

Belong Nottingham
(Registered charity, number 1160407)
Financial statements
for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017

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**Belong Nottingham
Trustees' annual report
for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017**

Full name Belong Nottingham

Organisation type Charitable incorporated organisation

Registered charity number 1160407

Principal address 32 Gregory Boulevard, Hyson Green, Nottingham, NG7 6BG

Trustees

Judith Kobutungi, Chair
Luka Itongwa, Vice Chair
Paul Mwangi, Treasurer
Joseph Kamoga, Secretary
Christian Pembele

Independent examiner

John O'Brien, employee of Community Accounting Plus, 7 Mansfield Road,
Nottingham, NG1 3FB

Governance and management

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 10th February 2015.

Trustees are elected or re-appointed at the AGM.

Objectives and activities

Belong's vision is to develop an African Refugee Integration and Development Centre in Nottingham to provide welfare and cultural support to people from African origin and to assist with their integration into the host community. Also to promote the benefit of people of African origin living in the Nottinghamshire area by:

- The advancement of education and training;
- The relief of poverty, sickness and distress;
- The promotion of good health;
- To provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time;
- To support young people to develop their skills;
- To undertake any other activities deemed charitable by law in England and Wales as deemed necessary by the Trustees.

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Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

Belong Nottingham is committed to promoting and facilitating social and economic integration of Migrants predominantly of African origin, especially but not exclusively for refugees and asylum seekers. We have delivered projects to help develop our users and members abilities and confidence while promoting and facilitating their social and economic integration in the UK society.

Our dedicated staff and volunteers have worked tirelessly to meet the complex needs of our diverse users, dealing with issues ranging from getting accommodation or having benefits reinstated to improving their skill set and getting sustainable employment. We continue to offer people the opportunity to get work experience placements and voluntary work with Belong Nottingham. This initiative has given many of our members a chance to gain experience that will improve their position when seeking paid employment.

Our Good Things Foundation funded projects enabled us to help our service users develop English language skills; a prerequisite of social integration and engagement in the employment market. It has also provided our service users with the opportunity to systematically develop their digital competence and enhance their financial literacy, relevant to work and life in the UK.

The BBC Children in Need funded project continues to support our young people from the transitional years through to young adulthood, with knowledge and experiences which promote the positive role they can play as full and equal citizens in our society. Many of the young people who have benefited from this project have been able to take some serious decisions about their lives. Many of them have seen their confidence, self-esteem and a variety of skills increase as a result of this project.

The Employability and Career Advice project has been funded by Nottingham City Council through its Community of Identity Programme via the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum. It has helped our service users gain the relevant skills to be able to compete in the labour market. The majority of people supported through this scheme are recent entrants to our society and lack the confidence, knowledge or understanding of the labour market in the UK. This Project has introduced them to the UK labour market and increased their confidence to face increasing competition in the labour market.

Our work has been a catalyst in resolving community tensions (between migrants and members of the receiving community), which has come about through misunderstanding in some areas of the city. We have been able to both inform members of the receiving community about communities coming to live in our society and also induct the new-comers to their new society. This work has led to building a cohesive community where people are encouraged to live together harmoniously.

All the above would not have been possible without the invaluable support of our staff members, volunteers and supporters, as well as the financial support of our funders to whom we are very grateful.

Belong Nottingham

Summary of the main achievements during the period

This is the first year of activity for Belong Nottingham CIO. The balance of the bank and other assets and liabilities were donated to from the charity Belong (charity number 1128781) at its closure on 31/08/16.

1. Good Things Foundation

The Good Things Foundation has funded us for several projects as below:

English My Way

We were one of 28 centres nationally to be funded to deliver the English My Way project. Through this we supported 50 learners to improve their English language skills. 90% of learners were women, all were beginners. We saw significant improvement in the women's skills and confidence. As A. from Africa said, "Before this course I can't spell my name. Now, I can." This woman started the course only just able to spell her first name. She has progressed on to our Entry 1 course and can now read simple texts and her confidence has really grown. She is a single parent with 4 children. Her children are all fluent English speakers and she has told us that her children won't speak to her in her first language, joking with her that "Mummy, your English is rubbish." Her new skills have given her confidence to talk with her children's teachers. She also gave me her mobile number so that I could text her instead of her sister as she is now confident that she could understand the messages.

Another lady gave us a thank you card in which she wrote that she had found a new love of English and that the classes had given her a new desire to learn.

Learn My Way

Through the Learn My Way project we have been able to support people to develop their digital literacy – that is, to develop skills in using the internet. With our Employability project we are able to support people in learning skills required for job hunting online. We also have volunteers who work on an outreach basis, in local churches and community centres. We supported 180 learners in developing their digital skills.

HMRC Advice and Guidance

This project aims to support people to access and use HMRC services including Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, Child Benefit and National Insurance. We supported 71 people to access HMRC services. We were able to help clients apply for National Insurance numbers, Child Benefit and Tax Credits. We supported several clients in appealing decisions made on Tax Credits. One particularly complicated case involved an application by a new refugee for a National Insurance number that had somehow got lost in the process. As a result the client had found it difficult to set up a bank account, which meant he was unable to receive Job Seekers Allowance. We were able to support the client in resolving the issue with the National Insurance number and proceeded to help him set up his bank account.

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2. Money My Way

Funded by Comic Relief, this project aims to help learners develop financial literacy skills to help them self-manage their finances. With our client base we have largely focussed on the Money and Work module. This helps learners to understand their payslip and taxes. We have also looked at the Shopping Online and Budgeting modules aiming to help our learners to save money.

3. Research Project

We were commissioned by the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum to carry out a piece of research into barriers that prevent asylum seekers and refugees engaging with volunteering opportunities. The report showed that the biggest barrier was lack of confidence in language skills; the second biggest was not knowing how or where they could apply for volunteering roles. However, participants in the research stated that they felt volunteering would help to improve their English. As a recommendation from this research it has been suggested that a volunteer engagement project should be set up in Nottingham. We hope to continue to be involved with this in the coming year.

4. English

In addition to English My Way, we have received funding from several organisations to provide ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages). The breakdown is as follows:

- COI – 30 learners over one year;
- New and Emerging Communities – 30 learners over one year;
- Boots – 60 learners over one year including integration training to help migrants understand aspects of life in Britain including education, health care, politics, housing and transport;
- Castle Cavendish – lessons provided out of working hours, on Saturday mornings and Thursday evenings. We also began a Family Learning project with the local Children's Centre. The women for this group are mixed level, they requested the classes focus on speaking. The project has taken a positive start and continues into the next financial year.

Having received funding from different funders we have been able to provide ESOL at a number of levels, from Pre Entry to Entry 3. Our ESOL provision means that asylum seekers, refugees and migrants have a stop gap provision whilst waiting for an accredited course at the local colleges. This means that the time they are waiting is not wasted. We have helped students that have started at Entry 1 level reach Entry 2 or 3 when they are assessed for college. This means that they are closer to their aspirations to becoming economically active or studying further.

5. Youth Together project

Funded by BBC Children in Need this project helped improve the confidence and self-esteem of our young people. It empowered them through their active involvement in running the project, choosing activities and organising trips, summer activities and community events. It has also enabled the young people to gain a wide range of skills (such as team building skills) through group working and performance. Throughout the project activities, behaviours, social norms and topical issues were

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explored and challenged. This resulted in changes in attitude to school, other group and community settings. These activities built their confidence and gave them the opportunity to develop positive social relationships which impact on many areas of their lives. Our soft outcomes and interviews, as well as the youth worker observation, suggest that 33 young people have managed to experience significant progress due to regular attendance and active involvement in project activities. 9 of these have managed to move into paid employment following a successful involvement in an apprenticeship programme organised and planned by our employability coordinator.

The project has also helped reduce involvement in antisocial behaviour. This benefit was achieved in two ways: Firstly, through providing alternative activities that diverted young people away from negative, anti-social activities (such as workshops with the police, workshops with the restorative justice programme as well as training around social enterprise and employability). Secondly, through supporting young people in their personal social development, which helps them to change their outlook and decide to make positive choices.

The project provided a range of recreational and learning opportunities. The involvement of young people in the delivery, management and evaluation of the project brought about significant benefit for the targeted young people. One of the young people involved in the project explained his change in behaviour: "With going to the project it enabled me to stop doing what I was doing on the street - stop causing trouble, have more confidence in myself and speak up for other young people to get what they wanted. Important, because it enabled me to fulfil my true potential and bring out the real me. I am back on track to go down the right path. If it wasn't for the project I don't think I'd be here today, I'd be in a young offenders or out on the street in a gang". Another young person stated: "Basically, with the understanding of everything we learnt about prisons and the criminal justice system and the consequences of knife crime and once I'd seen what had happened to these people I thought to myself I don't want to do this. So it's helped me acknowledge the consequences of all that stuff".

The impacts of this project are wide ranging but commonly include increased confidence, developing relationships with local organisations, greater awareness of consequences of crime, developing practical skills. Our project has engaged 24 young people at risk of committing crime. In the six month evaluation, a survey of 22 young people found that 11 reported keeping out of trouble with the police as a result of the project.

There is sufficient evidence to demonstrate that this project has been an effective support function for young people to date. By re-visiting briefly some of the programme impacts we can clearly see that most of the project objectives have been met. The parents who attended a one-hour discussion for the purposes of this evaluation were very appreciative of the fact that their children had attended the project activities and could tell in various ways how their children had improved since joining the project.

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5. Volunteering

Belong has a base of volunteers to assist with delivery of services. They all come from the community and local universities and colleges. During this financial year, Belong has offered 6 volunteering placements. This figure includes university and college students on placement. They have contributed significantly to the running of our Projects.

Volunteers have undertaken a variety of tasks such as receptionist work, filing, interpreting and translation, IT, form filing, evaluation/research and policy development.

Financial review

The charity's policy on reserves

The trustees consider that given the nature of the charity's activities, a minimum level of free, unrestricted reserves is represented by a sum equivalent to three months' operating costs. They have instructed the manager to seek funding for the establishment of a trading arm to help sustain the activities delivered through the charity and build a reserve.

Risk analysis

The board of trustees has conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. External risks include limited funding. Internal risks are minimized by procedures for authorization of all financial transactions. The setting up of the financial sub-committee has allowed the more thorough consideration of Belong's Finances. All policies and procedures are reviewed regularly.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed _____ Date _____
Judith Kobutungi, Trustee

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of
Belong Nottingham
for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017**

I report on the accounts of the charity, which are set out on pages 9 to 12.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed _____ Date _____
John O'Brien MSc, FCCA, FCIE
Employee of Community Accounting Plus

Belong Nottingham
Receipts & payments account
for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017

2017

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Receipts				
Grants & donations	2	28767	55849	84615
Training & consultancy fees		500	-	500
Rent & services contributions		7739	-	7739
Total receipts		37006	55849	92854
Payments				
Advertising & publicity		1035	250	1285
Bank charges		142	-	142
Cleaning & supplies		359	-	359
Consultancy & training		300	2783	3083
Equipment & office supplies		1981	-	1981
Events, facilitation & workshops		-	1553	1553
Payroll service		300	-	300
Premises maintenance		1	-	1
Printing & stationery		1	537	538
Professional & interpreter fees		842	-	842
Rent, room hire & services		3000	2520	5520
Sundry payments		141	-	141
Telephone, internet & postage		348	700	1048
Travel & subsistence		457	500	957
Utilities		1402	-	1402
Volunteer expenses		-	47	47
Wages & NI		26778	38659	65437
Total payments		37087	47550	84636
Net receipts/(payments)		(81)	8299	8218
Cash funds at start of this period		-	-	-
Cash funds at end of this period		(81)	8299	8218

Belong Nottingham
Statement of assets and liabilities
at 31 March 2017

		<i>2017</i>
Cash assets	Note	£
Bank accounts		8051
Cash in hand		<u>166</u>
		<u>8218</u>
 Other monetary assets		
Debtors	4	<u>9911</u>
		<u>9911</u>
 Assets retained for the charity's own use		
General equipment.		
 Liabilities		
Creditors	5	<u>(12147)</u>
		<u>(12147)</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed _____ Dated _____
 Paul Mwangi, Trustee

Belong Nottingham
Notes to the accounts
for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

2. Grants & donations

Belong (Charity No. 1128781)	4245	-	4245
Awards for All	-	9930	9930
BBC Children in Need	-	18181	18181
Castle Cavendish	9635	-	9635
Good Things Foundation	11563	-	11563
Nottingham City Council	3083	-	3083
NNRF	-	24738	24738
Nottingham Equal	-	3000	3000
Sundry grants & donations	240	-	240
	28767	55849	84615

3. Funds analysis

	Opening balance £	Receipts £	(Payments) £	Closing balance £
Restricted funds				
Getting Settled in Community	-	9930	(4816)	5114
Young People Together	-	18181	(18024)	157
Advice Project	-	4210	(4210)	-
Employability	-	12600	(12600)	-
ESOL	-	4900	(4900)	-
Research	-	3028	-	3028
New & Emerging Community	-	3000	(3000)	-
	-	55849	(47550)	8299
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	-	37006	(37087)	(81)
	-	37006	(37087)	(81)

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4. Debtors

	£
Training & consultancy fees	2160
Rent & services contributions	7282
Grants (NCC apprenticeship)	417
Sundry income	52
	<u>9911</u>

5. Creditors

Wages & NI (HMRC) 16/17	5895
Wages & NI (HMRC) previous arrears	3158
Wages & NI	433
Independent examination fee	480
Sessional workers	312
Telephone, internet & postage	687
Consultancy & training	225
Payroll service (CA Plus)	318
Professional fees (CA Plus)	222
Rates	92
Utilities	324
	<u>12147</u>

6. Trustees' remuneration

Trustees received no expenses, remuneration or benefits in this period.

7. Previous period comparison

The previous period's figures have not been included for comparison because the charity was dormant in the previous period.

8. Glossary of terms

Creditors: These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid during the accounting period.

Debtors: These are amounts owed to the charity, but not received in the accounting period.

Restricted funds: These are funds given to the charity, subject to specific restrictions set by the donor, but still within the general objects of the charity.