

COMMUNITY CONNECT FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

17 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2025 £
General funds	186,608	81,530	(82,224)	(59,500)	126,414
Previous year:	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
General funds	189,722	73,522	(76,636)	-	186,608

18 Designated Funds

Designated funds are unrestricted funds that the trustees have set aside for specific purposes. These designations are made to reflect the charity's strategic priorities and future commitments. Although these funds remain unrestricted, the trustees have chosen to earmark them for the following uses:

Designated Fund Name	Purpose of Designation	2025 £
Building Refurbishment Fund	To finance planned improvements to the charity's premises	25,000
IT Upgrade Fund	To support the upgrade of IT infrastructure and systems	29,500
Sustainability Fund	To install solar panels	5,000
Total Designated Funds		59,500

The trustees review designated funds annually and may reallocate them depending on the charity's evolving needs and priorities.

19 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2024 - none).

COMMUNITY CONNECT FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

14 Deferred income

Deferred income comprises grants received in advance of delivering the services required by the conditions of the grants.

	2024
	£
Balance as at 1 April 2024	29,700
Amount released to incoming resources	(29,700)
Amount deferred in the year	70,069
	<u>70,069</u>
Balance as at 31 March 2025	<u><u>70,069</u></u>

15 Retirement benefit schemes

	2025	2024
	£	£
Defined contribution schemes		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	<u>2,825</u>	<u>2,342</u>

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

16 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
	355,644	228,086	(201,795)	381,935
	<u>355,644</u>	<u>228,086</u>	<u>(201,795)</u>	<u>381,935</u>
Previous year:				
	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
	341,293	198,027	(183,676)	355,644
	<u>341,293</u>	<u>198,027</u>	<u>(183,676)</u>	<u>355,644</u>

COMMUNITY CONNECT FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Plant and equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Total £
Cost / Fair value				
At 1 April 2024	395,000	135,338	32,577	562,915
Additions	-	-	2,952	2,952
At 31 March 2025	395,000	135,338	35,529	565,867
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 April 2024	52,332	135,338	25,314	212,984
Depreciation charged in the year	7,476	-	5,543	13,019
At 31 March 2025	59,808	135,338	30,857	226,003
Carrying amount				
At 31 March 2025	335,192	-	4,672	339,864
At 31 March 2024	342,668	-	7,263	349,931

12 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other debtors	1,745	745

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Other taxation and social security	2,022	2,450
Trade creditors	298	2,813
Other creditors	80,807	32,291
	83,127	37,554

COMMUNITY CONNECT FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

8 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025	2024
	Number	Number
	8	6
	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>

Employment costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	155,488	126,571
Social security costs	6,755	5,496
Other pension costs	2,825	2,342
	<u>165,068</u>	<u>134,409</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

9 Other

	Unrestricted	Unrestricted
	funds	funds
	2025	2024
Bank charges	614	735
	<u>614</u>	<u>735</u>

10 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

COMMUNITY CONNECT FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

5 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2025	Support costs	Governance costs	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cleaning	4,510	-	4,510	3,559	-	3,559
Consultancy fees	1,764	-	1,764	2,400	-	2,400
Light and heat	10,408	-	10,408	11,410	-	11,410
Equipment expensed	2,001	-	2,001	232	-	232
ICT maintenance	1,195	-	1,195	1,400	-	1,400
Office expenses	821	-	821	448	-	448
Rates and insurance	4,439	-	4,439	4,649	-	4,649
Photocopier rental charge	1,138	-	1,138	787	-	787
Software	255	-	255	115	-	115
Repairs	478	-	478	7,094	-	7,094
Security	983	-	983	1,041	-	1,041
Staff training	1,668	-	1,668	1,901	-	1,901
Postage and stationery	1,319	-	1,319	1,588	-	1,588
Temps and recruitment	-	-	-	80	-	80
Telephone	3,088	-	3,088	2,548	-	2,548
Audit fees	-	2,982	2,982	-	2,821	2,821
Legal and professional	-	69	69	-	180	180
	<u>34,068</u>	<u>3,051</u>	<u>37,119</u>	<u>39,252</u>	<u>3,001</u>	<u>42,253</u>
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	<u>34,068</u>	<u>3,051</u>	<u>37,119</u>	<u>39,252</u>	<u>3,001</u>	<u>42,253</u>

6 Net movement in funds

	2025	2024
	£	£
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	2,982	2,821
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	13,019	12,537
	<u>16,001</u>	<u>15,358</u>

7 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

COMMUNITY CONNECT FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2 Donations and legacies (Continued)

3 Other income

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2025	2024
	£	£
Other operating income	6,821	2,833

4 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Charitable Expenditure	Charitable Expenditure
	2025	2024
	£	£
Direct costs		
Staff costs	165,068	134,409
Depreciation and impairment	13,019	12,537
Community projects	58,676	64,394
Training delivery	9,523	5,984
	<u>246,286</u>	<u>217,324</u>
Share of support and governance costs (see note 5)		
Support	34,068	39,252
Governance	3,051	3,001
	<u>283,405</u>	<u>259,577</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	81,610	75,901
Restricted funds	201,795	183,676
	<u>283,405</u>	<u>259,577</u>

COMMUNITY CONNECT FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2025	2025	2025	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Grants and fees	74,709	228,086	302,795	70,689	268,716
Grants receivable for core activities					
SCC BHP	-	15,984	15,984	-	15,292
Advice work	-	-	-	-	18,375
BBC CIN	-	30,099	30,099	-	29,062
BLF	-	72,879	72,879	-	76,609
Canal & River Trust	610	-	610	600	-
Fees - Stanfords Training	-	-	-	1,100	-
Miscellaneous	3,178	-	3,178	5,276	-
BBO Bridges	4,200	-	4,200	12,092	-
Good Things Foundation	3,000	-	3,000	-	-
Sandwell Council	140	29,784	29,924	5,394	-
Sandwell Language Network	-	16,475	16,475	-	6,449
SC CATS	-	1,299	1,299	-	17,491
SCVO Vision 2030	-	-	-	-	8,500
SC Skills for Sandwell	-	21,050	21,050	-	-
The National Express Foundation	-	-	-	-	4,000
The Duke of Edinburgh's Award	700	-	700	10,500	-
The Henry Smith	32,600	-	32,600	-	-
SCC - COLT	16,445	-	16,445	15,465	-
SCC - Research & Reconnect	13,836	-	13,836	19,937	-
SCC - Advice work	-	17,661	17,661	-	-
We Are Digital Training Ltd	-	4,715	4,715	325	-
WDH (Wider Determinants of Health)	-	18,140	18,140	-	-
	74,709	228,086	302,795	70,689	268,716

COMMUNITY CONNECT FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	2% on cost
Plant and equipment	25% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	20% on cost

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9 Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.11 Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

COMMUNITY CONNECT FOUNDATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Community Connect Foundation is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is North Smethwick Resource Centre, Cambridge Road, Smethwick, Birmingham, West Midlands, B66 2HR.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "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). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Fund accounting

Unrestricted Funds

These are funds that are expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the charity's objectives. Unrestricted funds include:

- General Fund: Used for the day-to-day operations of the charity.
- Designated Funds: Unrestricted funds that the trustees have earmarked for specific purposes.

Restricted Funds

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

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

1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

COMMUNITY CONNECT FOUNDATION

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		339,864		349,931
Current assets					
Debtors	12	1,745		745	
Cash at bank and in hand		309,367		229,130	
		<u>311,112</u>		<u>229,875</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(83,127)</u>		<u>(37,554)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>227,985</u>		<u>192,321</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>567,849</u>		<u>542,252</u>
The funds of the charity					
Designated funds	18		59,500		-
Restricted funds	16		381,935		355,644
Unrestricted funds	17		126,414		186,608
			<u>567,849</u>		<u>542,252</u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2025.

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

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

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

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 27 October 2025



Nasir Uddin
Trustee

Company registration number 03796674 (England and Wales)

COMMUNITY CONNECT FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Prior financial year

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
<u>Income and endowments from:</u>				
Donations and legacies	2	70,689	198,027	268,716
Other income	3	2,833	-	2,833
Total income		73,522	198,027	271,549
<u>Expenditure on:</u>				
Charitable activities	4	75,901	183,676	259,577
Other	9	735	-	735
Total expenditure		76,636	183,676	260,312
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers		(3,114)	14,351	11,237
Net (expenditure)/income for the year/ Net movement in funds		(3,114)	14,351	11,237
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		189,722	341,293	531,015
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		186,608	355,644	542,252

COMMUNITY CONNECT FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Current financial year

		Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £
<u>Income and endowments from:</u>						
Donations and legacies	2	74,709	-	228,086	302,795	268,716
Other income	3	6,821	-	-	6,821	2,833
Total income		81,530	-	228,086	309,616	271,549
<u>Expenditure on:</u>						
Charitable activities	4	81,610	-	201,795	283,405	259,577
Bank charges	9	614	-	-	614	735
Total expenditure		82,224	-	201,795	284,019	260,312
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers		(694)	-	26,291	25,597	11,237
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers		(694)	-	26,291	25,597	11,237
Gross transfers between funds		(59,500)	59,500	-	-	-
Net (expenditure)/income for the year/ Net movement in funds		(60,194)	59,500	26,291	25,597	11,237
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		186,608	-	355,644	542,252	531,015
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		126,414	59,500	381,935	567,849	542,252

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

COMMUNITY CONNECT FOUNDATION

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF COMMUNITY CONNECT FOUNDATION

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Community Connect Foundation (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000, the independent examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

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

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

Mohammed Yaseen ACCA

Soho House
362 - 364 Soho Road
Birmingham
B21 9QL
27 October 2025

COMMUNITY CONNECT FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Financial review

Overall, Community Connect Foundation has raised funds totalling £309,616 with the expenditure for the year totalling £284,019 leaving the organisation with a surplus of £25,597. This leaves £567,849 in our funds to be carried forward at 31 March 2025.

Reserves policy

The Trustees have established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets ('the free reserves') held by the charity should be approximately six months of the resources expended. The board has decided to increase free reserves to create sufficient funds to pay for any future redundancy settlements.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Bashir Ahmed

Shomsur Khan

Muhammad Miah

Abdur Rohman

Taz Uddin

Salah Uddin

Nasir Uddin

Zamal Ahmed

Dr Nazmul Hussain

(Appointed 17 July 2025)

Arafatur Rahman

(Appointed 17 July 2025)

Shah Ali

(Appointed 17 July 2025)

Statement of trustees responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of Community Connect Foundation for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The trustees report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Nasir Uddin

Trustee

27 October 2025

COMMUNITY CONNECT FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Youth development: This year also marked a key milestone in our youth development efforts. We launched several innovative initiatives aimed at enriching skills and fostering a strong community spirit among young people. These included engaging football sessions that promote fitness, teamwork, and discipline, water sports. Successful completion of our Duke of Edinburgh (DoE) leadership programme, offering youth valuable leadership skills and opportunities to undertake meaningful community service projects seen 13 young people achieve their accreditation certificate, and six partial completions. Our youth clubs, provides a safe and creative environment, offer weekly gatherings for socialising and recreational activities, and structured issue based delivery of outcome based services. Our holiday programmes were very popular with younger service users. Overall, over 140 young people participated in this area of our work, with high daily participation numbers, experiencing personal growth and development that will benefit them now and in the future.

The difference the charity's performance during the year has made to the beneficiaries of the charity

We have delivered a range of activities and services that have significantly improved our communities, positively impacting individuals and families. A key initiative brought together isolated individuals, new settlers, and long-standing residents, fostering social capital crucial for a cohesive, resilient community. Our advice service helped beneficiaries tackle financial and housing issues by guiding them through welfare benefits, grants, and schemes, increasing household incomes. We provided emergency food resources, supporting well-being, and offered financial literacy training to improve money management. We prioritised developing soft skills through various training courses, enhancing literacy, numeracy, digital skills, and industry-specific knowledge, boosting confidence and employability. Participants advanced to further training or gained employability skills via volunteer placements, which proved transformative. Securing employment fosters financial independence, benefits the local economy, and improves mental and physical health. Our youth development programme offers tailored support for young people facing challenges, equipping them with skills and confidence for the future, nurturing future leaders, and fostering a vibrant, resilient community.

Degree to which the achievements and performance during the year have benefited wider society

Our communities were severely impacted by the pandemic and the rising cost of living crisis, which increased individual and household poverty, leaving many struggling to make ends meet as their finances shrank. In response, our services became a vital lifeline, offering reassurance and essential support during this challenging period. We diligently assisted clients in navigating welfare benefits to ensure they received the support they were entitled to. Additionally, we provided tailored budgeting workshops to help families reduce expenses and guided beneficiaries in improving their health and well-being. Our goal was not only to relieve immediate financial pressures but also to empower clients toward greater independence and personal growth.

Recognising the urgent need for employment opportunities, we developed a labour market support program to prepare individuals for work. We offered resources such as CV writing workshops, interview coaching, and job placement services, helping many secure meaningful employments. For young people, we organised engaging activities to foster civic responsibility, raise awareness of societal issues, and promote educational and career aspirations.

With the continued support of our funders, we quickly adapted our services to meet the community's changing needs. Our dedicated staff received training to develop new skills suited to these conditions, enabling us to build innovative partnerships with other organisations and stakeholders.

Through these efforts, we achieved a significant impact, reaching a diverse range of beneficiaries with different backgrounds and abilities. Our work contributed to stabilising the community by increasing household incomes and enhancing individuals' skills and capacity for independent living. We also focused on both physical and mental health, helping beneficiaries adopt healthier lifestyles and better manage health conditions.

Importantly, our inclusive initiatives fostered community cohesion, creating a sense of belonging and social capital. By promoting unity, collaboration, and aspiration, we empowered individuals and families to work together towards improving their circumstances and building a brighter future for themselves and their neighbours.

COMMUNITY CONNECT FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Achievements and performance

The main achievements and performance of the charity during the year

Throughout the year, we provided a comprehensive range of interconnected supportive services and capacity building initiatives aimed at empowering our beneficiaries. Participants benefited from engaging in multiple activities across different work areas as they progressed. Over 1,350 participants accessed our services across various initiatives this year, each attending structured programmes or courses, or accessing specific services, often requiring repeat visits to resolve.

We are delighted to share that 98% of our beneficiaries felt satisfied with our services. Of these, 7% agreed they were simply satisfied, while an impressive 91% felt strongly satisfied. They also shared that these services had a positive impact on them. This wonderful feedback truly showcases the effectiveness of our wide range of offerings and reaffirms our heartfelt commitment to continuously meeting the needs of our community beneficiaries.

Advice: In our ongoing efforts to address the challenges associated with the economic downturn and rising living costs, we have provided both generalist and specialist advice and support services aimed at assisting individuals and families experiencing financial hardship. We have supported over 805 individuals with various needs, including welfare benefits, housing, and immigration. 2,303 separate matters registered requiring over 3,700 visits. Our dedicated advocacy for welfare benefits and anti-poverty remain a key service area and, in much demand, resulting in a net income of over £477,000 for individuals and families. This financial assistance is crucial in helping households manage economic difficulties and enhance their quality of life. Additionally, some households benefited from savings on costs, such as immigration fees through immigration fee waiver applications for low-income families and provided guidance on effective budgeting practices to enable beneficiaries to manage their money more efficiently. Our team has facilitated access to grant schemes to provide additional support during challenging times. Moreover, we have connected beneficiaries with essential services including food banks, clothing banks, and housing associations, ensuring our residents receive comprehensive support to address immediate needs and foster long-term stability.

Foundation Learning programme: has shown significant success in building capacity and advancing personal development. Participants have demonstrated a proactive approach to skill enhancement through engagement in the programme, showing strong commitment to learning and professional growth. During the programme, 195 learners registered for courses, with some completing more than one, resulting in a total of 325 units delivered, and digital skills units being the highest. Courses ranged in GLH hours from 8 to 96 hours and included self-guided online learning (units). Our accredited courses included ESOL Levels 1 and 2, Food Safety and Hygiene Level 2, and First Aid training.

Employment support: This year, our organisation made significant progress in providing comprehensive employment support to over 405 beneficiaries. 17 beneficiaries secured voluntary work, gaining valuable experience and contributing to their communities. To further boost employability, we organised and conducted 46 two-hour work club sessions, where participants carried out job search or supported with job search, shared skills, and discussed job search strategies. Beyond group work, we prioritised individual support, helping beneficiaries develop vital digital skills required in today's job market, training for interview preparation.

Health and wellbeing: recognising the lasting impact of the pandemic on mental and physical health, our health and wellbeing programmes have been essential in supporting individuals to recover and build resilience. This year, 326 (unique) participants engaged in our wellbeing workshops and/or exercise sessions, and across all activities, we registered over 500 participants. Delivery includes workshops (on mental health, physical wellbeing, dietary needs, living with chronic conditions), walking, water sports, football, and therapeutic sessions, all designed to facilitate holistic recovery and enhance quality of life. Feedback from participants underlines the importance of these services in strengthening resilience and community bonds.

COMMUNITY CONNECT FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "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).

Objectives and aims

To promote any charitable purpose for the community within the West Midlands with a particular reference to the district of Smethwick and in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the forgoing, disadvantaged communities with particular regard to Bangladeshis residing in the area of benefit to relieve poverty and sickness, to advance education and to provide facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation with the object of improving the condition of life of the said communities.

Charitable activities

Main activities undertaken in relation to those purposes during the year

We have delivered a comprehensive programme aligned with the needs of our communities and in accordance with the objectives of our charity. Our primary areas of focus include;

- 1) Advice Service: A comprehensive advice service that covers assistance with welfare benefits & council tax claims, housing matters, consumer-related concerns, immigration matters, general inquiries, and access to government grant schemes to alleviate household poverty.
- 2) Foundation Learning: We delivered a range of engagement, skills and capacity-building programmes, sector specific training, and accredited and unaccredited courses.
- 3) Employment Support: Our employment support services offer career advice, job market insights, personal development, and guidance for career progression. We provided support with job searching, completing applications, preparing for interviews, writing CVs, and a labour market preparation program.
- 4) Health and Wellbeing: We offered gentle and active indoor and outdoor exercises including Zumba, healthy walks, bike riding, and relaxing sessions like Yoga. Additionally, delivered mental health and nutrition workshops, coffee morning discussions, support for chronic conditions, digital health literacy and access health and wellbeing services.
- 5) Youth Development: We provided a comprehensive range of activities for young people, which included structured youth club sessions for both boys and girls, initiatives focused on health and wellbeing, a leadership development program, career counselling, and educational advice & support.
- 6) Volunteering opportunities: We continue to support the development of skills and competencies through volunteering opportunities provided at CCF or with partner organisations.
- 7) Events & celebrations: We organised engagement events; community trips and community events to encourage community participation and foster a sense of belonging.

Public benefit

The charity is a public benefit entity and the trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charities aims and objectives. Main activities undertaken during the year contribute to charity's purpose for the public benefit.

COMMUNITY CONNECT FOUNDATION

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COMMUNITY CONNECT FOUNDATION

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Bashir Ahmed Shomsur Khan Muhammad Miah Abdur Rohman Taz Uddin Salah Uddin Nasir Uddin Zamal Ahmed Dr Nazmul Hussain Arafatur Rahman Shah Ali	(Appointed 17 July 2025) (Appointed 17 July 2025) (Appointed 17 July 2025)
Secretary	Abdur Rohman	
Charity number (England and Wales)	1083405	
Company number	03796674	
Registered office	North Smethwick Resource Centre Cambridge Road Smethwick Birmingham West Midlands B66 2HR	
Independent examiner	Mohammed Yaseen ACCA Soho House 362 - 364 Soho Road Birmingham B21 9QL	

Charity registration number 1083405 (England and Wales)

Company registration number 03796674

COMMUNITY CONNECT FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025