

Rise Community Action Limited

**Annual Report
and
Annual Accounts**

1st December 2019 – 30th November 2020

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LEGAL INFORMATION

Company No: 5617122

Charity Number: 1147332

Legal Status: Limited by Guarantee and a Registered Charity

Address: Halkevi Community Centre
31-33 Dalston Lane
London E8 3DF

Broad of Directors/ Trustees: Farida Yiga - Chair
David Kakande - Treasurer
Lukiya Kakembo - Secretary
Dr Edwin Mavunika Mapara
Amina Nalubega Ssendegeya

Principle Staff: Janet Murungi - Coordinator (volunteer)

Banker: Barclays Bank
Moorgate Branch
128 Moorgate,
London, EC2M 6SX

Trustees' Report

Rise Community Action (RCA) was developed to provide a voice for people living with HIV/AIDS and to create a bridge between service providers and service users who we found were not accessing available services. RCA's work is directed at improving the quality of life for individuals who are socially excluded for a myriad of reasons.

The Board of Trustees of Rise Community Action Limited (RISE) ("the Charity") present their annual report for the year ended 30th November 2020 under the Companies Act 1985 and the Charities Act 1993, together with the independently examined financial statements for that year.

Administrative Details

Rise Community Action is a registered company limited by guarantee (Company No: 5617122) and Charity No: 1147332, with its registered office is as shown on page 1.

Governance and Management

The Charity is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association which were adopted on 9th May 2005. The Board of Trustees is responsible for the overall governance of the Charity. Trustees are either elected or co-opted and the total number of Trustees may not be fewer than three and cannot exceed seven. A co-opted member may retain office only until the next Annual General Meeting (AGM) and shall then be eligible for re-election. Effective partnership between Trustees and staff continues to contribute significantly to our success.

Objects and Principal Activities

The Charity's object is for the advancement of education, the relief of poverty and sickness, and the preservation and protection of good health of women and their families, especially persons from BME, Refugee and Asylum seekers communities, and any other person who need assistance. (a) The provision or assistance in the provision of facilities in the interest of social welfare.

Our vision is a world where everyone is given the best possible opportunities in life and where a medical condition is not a barrier to an individual ability to grasp opportunities and achieve personal fulfilment.

Our strategic aim is to achieve this by providing high quality services that is intended to have a practical and positive effect on the lives of those affected with HIV and their families.

Our Aims

- To create awareness on issues surrounding HIV/AIDS and reduce HIV - related stigma in the community
- To reduce isolation suffered by HIV positive people and promote their social inclusion.
- To better inform service providers on the needs of people living with HIV thus improve the quality of care
- To empower our users to make informed choices on access to services and their lives in general.
- To improve the quality of lives of individuals affected by HIV, FGM or Domestic Violence.

Rise Community Action (RCA) was developed to provide a voice for people living with HIV/AIDS and to create a bridge between service providers and service users who we found were not accessing available services. Our first project provided care and support for individuals living with HIV. RCA services have been extended over the years to include providing, support service and activities for individuals affected by Domestic Violence and FGM advocacy and empowerment sessions and sexual health promotion activities.

What We Do

RCA activities focus on addressing the issues of Domestic Violence and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). We are currently supporting a growing number of individuals' victims of Domestic Violence and survivors of FGM. As well as addressing these two very serious issues we are tasked with raising awareness of the effects of domestic violence and FGM in the wider community.

Initially established to provide information, care and support for women living with HIV/AIDS in London, RCA has been unfaltering in raising awareness on issues surrounding HIV/AIDS by running workshops, delivering presentations and staging community events and educating the community about the spread of HIV. RCA has been responsive to the needs of the community and its activities since it first started project have been targeted at reducing the damage being done to its target community.

Financial Support

As a proactive community charity RCA is constantly developing new projects to address identified needs both new and establish needs. The management of RCA believe it is important that RCA grows to a position where it can employ paid staff to better address the level of need present in our delivery area. If RCA fails to grow to a point where its infrastructure is robust enough for the task, we are conscious that RCA have to make radical action to ensure that RCA never have to turn beneficiaries away.

RCA has been reliant on a number of volunteers, chief among these have been our coordinator (volunteer) who continues to perform beyond all expectations and she continues to work tirelessly to ensure we can extend our activities across London by working in partnership with organisation of a similar size to address need.

RCA funders for the year were the National Lottery Fund and HCVS, thank for your support and belief in the documented evidence of need.

Funders

Funders continue to adjust their methods of working and supporting good causes and this has resulted in the obliteration of numerous charities and has created a void in the community that the remaining charities cannot fill because of limited resources. Life on the edge is very scary for the evident lack of service is devastating.

As we reflect on the year the majority of our current difficulties can be attributed to the uncertainty that engulf us all 'Brexit'. The acrimony that has emerged from the Brexit process has been far reaching and its effects was and remains unrelenting and totally devoid of compassion. As a direct effect of the economic environment small organisations are being increasingly marginalised or forced to stop operation leaving an alarming number of people without any support network and in a city as soulless as London the consequences are very visible.

RCA continues to work in partnership with a number of local agencies and charities to ensure that our client group can be serviced, RCA have been central in delivering a number of projects as a delivery partner.

We have continued to perform an unusual role as the administrator of CAN's (Community African Network) Bowel cancer project. A project funded by City & Hackney CCG which meant that this year £27,750 was received on behalf of CAN. As the receiving organisation this was then paid to CAN in our accounts this figure is represent as part of the organisation's total unrestricted income and is represent in the spending under the section, activities in the furtherance of the Charity's objects.

While funding has been hard ,we have managed to attracted funding for projects, predominately from the National Lottery Community Fund, however charities of the nature of RCA are not seen as attractive to local companies especially in these difficult economic. In the existing environment only large charities are attracting funding. An approach that requires a paradigm shift to stop the continued result in the failure small charities, small charities which deliver over 90% of all the charitable services in the country and only receive about 6% of available funding.

Management and Administration

The resources expended on administration totalled £2,952 during the year. This represents 5.4% of the total resources received a level of expenditure that the Trustees consider to be appropriate for the charity. These figure means that we are keeping a firm grip on our administration and management costs and this continues to allow us to direct a much greater percentage of our resources to assisting our beneficiaries.

Material Intangible Incoming Resources

A number of professionals gave their time as volunteers. As there is no financial cost to any third party, this intangible income has not been included in the Statement of Financial Activities but we put a value on it in excess of £42,000 annually.

Activities

We hope this report demonstrates the value of RCA, we hope it will strike a chord and inspire you to join us and contribute to making difference in the lives of those most in need.

RCA is driven by the ambition to bring some solace to those affected by Domestic Violence and FGM or HIV. We are happy that we have witnessed real changes in the lives of DV and FGM survivors. RCA continue to work in

partnership with other local charities as we try to maximise the reach of RCA in the face of ever decreasing resources a situation which was very evident as we existed in the middle of a pandemic which claim nearly one hundred thousand lives.

Projects

We have for the past year been locked in the battle with Covid-19, a pandemic which has ravished society claiming countless lives and as the pandemic gripped the UK the picture was the same across the globe. The pandemic brought with it a change and new ways of living. We became with the order of lockdowns when we were locked in our homes for months only allowed to leave to purchase food or for a few minutes of exercise. We were forbidden from mixing with people outside of our household.

However, we've been at our very best during this crisis, swiftly adapting to unprecedented change and doing whatever it takes to support communities in need. *Amidst the hardship, Covid-19 has highlighted important opportunities for learning that we have tried capture and share.*

When this awful pandemic struck back in March, we like many organisations doing crucial work within communities were simply forced to shut up shop, as some funding streams have begun to quickly dissipate.

When faced with such a quandary, we didn't wait around and nurse our wounds. Instead, we tried to diversify as we step up to the challenge and develop innovative solutions.

Quick-thinking and adaptability has made RCA a critical force throughout the pandemic. RCA ability to respond to extraordinary crises like Covid-19 should not go underestimated or ignored for it is clear that this charity is more responsive than we knew.

We have fostered a constructive relationship between RCA and statutory organisation during the pandemic we intend to continue to strengthen and nurture these relationships. RCA eagerly stepped in when the local authorities became overstretched, and our collaborative has been one of the great positives to come out of this crisis.

Post-Covid, RCA still very much requires a seat at the table, and clarity and support from the public sector will be more important than ever for as we start to rebuild.

We are conscious that small organisations RCA are in danger of being driven out by their larger counterparts, corporate support is will remain nonexistence while we are faced with an increasing demand on the services of the charity.

These are all valid concerns, and ones that we must overcome in order to move forward, and, in turn, improve the lives of the most vulnerable in our community.

- Whilst some changes have been enforced, COVID-19 has worked as a catalyst to reinvent the future of work we have to take the opportunity to make things better than they were.
- New technologies are going to necessitate new roles, which is one reason we have encourage new skills in the charity.
- Volunteers/ Employees will benefit from being taught new mind sets, behaviours and values in our transforming workplace.

There has been a rapid transformation of the workplace, working from home has become the new normal, and we've gone from digitizing the relationship between firm and customer to digitizing the relationship between employer and employee/ volunteers.

We have been catapulted forward, fast-tracking trends such as automation, digitalization, and innovation.

As an organisation at the crossroads we have to capitalize on post-COVID opportunities and position the charity to retain our talented volunteers and attract people when the situation stabilizes.

This period has required us all to be supportive of one another, as we all face uncertainty. Control has to some extent given way to trust. People are learning how to do work disparately and with far less oversight: they are learning "on the job" what works and what doesn't work at home, and holding virtual meetings that might have happened before but never to such an extent.

Ironically, in the midst of social distancing, many of us are getting closer. We are building more adaptive teams, are more consistently in touch with each other and connection has become a priority in the name of working remotely. But beyond that we are connected with purpose and as a community.

Charity leaders now have, in some sense, been gifted with a better idea of what can and cannot be done outside their companies' traditional processes, and COVID-19 is forcing both the pace and scale of workplace innovation. Many are finding simpler, faster and less expensive ways to operate.

The major work of RCA, was our Covid-19 response project the FFENA Project

With funds delivered via the National Lottery Community Fund to deliver sessions aimed at reducing the social isolation and improving mental well-being of BME women affected by Domestic Abuse and Female genital mutilation or HIV by providing:

Emotional support - online support in form of remote/online services (e.g. zoom calls)

Practical Support -Provide specific African food and essential hygiene items.

The project employed a sessional worker who worked closely with the trained volunteers to call our clients who are suffering isolation and mental distress.

We purchased and supplied African food and hygiene items to our service users (especially those with no resource to public funds). The project made a difference by providing both emotional and practical support

The project supported women affected by DV, FGM or HIV who are experiencing disproportionate challenges and difficulty as a result of COVID 19 due to their health issues and the nature of the circumstances. These women already suffer huge mental health and physical difficulty but lockdown and COVID 19 made it more challenging. Domestic Abuse is on the rise where as there is lack of culturally appropriate support services open to African women who already have multiple issues ranging from language barrier, no recourse to public funds, leaving them dependent on their abusers. The current financial climate makes it difficult for our client group. Most of these women cannot afford basics and mostly depend on food banks. Our organisation has had to support more women than we would normally do due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Ubuntu Project was funded by the National Lottery Community Fund to increase awareness of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) within the communities in Hackney. The project aimed to reduce the risk of harm to girls and make parents aware of the damaging effects of FGM and that it is a safeguarding issue.

The project raised awareness of FGM through outreach sessions and organised an awareness raising event on the subject. We worked with a team of trained outreach volunteers to deliver this project. By raising awareness while working with the FGM practising communities the Ubuntu project aimed to address FGM at an early stage in helping to reduce the risk of FGM incidences in the borough.

We have worked closely with at risk communities in Hackney, communities who have now gained confidence to discuss FGM openly and challenge this harmful practice while protecting our girls. The project has also facilitated closer relationships with FGM charities like Barnardo's the National FGM Unit who actively supported us while delivering our awareness raising event. These large charities have supported our delivery with FGM awareness literature which we use during the outreach sessions.

The success of the project depended on the pool of dedicated volunteers who shared the conversation they would have had with residents, the beliefs and attitudes people would have expressed and whether or not they believe change should happen. Feedback was key, because it helped with our evaluation at the end of the project. The project is funded until the summer of 2020.

Condom Distribution Scheme

RCA condom distribution scheme has become a fixture in the charities annual activities ,it provides free condoms and information on sexual health and where to go for HIV testing/sexual health screening to the African Community while registering them on the Free Condom Scheme by issuing them a Ccard which allows them to collect more free condoms from pharmacies and other collection points when and where there is need for them. This is delivered through a partnership with a number of community groups supported by Brook Hackney , CAN and Hackney CVS.

The scheme has increased uptake of HIV testing and has been instrumental in encouraging condom usage among individuals from Hackney's African Communities. The scheme is funded by Hackney Council (Public Health) administered by Hackney Council for Voluntary Services and CAN.

Signposting Project

One of the key roles of a community base charity is for those with the knowledge to share it with those that do not possess the knowledge and this how grass roots engagement grows.

In RCA this sharing of information is done through our a drop-in service once a week on a set day at a permanently accessible venue with a dedicated staff member and two volunteers to provide information and signposting to clients. This service is free, friendly, confidential and independent. Delivered through, 1 to 1 meetings, telephone or email contacts, we provide information to clients about where to get help in relation to health, social care or personal wellbeing. Issues identified beyond our scope are referred to appropriate advice agencies. We communicate with individual clients in languages that they are comfortable in communicating in.

We believe operating the signposting service this way makes it easily accessible and less intimidating or stigmatising to the hard to reach individuals of our community. They are able to communicate in a language that they understand thereby overcoming some of the barriers they face in accessing services. Our project is a gateway to service providers and a way to identify clients' needs and help them to access services or resources to meet their identified needs.

Thank you All

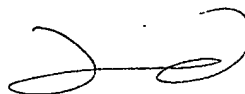
The inspirational work of our volunteer coordinator continues to define our activities and enhance our reputation by setting a level of community engagement and service not equalled in the borough. We are so please that all of our volunteers follow her lead. This allows us to continue extending the range of services provided to our growing number of users. RCA will continue to work tirelessly through this pandemic to ensure we can extend our activities will be open to all in the city.

We started this year believing we will not make it to the end of that year because of a lack of finance. It was not the lack of funds that was not the challenge it was, the pandemic. The Trustees would like to express their gratitude and that of the beneficiaries, volunteers and casual users, to all those who continue to help RCA to deliver its' services.

Thank you.

Chair: Farida Yiga

Signature



12/07/2021

Directors' Responsibilities

Company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the charitable company and the surplus or deficit for that period. In preparing these statements, the Directors are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in operation.

The Directors are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent Examiner Report

For the Year ended 30th November 2020

I report on the accounts of Rise Community Action Limited for the year ended 30th November 2020, which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43 (2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act); and
- to state whether matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

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 the seeking of 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 out in the statement below:

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements
 - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - (b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (revised 2005) have not been met; or
- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

J N Beugren Accountants
5 Stuart Place, St. Albans, AL1 1AU



26/06/2021

<u>Rise Community Action Limited</u>				
<u>Income & Expenditure Account</u>				
<u>Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 30th November 2020</u>				
2019- Total	<u>Incoming Resources</u>	Unrestricted	Restricted	2020 - Total
£	<u>Note</u>			£
	2.			
35,573	Grants, Awards,	-	37,750	45,210
-	Donations	-	2,084	-
-	Generated Income	-	3358	-
-	Other	-	11,728	-
35,573	Total Income	0	54,920	54,920
	3. <u>Resources Expended</u>			
-	Cost of generating funds	-	-	-
35,428	Activities in the furtherance of the Charity's objects	-	51,593	51,593
2,110	Management & Administration	-	2,952	2952
37,538	Total outgoing resources	0	54545	54,545
(1,965)	Net surplus/ deficit	0	375	375
11,517	Balance brought forward	190	9,362	9,552
9,552	Balance carried forward	190	9,737	9,927

Rise Community Action Limited
Balance Sheet as at 30th November 2020

<u>Fixed Assets</u>			
<u>2019</u>		<u>Note</u>	<u>2020</u>
0	Intangible Assets		0
1,274	Tangible Assets	4	1,954
1,274	Total Fixed Assets		954
<u>Current Assets</u>			
-	Debtors		-
9,552	Cash at bank		9,927
	Total Current		
10,826	Assets		11,881
<u>Liabilities</u>			
-	Creditor	-	-
10,826	Assets less liability	-	11,881
10,826	<u>Total Net Assets</u>		11,881
Represented by :			
10,826	Un/restricted :		11,881
-	Free reserves:		-
1,274	Fixed Assets:		954
	Total unrestricted		
190	funds		190
10,636	Restricted funds		11,691
10,826	<u>Total</u>		11,881

For the year ending 30th November 2020 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

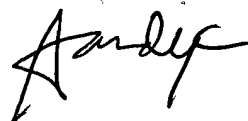
- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476,
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

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

The board of Directors approved these accounts on 12 /07/2021, and signed on their behalf by:

Treasurer - David Kakande

Signature:



12 /07/2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention. They comply with the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting by Charities (SORP 2005) and all applicable Accounting and Financial REPORTING STANDARDS

(b) INCOMING RESOURCES

General donations, legacies and subscriptions are brought into account when received.

Donations and grants given for specific purposes are treated as income in the year of receipt. Unspent restricted income is included under restricted funds as it is fully committed.

(c) RESOURCES EXPENDED

The resources used are classified under the charity's functional categories of expenditure rather than the type of expense in order to provide more useful information.

Resources expended in each functional category comprise direct expenditure including direct staff costs attributable to the activity. Where costs cannot be directly attributed they have been allocated to activities based on time spent by staff on those activities.

(d) TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

Tangible fixed assets are included at cost; Depreciation is calculated annually at 25%

(e) OPERATING LEASES

Operating lease rentals are charged to the income and expenditure account as they become due.

(f) FUND ACCOUNTING

General funds comprise the accumulated surplus or deficit on the income and expenditure account. They are available for use at the discretion of the Directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the company. Restricted funds are funds subject to specific restricted conditions imposed by donors.

(g) EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES

Expenditure is allocated to one of three functional categories that reflect the charitable activities of the company:

- Cost of generating funds

- Activities in the furtherance of the Charity's objects

- Management and Administration

Rise Community Action Limited
Grants, Donations & Expenditure Analysis

2. Grants, Donation and fees :

<u>2019</u>	<u>Sources</u>	Unrestricted	Restricted	<u>2020</u>
Total				Total
	City and Hackney NHS			
18,500*	CCG	-	27,750*	27,750*
10,000	National Lottery			
	Community Fund	-	10,000	10,000
	HCVS			
1,400	information/signposting	-	450	450
894	HCVS condom	-	398	398
625	Donations	-	2,084	2,084
3,442	Generated income	-	3,358	3,358
712	other	-	10,880	10,880
35,573	<u>Total</u>	-	54,920	54,920
<u>2019</u>	<u>Resources expended:</u>			<u>2020</u>
	Fundraising and training		0	
	Activities for Beneficiaries (including			
	Salaries, Rent, Volunteer cost)		51,593**	
	Support and advice			
	Management and Administration		2,952	
37,538	Total			54,545

**£27,750 of this income was received on behalf of CAN (Community African Network) for its Bowel cancer project*

*** £27,750 is for funds paid to CAN (Community African Network) which was received for its Bowel cancer project*