhills
Walsall
WS8 6EW

Date: 16/10/2023