

Scottish Charity Number: SC045588

North Lanarkshire Muslim Women and Family Alliance

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31st March 2024

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements and the independent examiners report for the year ended 31st March 2024.

Reference and Administration Information

Charity Name: North Lanarkshire Muslim Women and Family Alliance

Charity Registration No: SC045588

Contact Address: C/O Mrs Bushra Iqbal MBE, 26 Burnside Walk,
Coatbridge, Lanarkshire, ML5 1HX

Trustees/ Office Bearers/ Strategy Group:

Bushra Iqbal MBE	- Chair
Shazia Aslam	- Secretary
Nasim Hussian	- Treasurer
Maria Hertado	- Trustee
Tahira Ahmed	- Trustee
Abida Farid	- Trustee
Parveen Asghar	- Trustee
Razia Khan	- Trustee
Samina Chishti	- Trustee

Volunteers

1. Purveen Liaqat,
2. Musarat Anwar
3. Muneera Ghos,
4. Purveen Ahmed,
5. Tahira Ashraf
6. Nargus Rashid,
7. Najmah Bashir,
8. Shazia Ahmed.
9. Naheed MMahmood

Sub-Committee Leads:

Education:	Samina Chishti
Finance:	Finance
Advocacy and Support:	Parveen Asghar
Catering & Events:	Naheed Mahmood
Befriending:	Parveen Asghar,
Partnership:	Bushra Iqbal MBE
Interfaith	Razia Khan
International calamity	Tahira Ahmed

Bankers:

Royal Bank of Scotland,
80 Main Street
Coatbridge, Lanarkshire ML5 3DZ

North Lanarkshire Muslim Women and Family Alliance

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Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 31st March 2023/24

The organisation is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Company (SCIO). It has a 2 tier Strategy and Operational Structure. All members of both the Strategy Group and the Operational Group are appointed by the membership. All posts being appointed from members of the Alliance who are considered to have the appropriate skills necessary to carry out the required tasks.

Monthly Meetings are planned (1st Saturday of the month) and Agendas issued in advance and all meetings are recorded appropriately and chaired effectively. Both Strategy and Operational members can contribute to discussion and enough information is gathered prior to decisions being made. Board members are delegated specific tasks. There is a trustee's code of conduct in place.

Strategic Planning

The Trustees are primarily responsible for all strategic planning and work closely with the Operations Group which has several sub-groups, each of these sub-groups includes a member of the Strategy team ensuring continuity in current working and forward planning reported via Strategy Meetings which are held monthly. Since post pandemic meetings has been held hybrid.

There is a 5-year plan which contains the mission, vision and aims of the group. The plan is monitored and evaluated by the board and targets measured against plans.

The board carry out SWOT Analysis and are aware of their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in very rapid changes in policies and procedures. The board considers policies and procedures when applying for funding and make sure that our policies are in line with current legislation. The organisation participates in partnership work with the local authority North Lanarkshire Council Departments, partner organisations and other community groups. All policies and procedures currently being updated in line with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Operational Management

Day to day operational management is carried out by the Operations Group and the appropriate sub-group. Each – Sub-group has an operational lead who provide reports to the board. There are work plans for each group which are in line with the outcomes in the 5-year plan.

Premises & Equipment etc.,

The premises are hired from Culture NL. And other organisations. Our organisation owns all the equipment used. The equipment is kept in the centre where our group activities take place. The organisation has up to date public liability insurance.

Stakeholder Communication

All members are aware of how the organisation works. Organizing operates an equality policy and will provide correspondence and other materials in adapted format if requested.

The member's details are stored in a safe and secure fashion and in line with data protection requirements. There is always "Comments and Suggestion" box available for the use of members for any complains and suggestions. The contents of this are reviewed at the Strategy Meeting.

Staff & Volunteers

There are no staff members. Volunteers are supported by operational leads, who feedback to the Strategy Group. Volunteers are recruited through word of mouth via members, etc. Volunteers have job descriptions, which vary from role to role and are issued with an Induction Pack. There are systems in place to reimburse travel costs. All the necessary PVG checks are carried out.

Training Development

The Trustees are offered the external training opportunities according to their functional requirements.

Our 6 volunteers have obtained the Digital Champion skills. Out of 4 volunteers are now running the basic computer skill weekly, involving 10 members of our operational group.

The organisation has team development sessions such as weekly digital training, Conversational English and ESOL provision and community languages.

Objectives and Activities

The Alliance's overall objective is connecting with communities and integration into the wider community without losing their own identity. The Alliance's vision of "integration" is delivered by initiating different work programmes that are aimed at developing the confidence of our members and focuses on respecting, sharing, and celebrating the different cultures and practices.

Our Framework includes to build the confidence of the membership through education, training, visits, Historic Scotland visits, religious and racial harmony by working in partnership with others. We hold classes, provide training, presentations, and awareness sessions for the advancement of education, arts, heritage, and culture and diverse languages of our members. The advancement of citizenship is encouraged by providing a better understanding of Scottish law, processes, and culture to enable full participation in the civic life of the community. Religious and racial harmony is promoted through our multi faith group and relief to those in need by providing advice, advocacy, befriending, and counselling and support services at home and abroad.

Activities during the year 2023-2024: It has been challenging lately for internet provision at the venue that we held our activities for last 18 years. Our volunteers are the main source of developing the organisation. In the current digital skill need was our priority for volunteers to be equipped for their vital role. Therefore, to meet this challenge, we moved to alternative venue; however, it was not big enough for the mum, youth, children, and toddlers' various activities to be run spontaneously. Unfortunately, the activities had to be divided in different days causing difficulties for families.

Trustees Annual Report

Community Asset Transfer (Nasim Hussian)

We continuously working on our formal submission (Janet Hamilton site in Coatbridge). We were advised by the Council regarding the Janet Hamilton Centre and Coatbridge Outdoor Sports Centre Langloan Street Coatbridge declared surplus (September 2023). Considering our constitution and vision of integration, this served a good opportunity. A survey of our members / service users was carried out and 80% agreed this site to be suitable. We held several meetings with the council and note of interest was submitted for Janet Hamilton Centre (JHC). Commenced looking at funding options but we can only apply for funding once we have secured the asset. It proved quite difficult to have a survey as the Council had the building declared unsafe. Eventually we were successful in engaging Graham Sibbalds, company, however their health and safety insurance policy would not cover the surveyor due to the building being unsafe and restriction by the NLC, hence only the ground survey was conducted on 28th March 2024.

Maria Hurtado Community Observer

This past year voluntary working with NLMWA has been immensely enriching for both my professional and personal growth. We've successfully secured funding, which, although modest, has opened doors for us to engage in significant events like The Coronation and initiatives like the Environmental Cleanup. The progress we've made on the Community Asset Transfer (CAT), a long-standing item on our agenda, is especially encouraging. This journey has been a tapestry of experiences, both challenging and rewarding, shared by all involved. As we move forward, I am inspired by the dedication of each member and urge everyone to continue playing an active role. Together, we are not just building projects; we are building our community. Let's carry this momentum into the future, embracing every opportunity to grow, contribute, and make a difference.

"Verily, with every hardship comes ease." (Qur'an 94:6)

This is a powerful reminder of perseverance and hope. It encourages us to remain steadfast in our endeavours and optimistic in our outlook, knowing that challenges are not only natural but also accompanied by relief and opportunity.

Pease see a snapshot of the vital work that the Alliance carried out this year as follows:

Shazia Aslam (Trustee).

Ramadan 2023: **"Art for Eid "**event was held for Children with special needs and other children all accompanied by their mothers/carers. Our Youth volunteers man the

workshops and gained experience. We have been supporting carers of children.

with special needs and family members who wish to have social facility to

1/06/2023 - **Youth Group** (15 girls) have been presented with a certificate of appreciation for their volunteer role in several events.

- 24/06/2023 - 15 ladies participated in Elect Her event at the Scottish Parliament.
- 09/09/2023 - An information session was delivered by Mirical Foundation.
- 30/09/2023 - Will Writing" information session by the solicitor,
- 27/10/2023 - Power of Attorney" information session by the solicitor
- 06/03/2024 - The group visited Maggie Center in Airdrie to learn about their services,
- 27//03/2024 - The Youth Group consultation and Iftar event.
- 27/04/2024 - An information session by Carrer Together.

Diverse background women have attended weekly lectures on Qur'an guidance from April 2023.

Elder Women: During 2023/2024 attended monthly social gathering that involved presentations, discussions and sharing various daily life topics, social, family and isolation's problems and shared food etc.

"Traces of Empire" Project, (Tahira Ahmed Trustee).

In collaboration with Historic Scotland a fascinating project (Traces of British Empower" began in July 2023 involving our senior members. They gave a recount of what they remember during the partition in Pakistan and India. They now know their own narratives as stories can be told to reclaim different perspectives or perceptions that are not true. 40, women experienced the process of curation, engaged in discussion, shared their experience. They now know they own their storyline can be told to reclaim different perspectives. 11, women have been shortlisted for final exhibition stage of the Traces of British Empire project.

Women improved; confidence, conversational English, express themselves better, technology savvy. The record shows a tremendous improvement in their abilities and making impact in the society.

Youth Capacity Building initiative (Bushra Iqbal)

Our organisation is growing, and a new project has been initiated involving the young girls. The young ladies are going to be working ahead by acquiring the generalist skills talking about contemporary issues that affect our community.

Refugees from Ukraine and Syria we continue to support them in NL Council area. We welcomed them during Ramadan Iftar event, delivered food parcels and many participated in the Eid celebration in April 2024.

Sharing and celebrating Ramadan and Iftar celebration.

The Alliance invited our Networks/ organisations to join us in breaking Fast and food celebration during the month of Ramadan. Around 50 guests attended the event, became

aware of a diverse community belief and practice and having feast after fasting. The feedback has been by most “Very enjoyable event”.

All through the month of Ramadan, Daily sessions delivered for the believer’s reminder of the Holy Quran, attended by hundreds of women from across Lanarkshire area and beyond through online service.

21st April 2024 the Celebration of Eid Event

We Invited wider community, public, private, and voluntary organisations. Despite the bad weather, strong winds and rain, the turnout was around 200. We lost most of our gazebos and other items were ruined as the event was held in the West End Park, Coatbridge.

Number of issues arose unpredictable weather. Had we managed in a covered area out other stalls would not have got soaked in the torrential downpour. Made us realise how crucial it is to have such events in a sheltered area and have open ground for the various activities such as a community centre. Previously in good weather we have had 600 – 700 attendees.

Partnership Work

From mixed marriage perspective we continue our support to our members through advocacy and Befriending services. We currently run this group in partnership with Friends of Airdrie and Coatbridge Islamic Centre, cross cultural information, and support by weekly get together which encourages friendship and support for each other.

Youth (boys) group activities included discussions on cultural and religious aspects as well as cricket playing and barbecue.

Ladies breakfast and Children play once a week

Abrahamic Roots Group: We do not meet up unfortunately, on a regular session however only on occasions. We plan to restore our effort and encourage the diverse community friends.

Health and Social Care Consortium

The discussions have taken place to run Healthy Curry sessions for the pensioners in partnership with several organisations of Coatbridge Consortium. Also, contacts have been formed network with many Voluntary and Public Sector organisations that we sign post our members.

Chair Remarks

My heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers and partners and most important our members for their hard work in supporting the organisation’s mission resulting in another successful year2024.

Congratulations to our 11 volunteers who have been awarded for their continuous contribution and participation in Digital skill course.

The Alliance work is making a positive impact and difference on the community that we serve across Lanarkshire area. Let's continue to strive and increase our resources and activities enable to increase our projects delivery that benefits all our communities and share our contribution for every one's benefit. Keep up the great work! It's great to see such positive change happening in our globalized community and we all must be proud for all that the Organisation do!"

Bushra Iqbal MBE

Signed: Bushra Iqbal

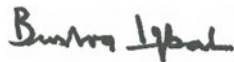
Date: May 2024

Bushra Iqbal MBE

Chairperson

North Lanarkshire Muslim Women and Family Alliance
SC045588

Scottish Charity Number:



Signed _____

Date 3rd July 2023

Bushra Iqbal MBE
Chair (SHE)

Trustees Annual Report for the Year Ended 31st March 2023

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

	2023	2022
	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds
RECEIPTS		
Grants and donations		
N L Council Grant	£4,905.00	£10,014.00
Donations & Other Grants	£343.13	£1,544.00
Creche Income & Donations		
Bank Interest/compensation	£338.58	£9.51
Total receipts	£5,586.71	£11,567.51
PAYMENTS for charitable activities		
Lets		£34.80
Donation to Islamic Centre	£1,450.00	
Insurance	£219.38	£209.41
Photocopier		
Stationary & Material		£22.00
H3G / Web/Domain	£96.48	£115.07
Tutor/Travel Costs	£2,192.68	£2,451.18
Equipment	£979.89	£0.00
Event Costs incl Eid in the Park	£978.42	£400.00
Art & Craft Material	£370.92	£0.00
Governance Costs		£0.00
Total Payments	£6,287.77	£3,232.46
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	-£701.06	£8,335.05

The notes form an integral part of these accounts.

STATEMENT OF BALANCES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**Funds Reconciliation**

	2023	2022
Cash at Bank and in hand – 31 March 2022	£20,638.98	£12,303.93
Surplus / (Deficit) for year	-£701.06	£8,335.05
Cash at Bank and in hand – 31 March 2023	£19,937.92	£20,638.98

Bank and Cash Balances

Bank Account	£19,860.46	£20,553.48
Cash	£77.46	£83.50
	£19,937.92	£20,636.98

Other Assets

Filing Cabinet (at cost)	£174.00
Laptop (at cost)	£419.97
Projector (at cost)	£389.23
Roller Banner (at cost)	£81.54
Printer (at cost)	£44.99
Fryer (2 at cost)	£179.88
Rice Cooker (at cost)	£184.20
Portable PA Speaker & Microphone	£979.89
	£2,453.70

Notes

1. The group had uncashed cheques totalling £401.66 at the year end, this has been reflected in the bank balance.

2. All funds remaining are unrestricted.

3. Payments to Trustees:-

a) No travel expenses were paid to trustees.

b) Remuneration of £670.00 was paid to S. Chishti for providing the weekly classes

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