Sudanese Community Association in Newcastle and Surroundings

Annual Activities Report

1st January – 31st Dece2025

1. Introduction

The Sudanese Community Association in Newcastle continued to play an important role in bringing people together, supporting families, promoting cultural awareness, and strengthening community relationships throughout 2025.

Against the backdrop of the ongoing conflict and humanitarian crisis in Sudan, the Association's activities provided valuable opportunities for Sudanese individuals and families to connect, maintain their cultural identity, support one another, and build positive relationships with the wider British community.

The Association recognises that community gatherings are particularly important for people affected by displacement, separation from family members, uncertainty, and the challenges of settling into a new environment. Through social, cultural, recreational, and community-focused events, the Association sought to promote inclusion, wellbeing, mutual support, and a sense of belonging.

2. Ramadan Community Iftars

Frequency: Every Saturday throughout Ramadan 2025.

The Association organised community Iftar gatherings every Saturday during the holy month of Ramadan, providing regular opportunities for Sudanese families and individuals to come together and break their fast in a welcoming and friendly environment.

In total, the Association organised three community Iftars, with approximately 120 people attending each event. Participation included families, individuals, older people, and young people from across the Sudanese community.

Families contributed food according to their means, with many dishes reflecting Sudanese culinary traditions. The Association provided the venue and refreshments and helped facilitate an inclusive atmosphere in which families could share food, experiences, and conversation.

Following Iftar, participants took part in informal social gatherings, discussions, and a variety of recreational activities, including sports and games for children.

Community benefits and impact:

- Strengthened relationships between families and individuals within the Sudanese community.
- Preserved Sudanese cultural and religious traditions while living in the United Kingdom.
- Provided opportunities for newly arrived families to meet established community members and develop social connections.
- Offered children a safe and welcoming environment to play, socialise, and maintain connections with their cultural heritage.
- Encouraged mutual support, the exchange of information, and discussions about the challenges facing Sudan and the Sudanese diaspora.

These regular gatherings helped reduce social isolation and provided a consistent source of community connection during a particularly difficult period for many Sudanese families.

3. Eid al-Fitr Celebration

The Association organised an Eid al-Fitr celebration designed particularly to bring families and children together and ensure that they could enjoy the festive occasion as part of a supportive community.

Preparations were undertaken in advance, including organising the venue, preparing gifts for children, and arranging a hall with games and recreational activities to create a joyful and welcoming atmosphere.

The event enabled children to experience the excitement and happiness associated with Eid, while parents and other community members had the opportunity to socialise, reconnect, and celebrate together.

Community benefits and impact:

- Promoted children's wellbeing and created positive memories associated with Eid.
- Helped families maintain important cultural and religious traditions.
- Strengthened relationships between parents, children, and other community members.
- Supported families who may have been unable to celebrate with relatives in Sudan because of the ongoing war and geographical separation.
- Encouraged a sense of belonging and continuity for children growing up in the United Kingdom.

The celebration demonstrated the Association's commitment to supporting family life, children's inclusion, and community cohesion. About 150 attended this event.

4. Eid al-Adha Community Barbecue
To mark Eid al-Adha, the Association organised a community barbecue that attracted a large number of Sudanese participants as well as people from other nationalities.

The Association provided the necessary facilities and resources to support the successful delivery of the event. The gathering brought together long-standing residents and people who had recently settled in Newcastle and surrounding areas.

The barbecue provided a relaxed and informal setting in which participants could enjoy food, meet new people, exchange experiences, and discuss practical challenges associated with settling into the local area.

Particular attention was given to creating opportunities for newly arrived members of the community to raise concerns, seek informal advice, and connect with people who could help them navigate their new circumstances.

Community benefits and impact:

- Encouraged interaction between Sudanese residents and people from other cultural backgrounds.
- Helped newly arrived individuals and families build local social networks.
- Provided opportunities to discuss settlement challenges and identify areas where community support could be beneficial.
- Promoted cultural exchange, friendship, and mutual understanding.
- Reduced isolation and strengthened a shared sense of belonging in Newcastle and neighbouring communities.

The event demonstrated how informal community activities can support integration and help residents develop stronger connections with the places in which they live. About 150 attended this event.

5. Cultural, Musical and Dramatic Event
The Association also organised a cultural event featuring music, artistic performances, and drama. The event provided a platform for members of the Sudanese community to express their cultural identity, showcase their talents, and engage with others through creative activities.

The programme included a dramatic performance by a Sudanese community member. The performance explored cultural diversity and the importance of active integration into British society while recognising and respecting the different backgrounds and traditions that make up the community.

The event also created an opportunity to discuss the ongoing war in Sudan, its humanitarian consequences, and ways in which individuals and community members could contribute to helping those affected.
The discussions encouraged awareness of the situation in Sudan and provided an opportunity for participants to reflect on community solidarity, humanitarian assistance, and the responsibilities of the diaspora.

Community benefits and impact:

- Promoted Sudanese culture, creativity, and artistic expression.
- Encouraged positive interaction between cultures and generations.
- Demonstrated that maintaining cultural identity and integrating into British society can complement one another.
- Raised awareness of the humanitarian impact of the conflict in Sudan.
- Encouraged discussion about practical ways to support people affected by the crisis.
- Strengthened community pride, participation, and mutual understanding.

The event was positively received by attendees and demonstrated the value of cultural activities in promoting inclusion, dialogue, and community cohesion. About 250 attended this event.

6. Overall Community Impact

Across its activities in 2025, the Sudanese Community Association in Newcastle sought to address both the social and cultural needs of its community and the wider challenges associated with displacement, resettlement, and the ongoing conflict in Sudan.

The Association's work contributed to the following charitable and community outcomes:

Community cohesion: Regular gatherings created opportunities for people from different backgrounds to meet, develop friendships, and strengthen relationships.

Integration into British society: Events involving different nationalities and discussions about active participation in British society encouraged mutual understanding and social inclusion.

Support for newly arrived residents: Community activities provided informal opportunities for newcomers to discuss settlement difficulties, exchange information, and establish local support networks.

Family and children's wellbeing: Ramadan and Eid activities offered family-friendly environments in which children could play, socialise, and maintain cultural connections.

Cultural preservation and exchange: Food, music, drama, and shared celebrations helped preserve Sudanese traditions while making them accessible to people from other backgrounds.

Awareness of the Sudanese humanitarian crisis: Community discussions provided opportunities to reflect on the effects of the war, express solidarity with affected families, and consider ways to provide assistance.

Reduction of social isolation: Regular opportunities to meet and communicate helped strengthen social connections for individuals and families who may have experienced separation from relatives, displacement, or difficulties adapting to a new environment.

7. Conclusion

The activities delivered during 2025 demonstrate the continuing value of the Sudanese Community Association in Newcastle as a focal point for community connection, cultural expression, family participation, and social inclusion.

In a year marked by the continuing conflict in Sudan and the challenges faced by many members of the Sudanese diaspora, the Association provided welcoming spaces where people could celebrate important occasions, share experiences, support one another, and build constructive relationships with the wider community.

Through its Ramadan Iftars, Eid celebrations, community barbecue, and cultural, musical, and dramatic event, the Association contributed to community cohesion, the wellbeing of families and children, and the integration of Sudanese residents into British society.

The Association remains committed to promoting inclusion, mutual respect, cultural understanding, and community participation in Newcastle and the surrounding areas.

Finance

Income	
Membership contributions	£5,373.26
Bank interest	4.64
Total	**£5,377.90**
Expenses	
Account fees	£60.00
Charitable Activities	£3,247.79
Total	**£3,307.79**
Balance	**£2,070.11**