



acca

Annual Report
2015—2016



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About the ACAA



Background

The Afghanistan and Central Asian Association (ACAA) was founded by Dr Nooralhaq Nasimi in 2001, 14 months after he arrived in the United Kingdom as a refugee. As the Refugee Council assisted Dr Nasimi when he arrived, the ACAA works to help refugees in Lewisham with integration into British society through the provision of services such as language courses, mentoring schemes and legal assistance. Since the organisation was set up in 2001 we have employed eight full time staff and over 900 volunteers. The growth of our workforce has enabled us to expand our mission.

In the UK, the ACAA endeavours to compliment borough, city and national policies regarding the assimilation of refugees and asylum seekers into local communities. This agenda is met by working in collaboration with local authorities and organisations to aid and enhance the services offered at the ACAA.

The Afghanistan and Central Asian Association (ACAA) strives to empower, educate and unite Afghans and Central Asians living away from their homeland; provide them the skills and knowledge required to exercise their rights and achieve success and prosperity within the UK.

We hope to reduce social isolation by empowering individuals to become more confident about integrating into the local community. We offer practical support and advice throughout their journey in the UK. We have been helping refugees for more than 13 years and have a thorough understanding of the difficulties facing people arriving in the UK, having fled war, rape, torture and with unimaginable stories to tell. Many refugees have lost everything and their lives will never return to normal. We offer a helping hand to support and empower them to rebuild their lives.

In Afghanistan we work to promote human rights and democracy, focusing our efforts on some of the country's most vulnerable people, including: women, children, internally displaced people, disabled people and returnees.

Our Mission:

‘To promote community cohesion and seek to provide assistance to the needs of Afghans and Central Asians living in London’

Year at a glance



Mother tongue Dari
& Pashta classes



Supplementary classes



Cultural events



Afghanistan projects



Chair's Report

Noorudin Ansari
Chairman



Welcome to all of you on behalf of the Afghanistan and Central Asian Association. I am delighted to introduce our annual report for 2016, which highlights some of the key achievements of the last year.



Before we carry on I would like to thank Dagi Dagiev for his work as Chair until June 2016 when he was unable to continue on the Board of Trustees. Dagi Dagiev was an important leader for the organisation and Board of Trustees.

The plight of refugees from across the world is high on the global and national political agenda and over the last year the Afghanistan and Central Asian Association has seen an increase in people coming to access services from a broader range of countries. Under the wing of Dr Nooralhaq Nasimi the organisation has been responding to national and international challenges. We strive to bring communities together, seeking to empower and enable refugees and asylum seekers to integrate into the wider community recognising that this is more than the provision of ESOL classes and advice. You will be able to read about our services later in this report.

We have been building on relationships that have been developed over the years including those with Lewisham Council, Street Vibes, Tidemill Academy and many others to strengthen our services in Deptford, Lewisham and across South East London. We hope to continue working in this way and expand our reach out to other areas across London.

An area that ACAA excels in is the involvement of beneficiaries in setting the priorities of the organisation. Dr Nasimi and his team carry out regular evaluation and monitoring in order to properly understand the needs of those that we work with, ensuring that we serve the people who come through our doors.

The organisation has a strong staff team and volunteers who bring skills and energy to our activities. However, the Trustees recognise the need to look beyond delivery. We are becoming more strategic: improving policies; planning fundraising; the Trustees, staff and volunteers are provided with regular training and development and we plan to work towards achieving accreditation. This will improve the quality of our offer to refugees and asylum seekers both in the UK and Afghanistan.

The ACAA has been proactive in identifying new trustees, with skills and experience that meet the ever-changing needs of charitable organisations. This has included a robust recruitment process which we hope will strengthen the organisation for future years, ensuring sustainability for many years to come.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to Dr Nooralhaq Nasimi, the Director and Founder of the Afghanistan and Central Asian Association. Dr Nasimi works tirelessly to help those most in need, never thinking of himself. He is a shining example of integrity and honesty and teaches us all to value others.

Director's Report

Dr. Nooralhaq Nasimi
Director

This year the Afghanistan and Central Asian Association (ACAA) has been able to continue the success of previous years by expanding our projects and services. In doing so, we are able to continue our mission of empowering, educating and uniting Afghans and Central Asians living away from their homeland.



We believe that the ACAA plays an important role in its local community. The services that we provide such as English language classes, a supplementary school, mentoring schemes, volunteering placements, employment and business training, trips, and social events, all offer a function that we believe will help the Afghan and Central Asian diaspora to better assimilate into British society. Our services not only improve integration, but also support counter extremism by providing a safe environment for sharing and discussion. Through the provision of services we hope to equip refugees and asylum seekers with the necessary tools to build a brighter future in the UK.

Throughout 2015 and 2016 we have seen many successes within the ACAA. The Zanan Women's Sessions are rapidly growing in popularity with the number of Afghan and other Muslim women participants increasing in the weekly workshops.

We have seen an increase in demand for our English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes. While our services are aimed at the Afghan and Central Asian diaspora we have a non-exclusion policy and have, as a result, attracted many people from different cultures that are now enrolled with us.

Our volunteer placements and mentoring sessions support a high number of people to improve their confidence and skills, with the hope they will ultimately secure employment.

By ensuring that the ACAA is a stable, purposeful, and high performing charity, rooted in an empathetic understanding of the immense challenges facing refugees in the UK and conscious of our reach and influence as a credible and authoritative voice on refugee matters, we were able to fulfil our mission in 2015/16. We were also able to make significant progress towards achieving our vision of the UK as a welcoming place of safety for people seeking refuge here from persecution and human rights abuses abroad.

We were able to take advantage of the palpable, positive and, to date, sustained, shift in public attitudes to refugees, thanks to the dedication, persistence and tenacity of our staff members and volunteers, the generosity of our many charitable, individual and statutory funders and supporters and to the direction, guidance and encouragement provided to the organisation by our doughty Board of Trustees.

Supplementary School

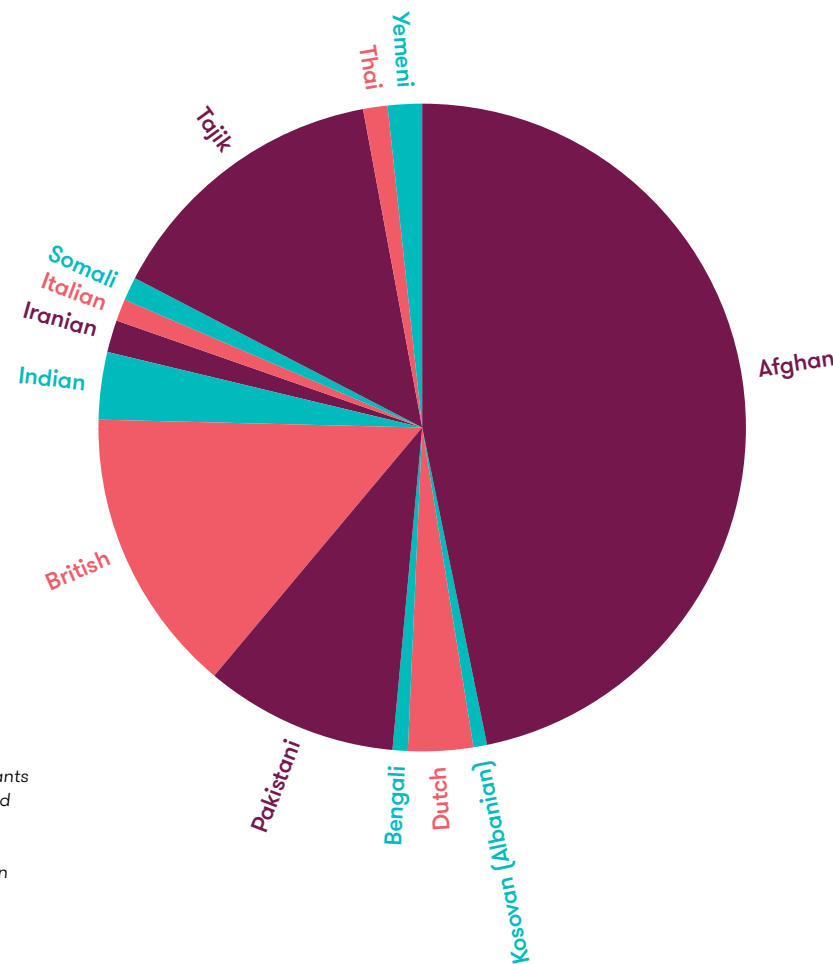
Funded by Big Lottery Fund



What we do

The supplementary school programme is the longest running programme at the ACAA, providing supplementary education to children from Afghanistan and Central Asia who are currently living in South London. The majority of children that we work with are refugees, and often have poor English language skills. With this limitation, children can very easily fall behind in school and feel excluded from the community. We have continued to provide extracurricular support for children aged 6 – 16 for both Afghan diaspora and wider community. Our schools aim to help children perform better at their mainstream school, narrow the gap between the attainment levels of refugee children and those born in the UK and help children maintain their cultural identity.

With the help of volunteer teachers our supplementary school enables us to provide support on core academic subjects. Over a three-year period, over 178 children benefited from the supplementary school programme. In addition to facilitating the learning of traditional core subjects, we also run ‘native tongue’ tuition in Darsi and Pashto, allowing young people to maintain a connection with their heritage.



When reviewing participants across a three-year period we found that they came from a diverse array of nationalities as outlined in Figure 1.

Our aims

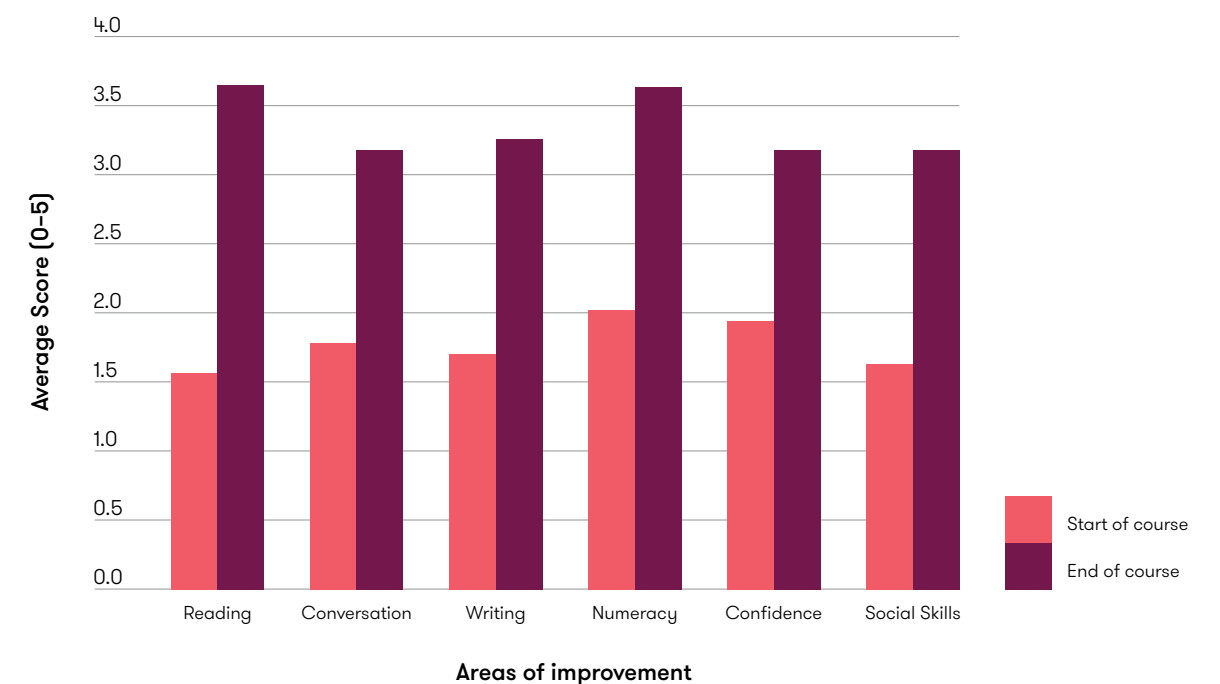
- 1 We aim to create a personalised and relaxed learning environment that is specific to each student's needs.
- 2 We aim to provide students with educational support that complements the education they receive at school, in order to help them adapt to the British school system.
- 3 We aim to provide children with the skills and confidence they need to allow them to take an active role in both their school life and the local community.

Achievements

This year we have enrolled over 60 students in the supplementary school programme, including 20 unaccompanied minors who had been referred to the ACAA as a result of partnerships with the local council and organisations.

The supplementary school also allows young people the opportunity to engage with others from the same cultural background, and build social networks with other refugees and asylum seekers.

Figure 3 Average teacher evaluations of key indicators before and after the supplementary school course



“Saturdays here are fun because I make lots of new friends and the teachers are helpful.”

Zahed, supplementary school student



We have been able to track the progress of students using teacher evaluation forms conducted at the beginning and end of the course across 6 key areas: reading, conversation, writing, numeracy, confidence and social skills. Through these evaluations we have found that there has been significant improvement across all areas as seen in figure 2. However, it must be noted that there may be other contributing factors to this improvement other than the supplementary school programme.

Case study

Hiba is a six year old, year-one student at a primary school in Lewisham. She has been attending the ACAA Supplementary School for almost a year now. Initially, her parents signed her up for Darsi classes only, but when they found out about the Maths and English support the school offered, they let the teachers know about the difficulty that their daughter was having in school in both these subjects. With one-to-one assistance, she is able to complete her homework with ease. Her parents still want her to learn Darsi and the school accommodates this by allowing her to spend the first half of the class in Darsi and the second in Maths and English support. But the support classes are not just about completing homework from school, they help close the gap in Hiba's knowledge so that she can keep up with the curriculum in school. This is why she is given key stage appropriate worksheets in both subjects, so that she can get the extra practice she needs to succeed.

“The first thing you notice is the students' joy and enthusiasm.”

Ulyssa, Volunteer

Mentoring Programme

Funded by Big Lottery Fund

What we do

The ACAA's mentoring project provides the opportunity for individuals to receive one-to-one support and guidance which is tailored to their specific needs. This programme allows the mentees to maximise their potential by developing skills that will help them integrate more successfully into British society, with mentors offering assistance on matters regarding employment, education and personal assistance.

Our diverse range of mentors allows us to match mentors and mentees based on suitability, where the needs of service users meet the specific knowledge and skill sets of the expert. This ensures both parties get the most out of participating in the programme.

With the help of volunteer teachers our supplementary school enables us to provide support on core academic subjects. Over a three-year period over 178 children benefited from the supplementary school programme. In addition to facilitating the learning of traditional core subjects, we also run 'native tongue' tuition in Darsi and Pashto, allowing young people to maintain a connection with their heritage.

Our aims

The mentoring scheme aims to facilitate the assimilation of refugees and asylum seekers from Afghanistan and Central Asian countries into British society. It attempts to do so by addressing individual needs of the mentees and providing advice and guidance on any issues that they are facing.

Achievements

In the period January to June 2016 a total of 30 mentees were matched with mentors. Meetings took place at times of mutual convenience and proved to be successful in engaging both the mentors and the Afghan and Central Asian diaspora in the local community.

Success was also demonstrated with regard to service users seeking employability advice. Following participation in the mentoring programme two of our mentees who were eligible to work in the UK found employment. They attributed it to the patient guidance of the mentors and the personalised one-on-one attention.

As a result of our thriving volunteer programme the mentoring programme was able to be established as a firmly embedded activity at the ACAA.

“As an Iranian Farsi speaker, I decided to get involved in the Afghanistan and Central Asian Association (ACAA) to increase my awareness of non-Iranian Farsi speakers.

Whilst mentoring, I have drawn on my own experiences and my Farsi to provide reassurance and guidance. I have been presented with challenges adjusting to the different dialect and learning about and dealing with difficult issues within the diaspora, such as dislocation caused by conflict. However, I have also been welcomed with open arms by the community despite my different national origin and have learnt as much, if not more, from my discussions with others than guidance I have given myself – a testament to the commitment and resilience of the staff, volunteers and beneficiaries.”

Ulyssa, Volunteer



ESOL

Funded by the City Bridge Trust

What we do

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses cater for learners who are settled, or soon to be settled in the UK. We ran an ESOL entry level 1&2 class every Saturday at the Albany Centre for women, with an average of 20 participants in each session and every Thursday evening for all adults. In addition to the classes, students were invited to participate in cultural events, training workshops, conferences and activities offered by ACAA. These events provided an opportunity for students to use their language skills in a practical setting. Students were also encouraged to make frequent visits to Deptford Library to familiarise themselves with English books and media.

Our aims

We aim to facilitate integration and community building by improving students' English language skills and increasing their confidence.

In order to cater for the learners registering with the ACAA, the service simultaneously develops and maintains partnerships with a range of ESOL providers across the borough, in order to increase the number of options available to learners, as well as to reduce the number of providers they must approach individually to find a suitable ESOL class. These reciprocal relationships between the Hackney EAS and ESOL providers in Hackney have increased since the service's inception, and many are now firmly established.

Achievements

Realising the value of the classes for the community, when funding for the programme expired in March 2015, ACAA managed to continue to provide one class per week. Feedback from students consistently indicated that they felt their language skills were improving, and demand for classes remained high, with the ESOL team continuously registering new students throughout the year.

“Every Saturday I learn different words. That makes me very happy and I feel more freedom. English is important to me because I need it in my outline life and for contacting other people. When I go my GP I’m talking and understand, and when I went to the shopping I understand. I’m talking on the telephone, when I know, and reading my letter.”

Elif, ESOL student

A total of 140 learners were registered on the ACAA database in 2015–16. 98% of these learners were identified as having ESOL needs, i.e. they were assessed at ESOL E1 to L2. The remaining learners either spoke fluent, or near fluent English, and needed to improve their reading and writing skills, or were fluent speakers who would benefit from mentoring, volunteering or employment advice.

Learners attending the ESOL classes originated from 12 different countries and spoke 8 different first languages between them. The majority of learners originated from Afghanistan, Iran, Syria, Algeria, Kosova, Turkey, Somalia and other South Asian countries.

“After I studied English, my speaking and listening improved. It helped me become confident to speak English and made me feel free to live my life in the UK. I can communicate with my friends, contact GP, discuss more topics with my husband, more social life, understand and enjoy watching films or listening to the radio. I found that my life is easier than before. I would like to thank the ACAA for giving me the opportunity to learn English.”

Mariam Fazly, Iranian learner





Zanan Project

Funded by Lewisham Council in
partnership with the Home Office

What we do

The ACAA reached its third year of funding by the Home Office (through the London Borough of Lewisham) to continue the work for the Muslim Women’s Outreach Project. The programme was aimed at Muslim women in the community, with the purpose of preventing individuals from being drawn into terrorism by facilitating regular discussions and educational workshops to aid their integration into British society.

The project ran from October 2015 to March 2016. Throughout this period, we held a series of workshops/debates which addressed issues surrounding radicalism and extremism in the UK.

The following workshops were held throughout this period:

- Social Media and its Impact on Radicalisation
November 28th 2015
- Women’s Empowerment and Islam
December 10th 2015
- The Causes of Radicalisation
January 16th 2016
- The Role of Women in Extremist Movements
January 30th 2016
- Islam and British Values
February 13th 2016
- Youth and Radical Ideologies
March 18th 2016

The speakers that attended these sessions were all experts in their given subject, influential women and positive Muslim role models.

Our aims

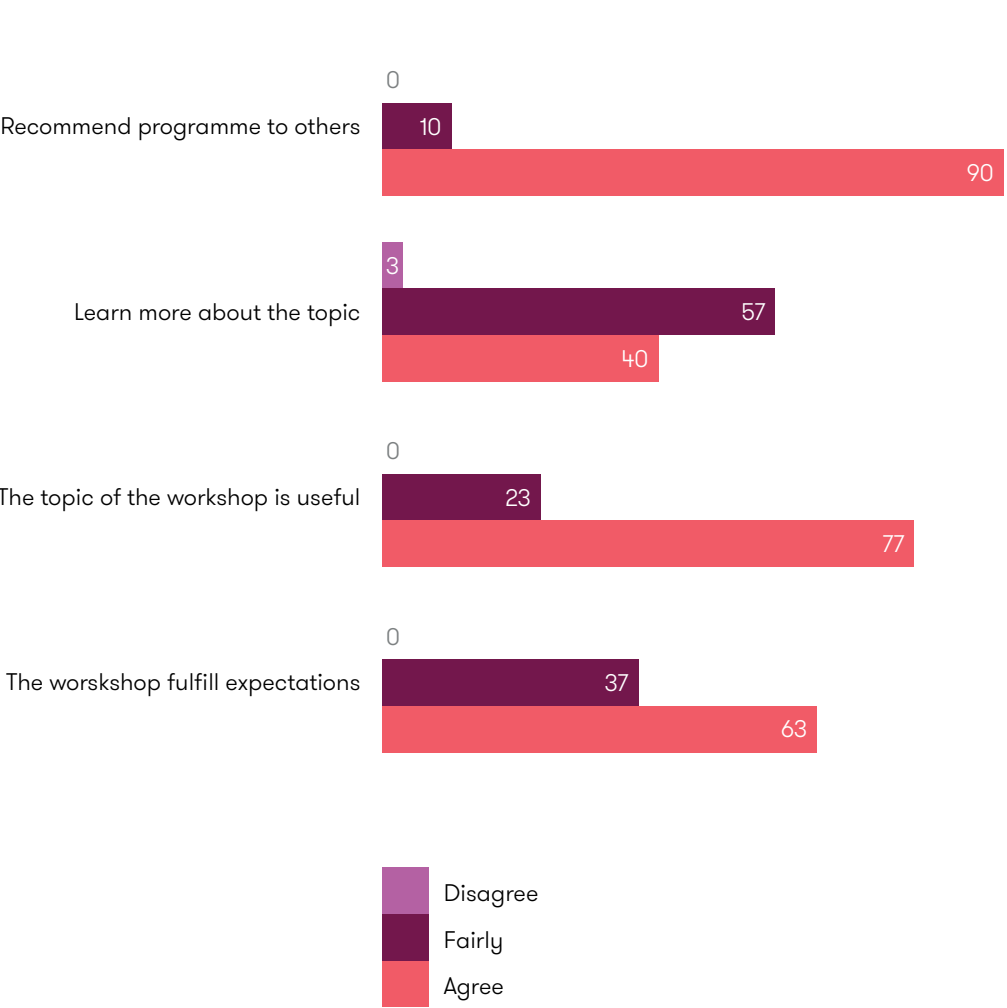
- 1 To empower Muslim women within British society
- 2 To increase knowledge and understanding of radicalisation and extremism within the female Muslim community and their families
- 3 To prevent vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism
- 4 To raise awareness of Prevent in Lewisham by working with both the community and charity sector

Achievements

Over 60 women participated in the project throughout its six month duration. The majority of our beneficiaries came from an Afghan background (53%), 23% from a White European background, and 7% from an African background. Amongst them 60% were Muslim, 24% were not religious and 7% were Christian. This project has:

- Helped to raise awareness of the government’s Prevent and counter terrorism strategies
- Helped women understand the role they can play in preventing children and youth from being drawn into terrorism
- Served to promote citizenship and “shared values”, whilst sharing the burden of building good relationships across all communities in the UK
- Raised the profile of the role that women can play in contributing to and tackling radicalisation and extremism
- Encouraged community cohesion through the knowledge and understanding of diversity and mutual respect, thus challenging the division between ‘us’ and ‘them’ that is often used by extremist groups
- Allowed women to gain a greater understanding of their rights within Islam

Workshops’ effectiveness



After each workshop we conducted a questionnaire amongst the participants to measure the progress being made throughout the project and to allow us to evaluate its efficacy.

The responses suggested that the more people talk about extremism and radicalisation and the more that they are exposed to these concepts, the better their knowledge will be. As a result, we affirm that there is a clear need to continue a programme such as this in order to keep the counter-terrorism dialogue active within society.

Comments on the workshops

On the 'Role of Women in Extremist Movements' Workshop:

“Do you know what my answer is when I’m asked what my response to effectively tackle extremism is? I wish there were more safe spaces like this for women where they can freely talk and discuss about Islam and challenge radicalisation and extremisms, like we did today.”

Nikita Malik, Spear and Senior Researcher at Quilliam

On the 'Women's Empowerment and Islam' workshop

“I think for me the workshop was a real myth-buster. Rania very articulately discussed the prevailing misconceptions about women in Islam that disempower them. She also engaged the participants in a dialogue on how, as individuals, we can play a role in empowering Muslim women in our communities.”

Shabana Shiraz, LSE International Development student

“Through attending this workshop I’ve come to realise that the majority of our practices are cultural, rather than religious.”

Shamila, regular workshop attendee

Development and bringing communities together

Funded by Deptford Challenge Trust

What we do

The funding awarded to the ACAA by the Deptford Challenge Trust has enabled the Development Officer to expand relationships between the organisation and prospective partners and local charities. Information was gathered from drop-in sessions, focus groups and telephone consultations to establish what services people in the community would benefit most from and the main problems that refugees have faced after arriving in the UK. The findings showed that: 'improving English skills', 'gaining experience in the UK work environment' and 'gaining access to paid employment' were the key areas of concern.

Our aims

- 1 Increase awareness of our services and in turn the number of people accessing them
- 2 Increase the range of services that we offer whilst simultaneously improving those that are already in place
- 3 Increase the diversity of people who access our services to allow a greater proportion of the community to engage with the ACAA and the services that it offers

Achievements

The development of local and regional partnerships allowed the ACAA to increase the efficacy of projects by learning from organisations who we collaborate with.

The ACAA has worked alongside schools and organisations in the local area to increase awareness of the organisation and the services that we offer. The ACAA has opened dialogue, and set foundations for partnership with the Lewisham Social Worker Referral Network. This partnership has resulted in referrals being made to the ACAA which has allowed unaccompanied minors to attend our supplementary school, English language classes and mentoring scheme.

As a result of collaboration with The Challenge, the ACAA became a delivery partner for their summer programme. The Challenge runs the government funded National Citizen Service Scheme.

The ACAA hosted a talk led by Imam Asim Hafiz, the first Muslim Chaplain of the British armed forces and Islamic religious advisor to the Ministry of Defence. The talk was presented to an interfaith group with the aim of promoting community cohesion and a better understanding of Islam.



Muslim Youth Outreach Project

Funded by Deptford Challenge Trust

What we do

As part of the Muslim Outreach Project, the ACAA hosts forums and discussions to create a dialogue surrounding the priorities and challenges Muslim Youth face with regards to integration. Through events, workshops and collaborative partnerships, the organisation attempts to provide them with the necessary tools for integration while creating a safe space for youth of all backgrounds.

Our aims

The objective of the Muslim Youth Outreach Project is to expand the social networks of young people, facilitate their integration into society and subsequently enhance community cohesion. The project also strives to promote positive dialogue between different groups within the community in order to break down cultural barriers.

Achievements

Meetings were held with schools in the area to promote our supplementary school programme. Due to the high Afghan population of the schools, many young Muslims were targeted and referred to our programmes. In April 2016 a partnership was established for the Tidemill academy to run an afterschool programme for children of Afghan/Central Asian/Iranian heritage.

“I have been consistently impressed by the level of enthusiasm and diligence shown by the staff and volunteers at ACAA. Their willingness to address difficult issues (including radicalisation and violent extremism) with open minds, and to identify a variety of perspectives for innovation and appropriate youth-centred activities, has been particularly commendable.”

**Phil Turner, Community Development Worker
Second Wave Centre for Youth Arts**



In January 2016 the ACAA hosted an Afghan student fair at Goldsmiths University which aimed to connect young Afghans with working professionals. The objective of this fair was to raise the aspirations of young people in the Afghan community by providing tailored advice to both pre and post University opportunities.

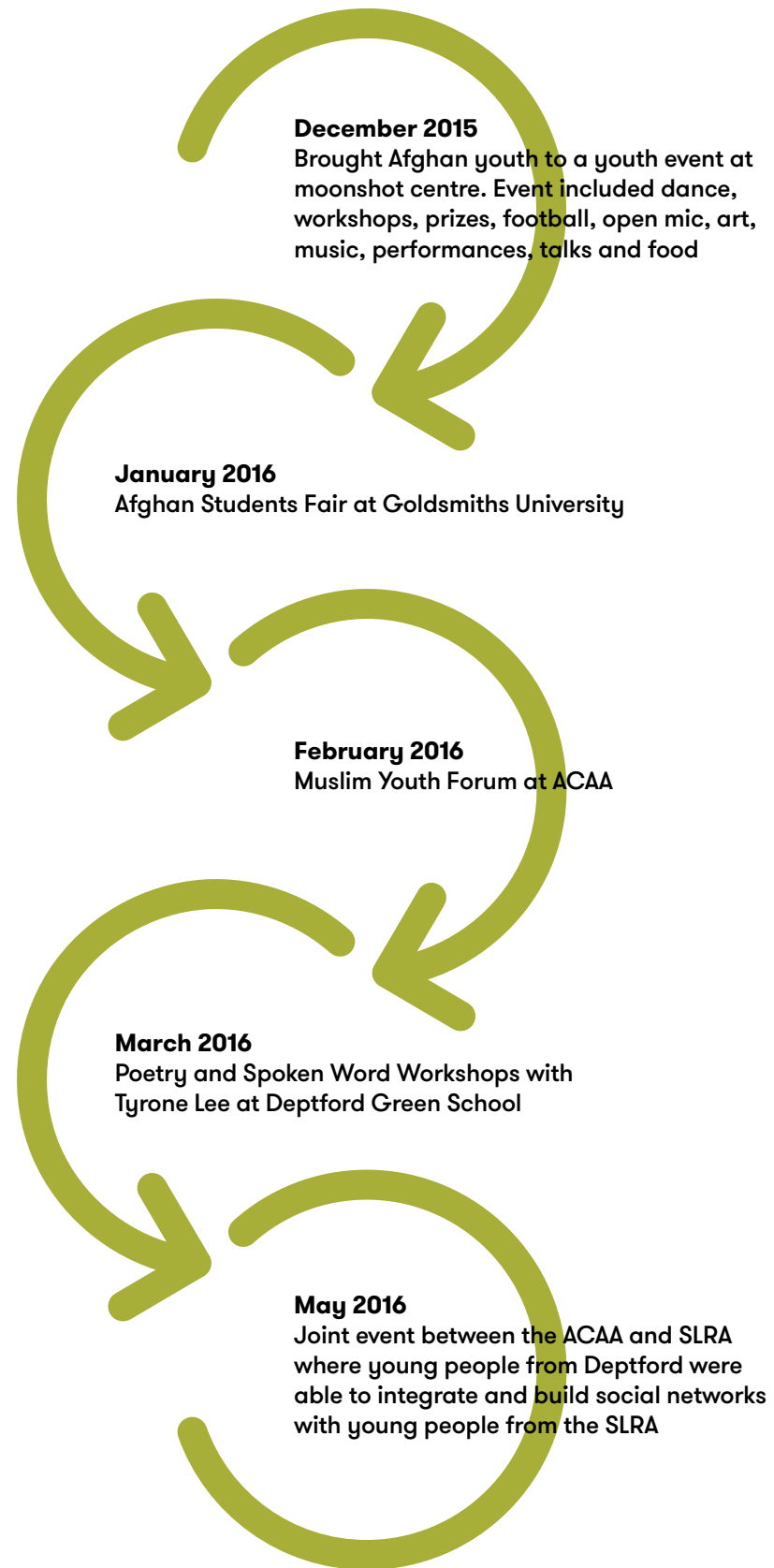
Another successful event was the Muslim Youth Forum in February 2016, which engaged both Muslim and non-Muslim youth in different activities and workshops with the aim of understanding the needs and challenges of Muslim youth and fostering dialogue between youth of various backgrounds. The feedback attained at the end of the forum showed all participants strongly agreed that they felt comfortable and relaxed enough to speak about their ideas and opinions freely.



“An excellent meeting. I felt there was so much to learn and discuss. Thank you!”

Muslim Youth Forum Evaluation respondent

In March, ACAA partnered with a local spoken-word artist Tyrone Lee to deliver a poetry and spoken-word workshop to a year 7 class at Deptford Green School. The goal was to explore stereotypes and identity to create stronger dialogue between different groups in the community. Deptford Green School was chosen for the diversity of its students, which affords more rich discussion from diverse viewpoints. The Muslim Youth Engagement Officer at ACAA was also invited to participate in a year 10 Personal Social and Health Education class on similar themes: community cohesion/ Islamophobia. Although the Muslim Youth Engagement project places emphasis on facilitating the needs of young people from the Afghan and Central Asian community, the programmes offered are inclusive to all to allow a greater range of young people to participate and to generate diverse views.



Volunteering Programme

Funding by Big Lottery Fund

What we do

Volunteers are vital to the work of the ACAA in regard to both the implementation and running of our projects. The volunteering programme covers an array of opportunities for volunteers to support services including ESOL teachers, supplementary school teachers, mentors and drop-in assistants. We have also expanded the roles to include engagement and outreach volunteers, research and policy volunteers, graphic design and events volunteers. This expansion has allowed us to carry out research into how our services can be sustained and improved whilst also enabling us to host volunteer led events.

Our aims

We aim to further the mission of the ACAA through the enrolment of volunteers on our placement schemes. Our aim is that we will increase employment opportunities, develop volunteers' skills and develop participation and integration within the local community.

Achievements

Throughout the period June 2015 to June 2016 we hosted over 120 members on our volunteer programme. As a result of the outreach and communications tasks undertaken by our volunteers we have seen a demonstrable increase in the profile of the organisation within the local community.

We have worked to increase both the number of volunteers and the number of partnerships to recruit volunteers by re-establishing connections with organisations such as the local volunteer centre and London based internship agencies. As a result of this, we have been able to increase the number of fundraising activities that we engage with in order to raise unrestricted funds.

“Working with a small dynamic charity has given me confidence.”

Greg, volunteer

Our volunteering programme has provided those involved with the opportunity to engage with events, give back to the local community and gain experience working with refugees. In the period of June 2015 to June 2016 approximately 88% of our volunteers were either unemployed or working part-time, but by volunteering with the ACAA were able to acquire specific skills and experience through their placements.

Integration Through Sport

Funded by Mayor Of London

What we do

In 2015-2016, we held weekly karate sessions for children aged 6 - 16 from BME backgrounds to develop new skills and confidence. The sessions were delivered held by a qualified Afghan instructor teaching various belt levels to both boys and girls.

Our aims

The aim of the karate sessions was to provide a non-intimidating setting for children to exercise, removing cultural and financial barriers by providing free sessions in a familiar environment. The demand for sport activities for children is generally high especially amongst the Afghan and Central Asian community in Lewisham. This is mainly due to the lack of access that children and new arrivals face in a new society. The project aimed to enhance the self-esteem, sport ability, confidence and determination of children and young people attending.

Achievements

Through the recruitment of an Afghan karate instructor we were able to assist someone from a refugee background to gain valuable work experience to support his career development in the UK.

Our karate sessions saw 18 children and young people attend each session originating from Afghanistan, Iran, Syria, Turkey, Somalia, Iraq and Pakistan.

Case Study

The karate sessions helped students overcome difficulties in life through diligent training. Abdul a 10 year old boy started attending the sessions at the start of the project in December 2015. At that time he had poor self-esteem and lacked confidence. He had co-ordination and concentration difficulties and struggled with learning basic techniques. His parents reported that he also struggled at school. Over time, with encouragement from the instructors, he began to develop a sense of belonging and grew in confidence.

Legal Advice

Funded by Pro Bono Work by Law Firms

What we do

Upon noticing that many of our drop-in clients were seeking advice on legal issues that were out of our realm of assistance, we approached a law firm to provide free legal advice sessions. Since September we have run two monthly sessions with Duncan Lewis Solicitors that have been hugely successful in providing assistance and reassurance to the many who participated. The meetings cover any legal topic, however the concentration of issues raised concern housing, immigration and family matters.

Our aims

We hope to facilitate drop-in sessions which provide the expert information or referral that our service users require.

Achievements

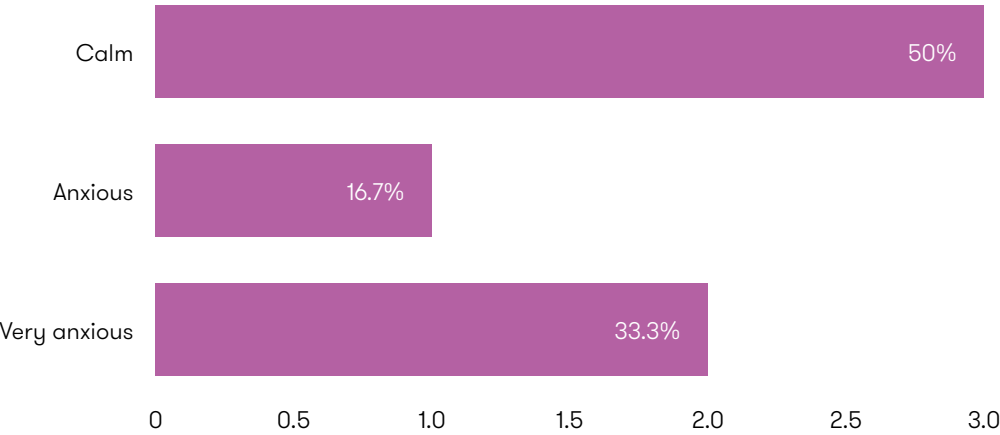
While this is a new project we have seen a great level of interest so far. Signposting for this service has attracted locals from various backgrounds to the office who consequently have become aware of the other services we provide. Participants are made aware that the scope of assistance they can receive depends on whether or not they qualify for legal aid. A large number of cases find resolution in the solicitors simply explaining complicated laws and forms. The solicitors also have a wealth of knowledge when it comes to organisations that deal with housing, immigration and family matters, and often make useful referrals. The sessions are completely confidential and take place in a comfortable and supportive environment.

Duncan Lewis Solicitors has provided positive feedback and shown commitment to continue the monthly sessions. We have had interest from other law firms as well, and hope to start offering a bi-monthly sessions in the New Year.

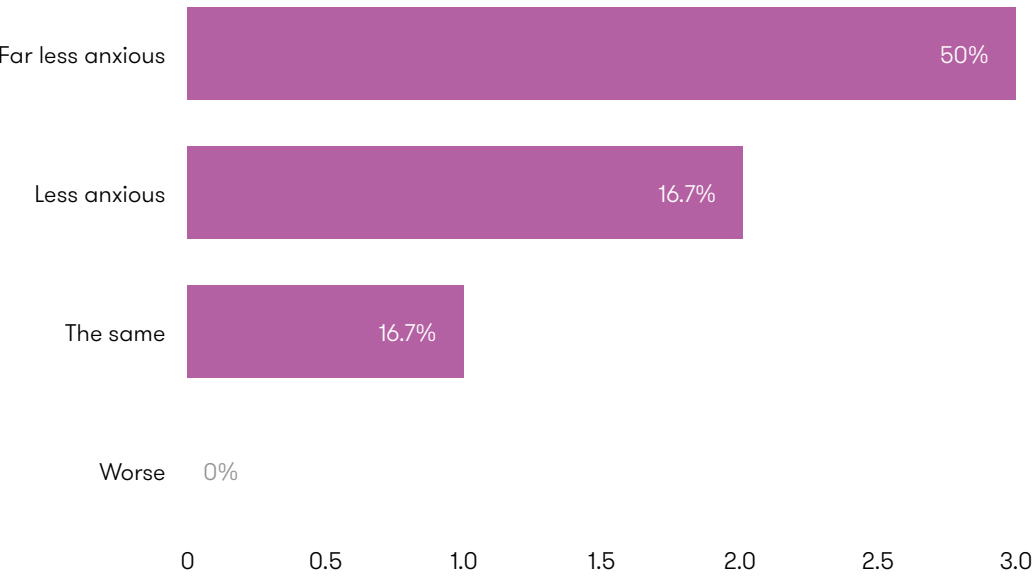
Case study

A 17-year old asylum seeker attended the clinic needing assistance with finding accommodation. The ACAA were able to contact the local authority concerned and find the individual emergency housing for that evening. This prevented the individual from having to sleep on the street.

Please explain how you were feeling before you visited the Community Advice Clinic



Please explain how you were felt after visiting the Community Advice Clinic





Our Work In Afghanistan

Funded by the UK Government (DFID)
and the Evans Cornish Foundation

Afghanistan Citizens Advice Centres

What we do

The ACAA launched citizens' advice centres in Kabul and Pul-e-Khumri in 2013. The initial aim of the centres was to provide free and confidential legal and other advice, opportunities for education, training, and referrals to other services for the most vulnerable groups of the population including women and children, internally displaced people and returning refugees. The centres also conduct outreach work for locals, focusing on information about rights, and campaigns on health and education.

Achievements

This was the final year of a three year project. The biggest issues our clients faced were domestic violence, divorce, poverty and unemployment. Of our beneficiaries, 66% were illiterate and 88% were unemployed outside of the home. We are pleased to report that 350 individuals received personalised legal advice, of which 72% were women. We also visited 45 women in prisons to provide legal and other advice, 40% of whom had one or more children with them. Around 120 people per month attended our outreach sessions on justice, health, education and employment issues, 55% of which were women and girls. Additionally, we ran Farsi and English lessons, as well as computer, sewing and sports classes for local adults and children. Our sewing classes enabled 23 women to learn to sew and make an income from the garments that they made.

Case Studies

Khurshid was married with eight children. Her husband divorced her, leaving her in a desperate struggle to support her family. When she tried to seek inheritance from her brother she was met with cold rejection. An adviser at the citizens' advice centre in Kabul told her that it is her legal right to seek this inheritance. The case was referred to the legal department of Kabul and Khurshid now has some hope for her family to have a decent standard of living.

Mahera was to be forcibly married to a man much older than her. We held mediation sessions with her family and with her mother's support, were able to show the family that this was illegal and prevent the marriage from taking place. After presenting our case, it was her father that did not allow the man to marry his daughter.

Diba is a 27-year old graduate who struggled for years to find employment despite her qualifications. She and her husband were unemployed and unable to feed their family. In 2013 she volunteered at the Kabul Citizens' advice centre where she was given help with her CV, interview preparation and job search. Now she has stable work in the Afghan government, as a literacy teacher for the department of women's affairs. In this role she is empowered and lifted from the poverty of her earlier years.

Evaluation

We are proud of the citizens' advice centres achievements over the past three years and for reaching over 7,500 people in Kabul and Pul-e-Khumri. An independent evaluation praised the project for managing to see 51% more clients than we had originally planned, helping so many women and vulnerable people, and highlighted the role that the diaspora can play in development. The project was scored by UK AID DIRECT with an A++ for substantially exceeding expectation. We would like to thank all our staff and volunteers who made this possible. We are currently working hard to raise funds for a continuation of this successful pilot as we believe citizens' advice centres can contribute a great deal to a stronger, more democratic Afghanistan that works for its people.

Governance and Finance

The ACAA prides itself in having a diverse board of trustees made up of former service users, members of the Afghan and central Asian community, entrepreneurs, and senior level business professionals. This diverse range of culture, professions, experience, and skills allows ACAA to benefit from a strategic oversight that governs its actions and ensures it remains relevant to the needs of those it serves.

2016 was a difficult year for the charity as grants for two of our main programmes finished over the summer. We are proud to have managed that transition through the hard work of staff, volunteers and trustees and the fact that we managed to increase our unrestricted funding so much at the same time. We look forward to further consolidating our financial position as we go forward.

Moving into 2017 ACAA understands the role the board plays in directing the charity so it may benefit those most in need, make difficult decisions on which services should be strengthened, which are needed less and help the organisation to become more sustainable. Effective internal partnership between the board of trustees and employees of the ACAA will enhance the charity's services and allow it to serve those it supports and achieve its ultimate objective of bringing communities together.

Reserves policy

The ACAA aims to maintain reserves sufficient to meet and exceed where possible our commitments to existing and envisaged project work for at least the next 12 months. It is our ultimate aim to be in a position whereby we have adequate funding to prolong and develop our activities over a longer period of time.

Our aim in 2015/16 was to maintain our level of reserves at least £3,000 for the next financial year, meaning that the organisation would be able to cover a short gap in funding should there be one.

Through increasing our events and donations we managed a substantial increase in our unrestricted reserves to £18,145. This means in the event of a delay in grant payments or other gap in funding we would be able to continue operations without any substantial change to staffing or activities for one or two months.

Our target for 2016-17 is to increase reserves to £20,000.

Financial statement

Expenditure in the year ending 31 October 2016 was

£179,188

This was mainly spent on community development with just

£700 spent on governance.

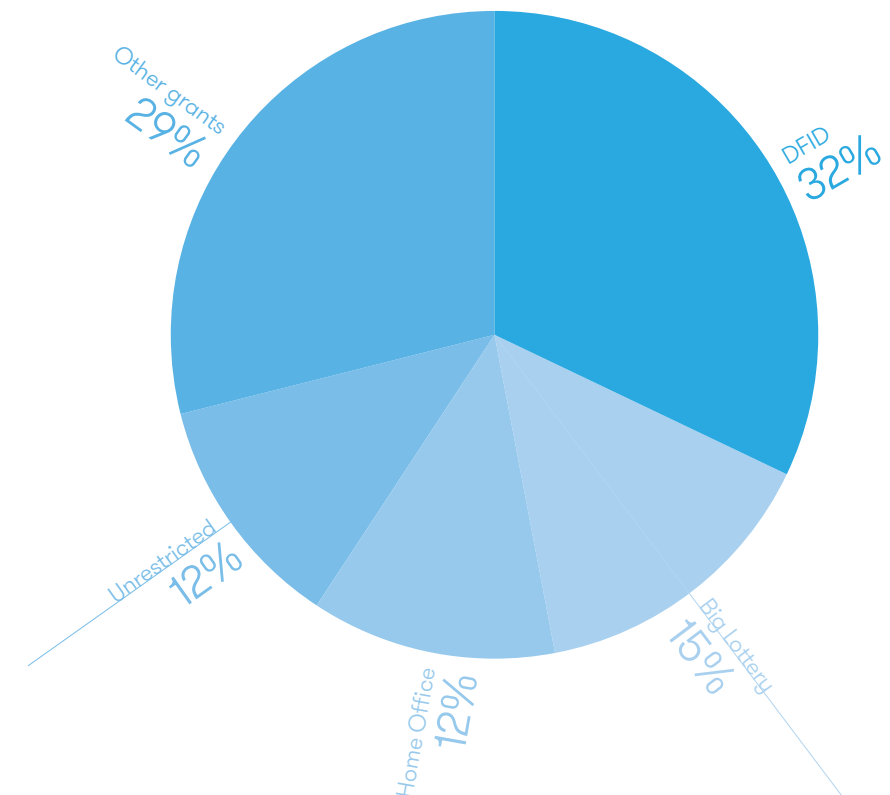
Income for the year ending 31 October 2015 was

£199,112

Total funds brought forward were

£60,401

Main sources of income



Acknowledgements

Here at the ACAA we hope to continue to grow as an organisation to allow us to support an increasing number of asylum seekers and refugees in the community. Our work would not be possible without the generous support of our staff and the number of volunteers that work every day to help us achieve this goal.

The ACAA is grateful for the generous support received from a range of donors and partners. Working together, we can make a difference to Afghan and other minority ethnic refugee and asylum seekers living in the UK.

We would like to express our thanks to our key supporters listed below.



MAYOR OF LONDON



ACAA
24 Deptford Broadway
London
SE8 4PA

T 020 8469 0723 / 07488 584872
E info@aca.org.uk
W aca.org.uk

AFGHANISTAN & CENTRAL ASIAN ASSOCIATION

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2016

**R.E.JONES & CO.
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
132 BURNT ASH ROAD
LEE
LONDON SE12 8PU**

AFGHANISTAN & CENTRAL ASIAN ASSOCIATION

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AFGHANISTAN & CENTRAL ASIAN ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2016

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 October 2016. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered charity number	1096908
Principal address	Ground Floor 24 Deptford Broadway London SE8 4PA
Trustees	Dr. Dagikhoda Dagiev – Chair until June 2016 Mr Nooruddin Ansari – Chair from June 2016 Mrs. Zohra Saiq – Treasurer Mrs Naeimeh Salemi – Secretary Mrs. Fariba Hashemizadeh – Member Ms. Irena Benedic - Member Mr. Allan Leas – Member Mr. Zahir Ariaie – Member Ms. Wahida Tahmasi – Member
Independent examiner	R.E.Jones & Co. Chartered Accountants 132 Burnt Ash Road Lee London SE12 8PU
Bankers	NatWest Bank plc 80 Lewisham Way Lewisham London SE13 5JJ

AFGHANISTAN & CENTRAL ASIAN ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2016

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

The charity is governed by its constitution which was adopted on 20th November 2000 and which has been amended several times since adoption, the most recent of which was on the 20 March 2012.

Organisational structure

The organisation is an Unincorporated Charity, which is governed by a board of trustees who have served throughout the year, the trustees are disclosed above under 'Trustees Information'.

The trustees/directors are governed by the charities constitution and meet regularly throughout the year to review progress on funding applications and project work and monitor the activities of the organisation and its staff.

Trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission, including public benefit guidance.

The day to day management of the organisation is delegated to Dr Nooralhaq Nasimi, who is neither a Trustee, nor a Shadow, nor Quasi Trustee. Dr Nasimi implements and manages the policies, objectives and activities overseen by the board of trustees.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Appointment of Trustees

All vacancies for Trustees are advertised widely amongst the Membership and on social media. Candidates can put themselves forward or can be nominated by members of the Charity. All applications should be in writing and must be handed to the Secretary at least 14 days before the AGM. Preferred candidates are identified and invited to join the trustees, subject to references, formal vetting and approval by the full trustee board.

Vetting potential trustees

The trustees check that the candidates have not been disqualified from acting as trustees, and candidates are asked to confirm in writing that this is the case. Candidates are asked to consider and declare any existing or potential conflicts of interest. As the charity works with children and vulnerable adults, the trustees seek appropriate checks from the Disclosure and Barring Service. In the light of the checks and declarations, the trustees decide to go ahead and formalise the appointment of new trustees.

Making the appointment

The trustees check the charity's governing document to ensure that they appoint the new trustees in a proper and legal way. The Chair of the charity writes to the prospective trustees, setting out their duties and the charity's expectations of them; they are asked to sign and return a copy of the letter. An information pack about the charity is sent to new trustees, and a full induction process is arranged. New trustees meet existing trustees and others involved with the charity, such as members of staff, volunteers and beneficiaries. The new trustees attend their first board meeting and are duly welcomed. All relevant parties, such as funders and the charity's solicitors and auditors, are notified of the new appointments.

AFGHANISTAN & CENTRAL ASIAN ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2016

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The charity is a community organisation, established to assist the Afghan community in the UK and particularly in Lewisham and its surrounding area.

The organisation aims to advance the education, health and quality of life of Afghan and Central Asian refugees and asylum seekers within Lewisham and neighbouring boroughs.

It seeks to empower and develop Afghans and Central Asians through providing educational activities, classes on citizenship, life skills and cultural awareness.

The charity strives to overcome poverty, bringing different communities together, reduce social isolation within Afghan & Central Asian communities and to help them become confident, successful and proud inhabitants of British society.

The charity aims to educate and empower all its participants, particularly women and children, to learn more about where they come from, using activities based upon their heritage, in order to give children, pride in and a better information on their culture and historical background; to raise awareness of international development by adapting existing resources and material to; inform, engage and train participants, enabling them to share their knowledge more widely.

There is a particular focus on empowering Afghan Women - enabling access to employment, promoting equality of opportunity and providing a supportive environment for women who have been subjected to discrimination and oppression.

The charity also aims to ensure that there is a benefit to British society, through the successful integration of people able to maximise their contribution to that society.

Finally, the organisation works to unite the Afghan diaspora in promoting human rights both among the diaspora and in Afghanistan itself.

Significant activities

The main activities of the organisation have developed as a response to identified needs amongst the client group. These are:

- English for Speakers of other languages and citizenship classes.
- Extra Curriculum Support, supplementary and Mother Tongue education classes for children and young people.
- Women's support groups.
- Interpretation and translation services.
- Business and employment advice.
- Support for disadvantaged children and young people recently arrived in the United Kingdom.
- Voluntary and student placements.
- Mentoring
- Individual support and advice and enabling beneficiaries to access mainstream services.
- Creating opportunities for refugees, asylum seekers and local residents to come together through social and cultural events
- Organising conferences on community cohesion and breaking down barriers.
- Holding events such as networking sessions, tea parties, group discussion and weekly meetings to help better understand British culture.

The organisation also received its first grant in 2013 from the Department for International Development (DfID) to open two citizens' advice centres in Afghanistan and, thereby, promote human rights for Afghan people there based on their experience of work in the UK.

AFGHANISTAN & CENTRAL ASIAN ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2016

Volunteers

The Trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the volunteers who give their time and support so generously.

Volunteers are the heart of Afghanistan and Central Asian Association and without their commitment we would not be able to provide as a full service.

ACAA has traditionally taken on volunteers from the local area who are unemployed although our volunteers come from all walks of life are of all ages. Volunteers are involved in all aspects of the organisation including as management, Legal Advice Advisors, Counsellors, Reception and Signposting, basic Education Support Workers, Group Workers, Administrative and Finance departments.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

In the UK these include;

- 178 children enrolled in the supplementary school during the year. With an increase of 1 to 1 attention for all of the children.
- 50 people accessed CV and employment workshops and student fairs.
- 194 individuals improved employability through volunteering.
- 109 individuals mentored throughout the year
- 168 children involved in football, Kung Fu and social outings.
- 40 women involved in workshops.
- 188 provided with telephone advice
- 80 individuals used the weekly ESOL classes

Citizen Advice Centres Key Achievements:

In December 2016, UKAID independent evaluation scored our Citizens Advice Centres with an A++ (substantially exceeding expectation and excellent value for money).

3,498 people had identified a specific improvement in their quality of life, their situation and risk of poverty, as a result of advice provided at the CACs, nearly double the original target of 1,800. Of those, 2,038 (58%) were women (Outcome Indicator 1)

For 1,550 people (1,007 women) that improvement had come about as a result of advice. For the remaining 1,948 (1,013 women), the change was a result of direct access to health services (Outcome Indicator 1)

1,623 people (1,055 women) had gained access to individual justice services (Outcome Indicator 2)

1,799 people (1,056 women) had gained access to justice information and advice via outreach (Outcome Indicator 2)

35 people (22 women) had received health treatment (Outcome Indicator 2)

1,948 (1,031 women) had gained access to health services via outreach (Outcome Indicator 2)

AFGHANISTAN & CENTRAL ASIAN ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2016

Charitable activities (continued)

7 (4 women) had received individual education advice (Outcome Indicator 2)

398 people (148 women) had gone to classes (Outcome Indicator 2)

167 (108 women) had received employment advice and support (Outcome Indicator 2)

407 (231 women) had accessed employment services via outreach (Outcome Indicator 2)

1,623 legal cases, more than twice the target of 750, had been referred to court, family mediation or similar and were in progress or completed (Outcome Indicator 3)

95% of clients reported having gained access to services after being referred (target was 80%) (Outcome Indicator 4)

Fundraising activities

Ongoing applications are constantly being considered and submitted, which have resulted in a wide base of funding sources, for specific and or ongoing project work. The organization has broadened its fundraising strategy to raise more unrestricted funds.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

The charity aims to maintain reserves sufficient to meet its commitments to existing and envisaged project work for at least the forthcoming 12 months. Ultimately its aim is to be in a position with adequate funding, to cover activities over a longer period of time and also to provide sufficient general unrestricted funds of at least 3 months operational overheads, to cover any short term funding gaps and or, to cover closure costs of the organisation at some point in the future.

Principal funding sources

The primary funder during the financial period was the Big Lottery Fund, although we are grateful to all individuals and organisations who have provided grant funding or donations which are essential to our ability to continue to maintain and further develop the objectives and activities of the organisation.

We also receive a sizeable grant from DFID for work in Afghanistan.

We still rely on restricted grants as our principal source of funding, however, we started to diversify our funding more in 2013/14 through holding small events and developed this further in 2015-16 with the help of a development officer funded by the Deptford Charitable Trust.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

In 2015/16 we further developed our unrestricted sources of funding through websites such as easy fundraising and through holding more events, which has enabled us to increase our reserves slightly. We were given notice on our premises in 2013/14 as it was due to be developed into housing. In December 2014 we moved into new premises on Deptford High Street that will enable us to have a more visible profile and hold more events such as coffee mornings and lectures in the evenings to raise funds

AFGHANISTAN & CENTRAL ASIAN ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2016

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to;

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare 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 proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, 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.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

Nooruddin Ansari – Trustee

March 2017

NOORUDDIN ANSARI

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF

AFGHANISTAN & CENTRAL ASIAN ASSOCIATION

I report on the accounts of Afghanistan & Central Asian Association for the year ended 31 October 2016, which are set out on pages 8 to 16.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular 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 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 out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

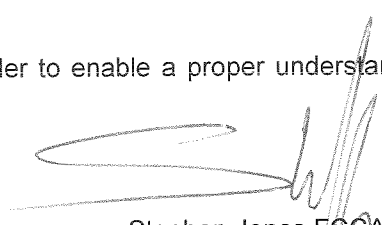
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(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; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and 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 accounts to be reached.

132 Burnt Ash Road
Lee
London SE12 8PU


Stephen Jones FCCA ACA
For and on behalf of
R.E. JONES & CO.
Chartered Accountants
& Statutory Auditors

23 April 2017

AFGHANISTAN & CENTRAL ASIAN ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT of FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2016

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Unrestricted funds</u> £	<u>Restricted funds</u> £	<u>Total funds</u> £	<u>2015 Total funds</u>
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	2	22,498	176,614	199,112	226,276
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Costs of generating funds					
Cost generating voluntary income					-
Charitable activities					
Community development		7,144	171,344	178,488	201,691
Governance costs	3	-	700	700	1,869
Total resources expended		<u>7,144</u>	<u>172,044</u>	<u>179,188</u>	<u>203,560</u>
NET INCOMING / (OUTGOING)		15,354	4,570	19,924	22,716
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS		-	-	-	-
Total funds brought forward		2,791	37,686	40,477	17,761
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>18,145</u>	<u>42,256</u>	<u>60,401</u>	<u>40,477</u>

The notes on pages 10 to 16 form part of these financial statements

AFGHANISTAN & CENTRAL ASIAN ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2016

	<u>Notes</u>	£	£	<u>2015</u> £
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible assets	6	3,458		2,276
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	7	6,852		-
Cash at bank and in hand		51,776		38,861
		<u>58,628</u>		<u>38,861</u>
CREDITORS				
Amounts falling due within one year	8	1,685		660
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>56,943</u>	<u>38,201</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			<u>60,401</u>	<u>40,477</u>
NET ASSETS			<u>60,401</u>	<u>40,477</u>
FUNDS	9			
Unrestricted funds			18,145	2,791
Restricted funds			42,256	37,686
Restricted funds – materially in deficit				-
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>60,401</u>	<u>40,477</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 22/03/17.....and signed on its behalf by :-

.....
NAEIMEH SALEMI
 Trustee

NOORUDDIN ANSARI

NOORUDDIN ANSARI
 Trustee

The notes on pages 10 to 16 form part of these financial statements

AFGHANISTAN & CENTRAL ASIAN ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2016

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical costs convention and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2015), the Charities Act 2011, and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Grant awards covering more than one year, are included only in respect of the current year's award element on the basis that awards for subsequent years are subject to meeting certain reporting and other stipulated requirements both during and at the end of each year before the subsequent year's grant will be considered for payment by the respective funder.

Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year-end date are noted as commitment but not accrued as expenditure. Costs include irrecoverable VAT where incurred.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	25% reducing balance method
----------------------------------	-----------------------------

All fixed assets financed by restricted funds are transferred to a separate Capital Expenditure Fund by way of a 'fund transfer' to reflect the expenditure within the relevant source fund in the year of purchase, in line with the end of project monitoring reports to funders.

Each fixed asset is retained upon an itemised fixed asset register to meet any funders' requirements in the event of any future disposals.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes the financial statements.

AFGHANISTAN & CENTRAL ASIAN ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2016

(continued)

2. VOLUNTARY INCOME

	2016	2015
	£	£
Donations	22,498	3,151
Grants	176,614	223,125
	<u>199,112</u>	<u>226,276</u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows :-

Evan Cornish Foundation	-	5,000
BBC Children in Need	-	9,950
Big Lottery Fund – Reaching Communities Programme	29,588	58,646
Awards for All – It's good to talk	8,540	9,990
City of London – The City Bridge Trust	-	3,225
The Deptford Challenge Trust	14,900	14,900
DfID	66,388	88,399
Clothworkers' Foundation	-	6,900
Free Sports London	1,500	1,480
Home Office	38,750	24,635
Christian Sam Fund	300	-
Austin and Hope	1,000	-
Feminist Review Trust	3,376	-
People Postcode Charitable Trust	9,772	-
St James Place	1,000	-
Souter Charitable Trust	1,500	-
	<u>176,614</u>	<u>223,125</u>

3. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2016	2015
	£	£
Legal and professional fees	-	980
Accountancy and payroll services	-	229
Independent examination	700	660
	<u>700</u>	<u>1,869</u>

AFGHANISTAN & CENTRAL ASIAN ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2016

(continued)

4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There was no Trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 October 2016 or 2015.

Trustees' expenses

	2016	2015
	£	£
Trustees' expenses	390	503

Expenses were reimbursed to certain trustees who were involved in the provision of weekly classes and activities, in respect of travel, attendance and crèche facilities. The expenses were incurred in connection with attendance at those classes and activities and not in relation to their performance of duties as trustees. The amounts reimbursed were as follows :-

	2016	2015
	£	£
R. Fakhri	150	250
I. Benedic	-	-
N. Salemi	240	140
F. Hashemizadeh	-	113
D. Dagiev	-	-

5. STAFF COSTS

	2016	2015
	£	£
Wages and salaries	76,057	79,633

The average monthly number of employees during the year was follows :-

Management	1	1
Administration, bookkeeping and sessional workers	9	8
	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>

No employees received remuneration in excess of £60,000.

In addition to the above salaried staff, the charity is grateful for the services and support of sessional workers (eg. teachers) who provide their services on a voluntary basis, subject to reimbursement of attendance costs, primarily travel.

AFGHANISTAN & CENTRAL ASIAN ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2016

(continued)

5. STAFF COSTS (continued)

In the interest of transparency, the organisation would like to point out that the following members of staff are related and received the following salaries during the year:

Dr N Nasimi (Director) - £21,383 (2015:£20,821)
Mrs M Nasimi (Sessional worker, Dari teacher) - £760 (2015:£1,960)
Rabia Nasimi (Women's coordinator) -£14,558 (2015: £6,619)

Mrs M Nasimi also works as an administrator without remuneration

Rabia Nasimi volunteers at Saturday school. Rabia Nasimi also volunteers to do bookkeeping and finance. No remuneration has been received for this voluntary work.

All staff members are interviewed by unrelated staff members, and or external bodies such as Lewisham Council, before employment in order to achieve independent assessment of their ability.

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	<u>Fixtures, fittings and equipment</u>
<u>Cost</u>	
At 1 November 2015	12,728
Additions	2,335
	<hr/>
At 31 October 2016	15,063
	<hr/>
<u>Depreciation</u>	
At 1 November 2015	10,452
Charge for year	1,153
	<hr/>
At 31 October 2016	11,605
	<hr/>
<u>Net Book Value</u>	
At 31 October 2016	3,458
	<hr/>
At 31 October 2015	2,276
	<hr/>

7. DEBTORS : AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2016	2015
	£	£
Other debtors	6,852	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Other debtors represent monies spent on behalf of projects in advance of receipt.

AFGHANISTAN & CENTRAL ASIAN ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2016

(continued)

8. CREDITORS : AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2016	2015
	£	£
Taxation and Social Security	-	-
Other creditors	700	660
	<u>700</u>	<u>660</u>

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1 November <u>2015</u> £	Net movement funds £	Transfer between funds £	At 31 October <u>2016</u> £
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>				
General fund	6,945	15,354	(5,000)	17,299
<u>Restricted funds</u>				
Big Lottery Fund - Reaching Communities Programme	16,913	(9,665)	-	7,248
Other Restricted	2,746	-	-	2,746
Free Sports London	8	-	-	8
Big Lottery Fund– Awards for All Youth Opportunity, Youth Capital Fund	4,365	3,004	-	7,369
Austin and Hope	-	-	-	-
Clothworkers' Foundation	-	146	-	146
Evan Cornish Foundation	-	-	-	-
BBC Children in Need	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
St James Place	-	(4,979)	5,000	21
Souter Charitable Trust	-	1,000	-	1,000
Peoples Postcode Charitable Trust	-	1,500	-	1,500
DfID	-	9,216	-	9,216
Garfield Watson	(144)	144	-	-
Feminine Review Trust	587	-	-	587
Home Office	-	3,060	-	3,060
Ernest Cook Trust	(1,707)	10,090	-	8,383
Deptford Challenge Trust	1,140	-	-	1,140
	4,624	(3,946)	-	678
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>40,477</u>	<u>19,924</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>60,401</u>

AFGHANISTAN & CENTRAL ASIAN ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2016

(continued)

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS (continued)

Net movement in funds, included in the above, are as follows :-

	<u>Incoming resources</u> £	<u>Resources expended</u> £	<u>Movement in funds</u> £
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>			
General fund	22,498	7,144	15,354
 <u>Restricted funds</u>			
Big Lottery Fund - Reaching Communities Programme	29,588	39,253	(9,665)
Big Lottery Fund– Awards for All	8,540	5,536	3,004
The City Bridge Trust	-	-	-
BBC Children in Need	-	4,979	(4,979)
DfID	66,388	66,244	144
Lewisham Health	-	-	-
Home Office	38,750	28,660	10,090
Free Sports Limited	1,500	1,500	-
Clothworkers' Foundation	-	-	-
Evan Cornish Foundation	-	5,000	(5,000)
Deptford Challenge Trust	14,900	18,846	(3,946)
Christian Fund	300	300	-
Austin and Hope	1,000	854	146
Feminist Review Trust	3,376	316	3,060
Peoples Postcode Charitable Trust	9,772	556	9,216
St James Place	1,000	-	1,000
Souter Charitable Trust	1,500	-	1,500
 TOTAL FUNDS	 <u>199,112</u>	 <u>179,188</u>	 <u>19,924</u>

AFGHANISTAN & CENTRAL ASIAN ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2016

(continued)

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS (continued)

The nature and purpose of key restricted funds are outlined below :-

BBC Children in Need

A three year grant awarded November 2012, for provision of educational support and activities for children with English as a second language funding was subject to quarterly reporting. The project ended in November 2015.

Big Lottery Fund- Developing Potential

This funding was agreed from May 2013 to April 2016. Inclusive of an £4,500 capital grant, under the Developing Potential. Permission is required from BLF before disposing of funded capital assets.

Big Lottery Fund - Awards for All

Grant awarded in April 2015, titled 'Sharing Cultures, Enriching Lives' to provide people from within the community to come together in an atmosphere of celebration.

DFID (started in July 2013) Consists of three year funding awarded in February 2013 Empowering women and men to improve their livelihoods through provision of free and impartial advice at citizens' advice centres in Afghanistan.

Deptford Challenge Trust

Grant awarded in for one year in April 2015 for £29,800. It covered work to develop the organization and services in Deptford as well as improving partnerships with local schools. The grant includes salary costs for the Director, a Development Officer and a Muslim Youth Outreach Worker.

Evan Cornish Foundation

The Evan Cornish Foundation awarded ACAA £5,000 for a one year grant that started in October 2015 to extend our legal advice and support to women in Afghanistan, including through outreach to women's prisons.

Home Office Prevent project

Grant awarded in January 2013 Through to March 2014 – Supporting vulnerable women from being drawn into terrorism. A second grant was awarded from April 2014 to March 2015 to continue this work and then a third grant was awarded from October 2015 to March 2016

Peoples Postcode Charitable Trust

Grant awarded in October 2016 for one year for £9,772 to support women's empowerment through peer support and mentoring.

Feminist Review Trust

Grant awarded in August 2016 for one year for £3,376 to fund an interventionist project supporting Afghan women focusing on feminist values

Transfers between funds

Fixed assets purchased with restricted funds have been transferred to a restricted 'capital reserve' so that the relevant expenditure is reflected in fund movements in line with reporting to funders. Other funds which have been completed are transferred to general reserves with permission of the grant makers.