SHANTHONA WOMEN'S GROUP

TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2026

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Registered Charity Number:	1133117
Trustees:	Saheli Begum Rajbin Naher Janet Montgomery
Registered Office:	Hockwell Ring Community Centre Mayne Avenue Luton Bedfordshire LU4-9LB
Bankers:	NatWest Market Hill Branch, 31 George Street, Luton Bedfordshire LU1 2YN
Project Co-Ordinator:	Fatima Nessa

The Trustees presented their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2026. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the financial statements and comply with the charity's trust deed, applicable law and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", issued in October 2005.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution:
Shanthona Women's Group is a registered charity. The organization was established in 2004 when it was run on a completely voluntary basis.

Organizational Structure:
The Charity is wholly UK based with its registered office and projects based in Luton, Bedfordshire. The trustees meet regularly during the year to determine the policy and strategy of the Charity. The charity's management is carried out by staff and the trustees for the day-to-day decisions.

Wider Relations:
- Alzheimer's Society UK, Autism Bedfordshire, Royal Osteoporosis Society
- Work with Victim support, Local Authorities, Employment & Skills Forum Luton Borough Council Various Network Groups
- REMOVE VICTIM SUPPORT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
- Work with a range of community voluntary and third sector organizations on family and community health, learning, support and engagement, community network activities.
- Other funders and partner organizations where contracts require delivery targets to be met, including Community needs for accredited level 2 training in Health & Safety, Food Hygiene, Employability, Finance workshop (non-accredited) understanding mental health.

Decision Making:
The Trustees of the charity who served during the year are listed with the legal and administrative details. Policy and Strategy are decided by the Board following consultation with staff and volunteers. Decisions regarding daily delivery of services in line with Board decisions are delegated to the staff. Trustees expect staff to keep them informed of potential opportunities and challenges which may lead to new developments.

Statement of Trustees responsibilities:
The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards. The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustee(s) to prepare financial statements for each financial year which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principle of Charities SORP
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether the policies adopted are in accordance with the Charities SORP, and that applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and enable them to ascertain to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for

safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Risk review:
The trustees review these risks on an ongoing basis and satisfy themselves that adequate systems and procedures are in place to manage the risks identified. Where appropriate, risks are covered by insurance. The following framework is central to ensuring adequate risk assurance:

- Regular monitoring of major risks, annual review of Risk Management Policy and development of action plans to ensure services deliverability and/or proper closing procedure if required for the organisation.
- Embedding risk identification and assessment within operating procedures.
- A clear structure of delegated authority and control.

Trustee Recruitment & Training:
Shanthona is a voluntary sector project which is managed by a Board of Trustees. Trustees are responsible for the strategic direction, management and resourcing of the organization. The Board of Trustees meets at least 3 times a year to consider and transact business. Trustees identify and undertake regular opportunities to develop skills to enable them to fulfill their roles effectively and each Trustee has taken on a key area of responsibility to ensure the Board fulfills its role.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Principal activities and objectives of the charity:
The principal activity of the registered charirty is to give people a better chance in life, economically and socially, promote stronger communities, by developing healthier, more active people and communities, provide support and advice to women and families from asian and bme communities, especially in the Leagrave, Hockwell Ring and surrounding area's in particular with the following purposes:

- To provide support and befriending to women who live in Leagrave and surrounding wards of Luton.
- To protect and preserve women's health and wellbeing, access to learning and skills, to provide support, social engagement and signposting for women
- To promote best practice and encourage strong partnership working models in the community, through linking key stakeholders with our local community in project engagement cycles; providing key opportunities for project beneficiaries from the hard to reach communities, such as: women from BME communities, lone parents, people over 50, people with disabilities, migrant workers, asylum seekers and those unemployed REMOVE MIGRANT WORKERS ADD WOMEN FROM
- Working in partnership with other agencies
- To encourage and empower the local community to be involved in local projects to enhance their personal abilities and well-being through activities delivered in a safe and friendly atmosphere

Aims:
The prime aim of the organization is any charitable purpose for the benefit of inhabitants of Leagrave Ward and other districts where disadvantage or deprivation affects quality of life for Asian and BME women, in particular, and families, in particular to protect and preserve public health, training, provide and assist in the provision of information and advice and

develop a self-support group for women of all ages to enhance their quality of life relating to health, educational and social opportunities. We aim to continue providing Free quality information to service users.

Strategies for achieving Principal Aims and Objectives:

1. Recruitment and retention of appropriate staff and volunteers
2. Ensuring training and development of 1) above
3. Ongoing research and networking with community, voluntary and statutory organizations and providers to identify issues plus opportunities for developing service delivery to address the same
4. Identifying and providing information and resources to users on a wide range of subjects
5. Obtaining and developing sources of funding, support and resources for organization
6. Development of appropriate procedures and policies for the organization with regular reviews
7. Ensure good management and financial management of the organization.
8. Delivering of activities that meet organization aims.

Objectives for the year 2025-2026

1. Support
   Establish a range of support groups arising from advice and information needs, health promotion & awareness needs, learning & employment needs, social support, and other issues as identified,
2. Health Promotion and Awareness
   Establish a range of programs for delivery of health awareness and health information,
3. Community Development:
   Work with Luton Borough Council and Third Sector organizations as opportunities arise.
4. Learning and Employment :
   Be a part of network of referral organizations and program of delivery to encourage and support people into training, both formal and informal, and employment. Provision of informal pre-entry learning activities with IAG support for clients to assist them in progression to other learning, employment or services.
5. Marketing and PR
   Print new information leaflets, updating information on Facebook and website, ongoing advertising activities and services. Attend Networking meetings, ensure profile of organization raised. Redevelop Website and/or identify funding for new site.
6. Leadership and management:
   Consolidate roles of Board Members
   Review and update Policies
   Strategic Review - Risk Review and exit strategies.
   Develop a new business plan for 3-year periods addressing above.
   Increase funding from other sources.

Contribution of Volunteers

Shanthona continues to be grateful for the support of volunteers: who have helped to run the activities, one-off events, administration and various other roles.

Achievements and Performance in March 2025- March 2026

We re-started our pre ESOL classes, Yoga, and Design & Sewing Classes. We are currently holding our sessions at Hockwell ring community center, Luton.

We have been running monthly Health & Awareness Wellbeing sessions within our PRE ESOL classes, which have been very beneficial and well attended.
The health and wellbeing sessions have been very informative, we have worked with various different organizations, Links have been established with Osteoporosis society, Alzheimer's Society UK and Autism UK for developing long term program of visits at health and wellbeing events, also contacts and promotional materials have been distributed to local GPs, Luton Borough Community Support Officers, in order that they may refer women with need to our activities

We held women's community celebrations events for End of year party, Eid, Design and exhibitions for the Sewing group and for other cultural purposes such as Seasonal celebrations, International Women's Day, Enrolment for new projects.
We have had launch days to promote our new sessions and what they consist of, our arts and craft sessions, we asked ladies to make recommendations about what they would like to do in the sessions.

We have had several new volunteers join us and also progress to employment locally and have provided information of learning providers (including Training 4 You Services Luton, Barnfield College, Luton Adult Learning) to others seeking to do Basic computer skills, foundation level English, and identified learners needs for courses promoting employability and education, as well as ongoing adaptation of Pre Esol to encourage Women speaking No English to participate in our activities.
We have had workshops on finance employability, food hygiene and understanding mental health.

We often signpost service users.

We are continuously looking for funding as some of our current fundings are coming to an end.

	Balance brought forward from previous year		March 31st Year Ending 2026			
	Receipts	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Year Ending 2024	Year Ending 2025	Year Ending 2026
Previous years balance brought forward:		----------	----------	+ £6279.21	+ £21,171.62	+ £25,368.99
Other income Balance brought forward		----------	----------	----------	----------	----------
Grants received 2023/2024		----------	----------	----------	----------	----------
Luton Rising 2023/2024		----------	----------	+ £10,000.		----------
Warm hubs 2023 received 06/04/2023		----------	----------	+ £500.		----------
BLCF Stability Fund		----------	----------	+ £10,000.		----------
Awards for All Sewing 2024 received Feb 2024		----------	----------	+ £20,000.		----------
Citizen Fund received 21/02/2024		----------	----------	+ £4000.		----------
Total Received in grants 2023/2024		----------	----------	+ £44,500.		----------
Grants received 2024/2025		----------	----------	----------	----------	----------
Borras for 50+ Group 10/04/2024		----------	----------	----------	+ £250.	.....
Stability Fund, last payment 02/05/2024		----------	----------	----------	+ £10,000.	.....
Luton Rising BLCF Good ways to health, 1st Payment 12/07/2024		----------	----------	----------	+ £8900.	.....
Luton Rising BLCF Good ways to good health last payment 21/02/2025		----------	----------	----------	+ £1100.	.....
Cricket East Limited payment 27/11/2024					+£45	
BLCF Citizen Fund +50 plus 21/02/2025		----------	----------	----------	+ £3500.	.....
Awards for all 2025 21/03/2025		----------	----------	----------	+ £20,000	.....
Total Received 2024/2025 Grant Received 2025/2026		----------	----------	----------	+ £43,795.	
Reserve Account Charity Donation						+ £442.68 + £125.
Trustmark Fund Received 15/08/2025						+ £5,000.
Innovation Funding Received 23/12/2025						+ £4,000.
Awards For All Received 27/02/2026						+ £20,000.

Total Income Received 2025/2026					+ £29,567.68
Expenditure:					
Total Salary costs	----------	----------	-£17,306.00	-£29,470.	-£23,263.92
Sessional Worker	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------
Venue Hire & Office Costs	----------	----------	-£3,377.59	-£4,570.76	-£3,380.56
Activity materials & equipment	----------	----------	-£150.37	-£863.42	-£644.47
Printing & Stationery	----------	----------	-£401.27	-£955.10	-£479.99
Volunteer costs/refreshments	----------	----------	-£689.03	-£2,130.22	-£1,169.68
Laptop/ servicing	----------	----------	-£1,067.79	----------	----------
Phone	----------	----------	-£651.14	-£492.13	-£240.99
Publicity/Networking/Launch	----------	----------	-£442.44	-£308.80	-£167.33
Insurance	----------	----------	-£221.98	-£207.20	-£207.20
Accounts/Website	----------	----------	-£600.	-£600.00	-£650.00
Other Organisation (T4U)	----------	----------	-£4,699.98	.....	.....
Sub total	----------	----------	----------	----------	.....
Total Expenditure	----------	----------	-£29,607.59	-£39,597.63	-£30,204.14
Net of Receipts (Payments)	----------	----------	£14892.41	£4197.37	-£636.46
March 31st, 2026. b/fwd.	----------	----------	**£21,171.62**	**£25,368.99**	**£24,732.53**

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as of 31 March 2026

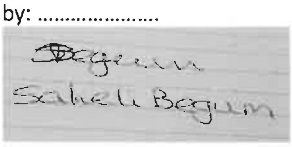
Monetary Assets

	Unrestricted Funds		**Restricted funds**
	£		**£24,732.53**
Cash in Hand and at Bank			£
		+	

Non-Monetary Liabilities

Accruals		-	
	Acquired	**Fund to which asset belongs**	**At cost £24,732.53**

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by: .....



INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF SHANTHONA WOMEN'S GROUP
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Examiners
The members' are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The members consider that an audit is not required for the year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to

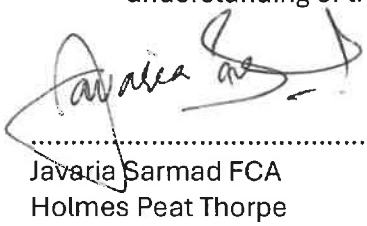
- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to your attention.

Basis of examiner's statement
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 you as 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 our in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement
In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

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



.....
Javaria Sarmad FCA
Holmes Peat Thorpe
Chartered Accountants
Basepoint Business Centre
110 Butterfield
Great Marlings
LUTON
Beds
LU2 8DL

Dated: 2 September 2026