Trustees' Annual Report

Dominica Association of Bradford (CIO)

Charity Number: 1210649
Reporting Period: 24 October 2024 to 31 December 2025

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name: Dominica Association of Bradford (CIO)

Charity Number: 1210649

Principal Address: 10 Worthington Street, Bradford, BD8 8ET

Trustees During the Period

- Colum Sheridan-Small (Chair)
- Louisa Jean-Pierre
- Lucillia Grayston
- Eulie Henriques
- Soraya Grayston
- Danny Smith
- Chris Peltier
- Jeff Warrington
- Maria Etienne

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity successfully transitioned during the reporting period to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governance structure. Following extensive consultation with members and stakeholders, the membership unanimously approved adoption of the CIO model at the Annual General Meeting held on 27 April 2025. This important milestone strengthened governance arrangements, enhanced trustee accountability and positioned the charity to access a wider range of charitable funding opportunities.

Trustees met regularly throughout the year to oversee governance, financial management, risk management, safeguarding, project delivery and the strategic direction of the organisation. The Board also began work to transfer operational activities and assets into the CIO structure and develop a long-term business plan to support future sustainability.

Charity Purposes and Public Benefit

The charity exists to promote community cohesion, relieve social isolation, improve health and wellbeing, preserve and celebrate Dominican and Caribbean heritage and culture, and provide opportunities for education, recreation and personal development.

Trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and are satisfied that the charity's activities delivered measurable benefits to older people, families, young people and the wider Bradford community throughout the year. Activities were open and accessible to both members and the wider community wherever possible.

Activities, Achievements and Performance

Supporting Older People and Reducing Isolation

The charity continued to deliver its Seniors Day Opportunities Programme, providing social interaction, healthy meals, physical activity, advice, educational visits and wellbeing support for older adults.

Despite reduced local authority funding, the programme successfully continued operating across two days each week due to the exceptional commitment of paid staff and volunteers who freely donated their time to ensure continuity of support for beneficiaries. Trustees consider this to be one of the year's most significant achievements.

Additional activities included:

- Weekly walking groups.

- Deafness and dementia support initiatives.
- Health awareness activities.
- Visits, outings and cultural experiences.
- Intergenerational engagement opportunities.
- Access to healthy meals and companionship.

The programme received a positive monitoring review from representatives of Bradford Council who recognised the quality of delivery and value provided to local residents. The project also secured continued funding into the following financial year.

Improving Health and Wellbeing

The charity expanded its community health and wellbeing offer during 2025.

Men's Health Initiative

The highly successful "De Mandem Health Club", delivered in partnership with the Black Health Forum, continued to provide men with opportunities to discuss health concerns, improve wellbeing and access support networks. Participation continued to grow throughout the year and feedback demonstrated significant positive impact on attendees.

Women's Health and Wellbeing

Trustees supported the establishment of a Women's Health and Wellbeing Group in partnership with the Black Health Forum. The programme provides culturally sensitive support and promotes healthy lifestyles for women from Black and minority ethnic communities.

Community Defibrillator Project

A major public benefit achievement during the year was the installation and launch of a publicly accessible community defibrillator at the Association's premises.

The project was delivered through collaboration with partners including the Bradford Central Lions Club, Yorkshire Ambulance Service Charity, City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council and Sport England The defibrillator was registered for use by emergency services and CPR and defibrillator awareness training was provided to staff, volunteers and trustees. The facility is available for the benefit of the wider community.

Community Cohesion and Cultural Heritage

The charity continued to play an important role in promoting cultural understanding and community cohesion through a diverse programme of events and cultural activities.

Activities delivered during the year included:

- Community Street Parties.
- Open cultural events.
- Dominican Independence celebrations.
- Celebrations supporting other Caribbean communities.
- Unity in the Community events.
- Games nights and community socials.
- Cultural heritage activities and exhibitions.
- Community domino competitions and inter-city tournaments.

These events encouraged participation across generations and communities and helped strengthen community relationships throughout Bradford. Attendance remained strong and feedback from participants was highly positive.

Education, Heritage and Community Development

Heritage Project

The charity continued to work with the National Lottery Heritage Fund on developing a major heritage project and feasibility study.

The project aims to preserve and celebrate the heritage of the Dominican and wider Caribbean community while assessing future options for the charity's premises, accessibility and long-term sustainability. Significant preparatory work was undertaken during the year and trustees remain committed to advancing the project over the coming years.

Book Club

The Book Club continued to flourish, delivering educational and cultural opportunities through literature, visits, guest speakers and workshop programmes.

Following a successful application, the group secured additional grant funding of £12,678 to support books, educational visits, author workshops and cultural activities over a two-year period.

Community Grant Programme

In partnership with LEAP, Bradford Council and the Arts Council, the charity administered a community grants programme supporting five local projects.

Funded activities included:

- Music lessons.
- Community theatre.
- Independence celebrations.
- Spoken word projects.
- Community games activities.

This represented the first time the charity had delivered a community grants programme and was viewed as a significant organisational achievement.

Youth and Family Engagement

Trustees recognised the importance of engaging younger generations and families in the charity's work.

The charity worked with Olivia Corbin-Phillip ("Stories with Liv") to develop proposals for a new intergenerational storytelling and literacy programme designed to:

- Improve literacy.
- Encourage family participation.
- Strengthen relationships across generations.
- Increase engagement amongst younger families.

Funding applications were in development at year end and trustees hope this project will become a key area of future growth.

Financial Review

Income

The charity generated income from a mixture of trading activities, grants, donations and community support.

Key sources of income during the year were:

Source	2025 (£)
Bar sales	63,646
Bradford Council Adult Services funding	14,197
Other grants	12,581
Donations	2,120
Room Hire	798
Memberships	255
Contract income	2,774

Total incoming resources from trading and charitable activities amounted to approximately **£96,371**.

The charity continues to rely on a combination of earned income, grant funding, donations and volunteer support to deliver its charitable objectives. Trustees are grateful to all funders, donors, volunteers and supporters who contributed during the year.

Expenditure

The charity's expenditure was focused on delivering services and maintaining community facilities.

The principal areas of expenditure were:

Area	2025 (£)
Staff wages	24,403
Utilities (heat and light)	13,069
Events and activities	7,136
Repairs and maintenance	4,260
Licences and insurance	4,283
Senior project coordination	1,800
Rates and water	1,620
Communications and administration	1,132

Most of the grant income received was used directly for the delivery of funded projects and activities in accordance with funder requirements. Funds supported older people, health and wellbeing projects, educational activities, cultural initiatives and community engagement programmes.

Financial Position

At 31 December 2025:

- Net assets stood at **£143,999**.
- Cash at bank was **£21,359**.
- The charity remained free from significant financial borrowing.
- Property and other fixed assets were valued at **£181,208** after depreciation.

Although the charity reported an accounting deficit of **£11,578**, this largely reflected timing differences relating to restricted and deferred grant funding together with increased operating costs and reduced grant income compared with the previous year. Trustees remain satisfied that the charity remains financially stable with adequate reserves and strong long-term prospects.

Volunteers

The charity's achievements would not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of volunteers. Trustees wish to formally recognise the contributions of volunteers, project workers, community partners, event organisers and supporters who donated significant amounts of their time throughout the year.

Particular recognition is given to volunteers who enabled continuation of senior services following funding reductions and to those who supported cultural events, fundraising activities and wellbeing projects.

Plans for 2026

The trustees' priorities for the coming year are:

- Complete the full CIO transition programme.
- Develop and adopt a formal business plan.
- Expand youth and intergenerational activities.
- Progress the Heritage Fund feasibility project.
- Secure additional project and operational funding.
- Improve building sustainability and energy efficiency.
- Strengthen volunteer development and trustee training.
- Continue delivering high-quality health, wellbeing and cultural activities for the community.

Trustee Declaration

The trustees confirm that they have approved this report and that it accurately reflects the activities, achievements and financial position of the charity during the reporting period.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees



Colum Sheridan-Small
Chair of Trustees Dominica Association of Bradford (CIO)