



**SOMALI COMMUNITY PARENTS ASSOCIATION C.I.O.  
(SOCOPA)  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2017**

**SOMALI COMMUNITY PARENTS ASSOCIATION C.I.O.  
(SOCOPA)**

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**SOMALI COMMUNITY PARENTS ASSOCIATION C.I.O.  
(SOCOPA)**

**REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2017**

**The management committee presents its report and financial statements for the period ended  
31 March 2017**

**Reference and Administrative Information**

**Charity Name Somali Community Parents Association CIO (SOCOPA)**

**Charity registered Number 1152565**

**Registered Office and  
Operational Office 19 Brunswick Street  
Leicester  
LE1 2LP**

**Management Committee**

<b>Mohamed A Musse</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
<b>Mr Abdiwali Omar Warsame</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Mr Noor Hussein</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Mrs Ubah Egal-Mullon</b>	<b>Trustee</b>

**Senior Management Team**

**Mr Abdikayf Bashir Farah Chief Executive**

**Bankers HSBC Bank  
2-6 Gallowtree Gate  
Leicester  
LE1 1DA**

**Independent Examiners Shabbeer & Co Limited  
62 Haringworth Road  
Leicester  
LE5 6TL**

**SOMALI COMMUNITY PARENTS ASSOCIATION C.I.O.  
(SOCOPA)**

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2017**

The Trustees present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2017

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

Somali Community Parents Association was established in 2005 and registered as a charity in February 2009 and converted to a Charitable Incorporation Organisation (CIO) on 24 June 2013.

**Recruitment and appointment of Trustees**

The Trustees are charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the charity model constitution. Under the requirements of the constitution the trustees are appointed for a period of three years after which they must be re-appointed at the annual General Meeting. Trustees seeks to ensure that Trustees body includes people with knowledge and experience of working with communities.

**Trustee induction and Training**

All of our staff are trained on the above policies, with new starters given an induction covering all of our policies and procedures. SOCOPA is member of the Leicester Complementary School Trusts which provides us with paediatric first aid training, safeguarding children and teaching training. We are registered with UKCRB to enable us to do online DBS checks for our staff, volunteers and trustees. SOCOPA is also a member of Voluntary Action Leicestershire which gives us advise and information about voluntary sector. It gives us management training and provides us resources to adopt in order to do our work properly.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and received no remuneration or other benefits. New trustees are given an induction pack which explains the policies and procedures of the organisation and the roles and responsibilities of the Board and of the staff.

**Organisational structure**

Somali Community Parents Association CIO has a Board of 4 members who meet quarterly and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. The Board has an established project advisory working group which meets when required. A scheme of delegation is in place and the day to day management of the charity rests with the senior management team, volunteers and Sessional workers. The Chief Executive is responsible for ensuring the sound management and monitoring of the activities and programmes and reporting to the trustees and funders and financial management.

**Volunteers**

We are grateful for the many hours volunteers have spent listening and encouraging the parents and young people and also working with our workers. Without their time, energy and expertise we would not have been able to achieve so much; as an organization we appreciate their valuable contribution. Our strengths lie in our volunteer's support, parent's involvement and community participation. We have a team that monitors grants that are available, fundraise and aid SOCOPA in drafting grant proposals. We now have 7 volunteers in our different programmes that have contributed their valuable time and skills to support our work that we do for the community.

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**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT  
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**Aims and objectives**

For any charitable purpose for people primarily from Somalia now living in the UK particularly Leicester, Leicestershire and people living in Somalia, in particular but not exclusively by:

- (a) The advancement of education;
- (b) The relief of financial need, unemployment and sickness; and
- (c) The provision of facilities for recreation or leisure time occupation in the interest of social welfare with the object of improving their conditions of life.

SOCOPA is voluntary organisation based in Leicester. It is established to provide community based services and give support to the Black Minority Ethnic (BME) in the UK and the people living in Somalia. It engages children and young people and provides them study support, after school activities, recreational programmes such as table tennis and football, language classes for adults (ESOL). We also provide bilingual support, pre-employment support, advice and information, counselling and family mediation. We provide addiction services e.g. khat, socially isolated women support, youth leadership and crime prevention, services for the elderly people and general community development. We also support fathers to be actively involved in their children's development. We provide advice and assistance to families to improve their living standards and cope with the difficulties that come from being unemployed and on low income. We provide support and assistance to parents and young people who are isolated or have difficulty in accessing services. We encourage family cohesion through workshops and disseminating information. We encourage parents to be actively involved in their children's education. We initiate and give the community the opportunity to develop youth provisions and positive attitudes that promote integration

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

**Conversion to a Charitable Incorporation Organisation (CIO)**

At the Annual General Meeting held on 03 May 2013 the trustees agreed to convert the unincorporated charity to a Charitable Incorporation Organisation (CIO). The CIO is a new legal form of charities in the United Kingdom. Is an incorporated form of charity which is not a company and only has to register with the Charity Commission and not the Companies House.

**Major achievements and projects**

During the financial year, SOCOPA has been able to secure funding from Leicester City Council and Ernest Cook Trust.

During the financial year, SOCOPA has been able to secure funding from various sources, one of which includes the Heritage Lottery Fund in association with the Canal River Trust. The programme is supported by Cardiff University's Sustainable Places Research Institute. It was piloted in 2016, dubbed the Young Ecology Adventurers programme, young people were being exposed to a new environment in which they learnt to canoe and explore the waterways over a 12 week period.

SOCOPA is also grateful we were able to secure funding from Sports England and BBC Children In Need which was in our 2016 future plans in order to fund sports activities for the youth and supplementary classes which the community has greatly benefited from.

All our work is based on providing effective support for our community – we are flexible and respond to the needs of individuals but we also try to speak on their behalf when we can. As a result of our work we have been able to support people gain employment through training programmes and skills development. Participants learned different skills during a 10 week programme run by SOCOPA. We provided access to IT, opportunities to learn interview, CV writing skills as well as building their confidence in applying for jobs. Fifty women were provided paediatric and childminding course introduction training and twenty-five women out of them secured employment in the childcare sector. Through our supplementary class and your programme, we have aided fifty young people between the ages of 7 to 17 years who have benefited from the programme. We are particularly grateful that 5 young people who had challenging behaviour issues were able to settle well with their mainstream schools and improve their grades subsequently.

On a daily basis SOCOPA provides drop in sessions which helps 4 people on average per day, from translation and interpretation of various issues such as responding to official letters, communicating with benefit agencies, utility company providers, online housing applications and how to manage debt. Furthermore, the organization helps families to facilitate communication between them and statutory agencies concerning young people. The counselling SOCOPA provides to these families and young people is pivotal as they help them make positive decisions that will better their lives and the people around them. Adding to this SOCOPA conducts various events a year addressing issues affecting our community, as bringing awareness helps promote change.

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**Future Plans**

We are also planning to work with the police to resolve issues and concerning anti social behaviour by youth in the St Matthews area. In partnership with Somali Development Service, we are going to work with the local schools regarding high level of fixed term exclusions amongst the students of the Somali background. The aim is to set up task force in collaboration with the police, various departments of Leicester City Council, secondary and primary schools to address and tackle issues affecting Somali's families and youth.

Also SOCOPA plans to facilitate ways to rehabilitate young offenders via liaising with prisoners and also supporting parents in visitations to these institutes, by setting up an offenders/ex-offenders support programme. The organization also plans to support parents in vulnerable positions who are unable to do so, by advocating and communicating on their behalf. In addition, the organization plans to work with parents in understanding their children and developing skills in which they become more intuitive and less judgemental with the SDS & Karolinska Institute in Sweden.

Furthermore, SOCOPA plans to become a first contact point in pathways to higher education, employment and training. This will help youth who may have not been able to sustain the best grades through secondary school/sixth form but show them there is still hope and ways to achieve what they want. To be able to sustain all these various programmes, as an organization we are exploring ways in increasing our core costs to increase staff and responding to the increase in demand for our services. SOCOPA also plans to obtain a suitable building with easy access for the community.

Trustees who served during the year were:

Mohamed A Musse	Chairman
Mr Abdiwali Omar Warsame	Treasurer
Mr Noor Hussein	Secretary
Mrs Ubah Egal-Mullon	Trustee

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The trustees present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017. The board of trustees are satisfied with the performance of the charity during the year and the position at 31 March 2017 and consider that the charity is in a strong position to continue its activities during the coming year, and that the charity's assets are adequate to fulfil its obligations. The charity will continue to seek further funding to deliver its objects.

**Reserves policy**

The charity reserves policy is to hold six months operating expenses in unrestricted funds. It is felt this level of reserves is necessary because it can often take many months for grant applications to be processed. The trustees have established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets (free reserves) held by the charity should be between 3 and 6 months of the resources expended, which equates to £6,000 to £8,000 in general funds. At this level the Trustees feel that they would be able to continue current activities of the charity in the event of a significant drop in funding.

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

The trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining the free reserves at the levels stated above will give enough resources in the event of the adverse conditions. Due to lack of funding and income decline, we have reduced our regularly level to sessional staffing. We have also given up one of our staff office to reduce costs and we are delivering our major programmes and activities through St Matthews Neighbourhood Centre.

Approved by the Management Committee and signed on its behalf by

Trustee:  \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 25/08/2017

**SOMALI COMMUNITY PARENTS ASSOCIATION C.I.O.  
(SOCOPA)**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SOMALI COMMUNITY PARENTS ASSOCIATION CIO  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2017**

I report on the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2017, which are set out on pages 6 to 9

**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 of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is required.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145 (5) (b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

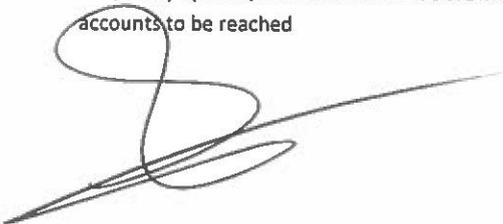
**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 presents 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 requirement:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities 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



**Shabbeer & Co Limited  
62 Harringworth Road  
Leicester  
LE5 6TL**

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RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

	Note	Restricted Funds	Total Mar-17	Total Mar-16
<b>Receipts</b>				
Donations and grants	4	55,671	55,671	19,885
<b>Total receipts</b>		<u>55,671</u>	<u>55,671</u>	<u>19,885</u>
<b>Payments</b>				
Training costs		1,790	1,790	3,050
Audit and accountancy		410	410	669
Consultancy fees		-	-	2,500
Sports materials		-	-	620
Volunteer's costs		350	350	600
Events and fund raising		2,101	2,101	2,748
Facilities hire		1,173	1,173	1,328
Insurance		424	424	460
IT expenses		270	270	924
Learning materials and photocopying		1,420	1,420	57
Legal and professional fees		365	365	68
Non capitalised assets		-	-	300
Printing and stationery		41	41	59
Publicity		300	300	790
Rent, rates, heating and lighting		2,748	2,748	4,668
Telephone and internet		1,186	1,186	784
Travel and subsistence		885	885	78
Wages		14,771	14,771	26,387
<b>Total payments</b>		<u>28,233</u>	<u>28,233</u>	<u>46,091</u>
<b>Surplus/(deficit)</b>		27,438	27,438	(26,206)
Total funds brought forward		<u>34,091</u>	<u>34,091</u>	<u>60,297</u>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<u>61,529</u>	<u>61,529</u>	<u>34,091</u>

SOMALI COMMUNITY PARENTS ASSOCIATION C.I.O.  
(SOCOPA)

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 MARCH 2017

	Mar-17 £	Mar-16 £
<b>Monetary Assets</b>		
HSBC	61,529	39,087
Petty Cash	-	304
<b>Total monetary assets</b>	<u>61,529</u>	<u>39,391</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Wages	-	5,301
	<u>-</u>	<u>5,301</u>
<b>Net assets</b>	<u>61,529</u>	<u>34,091</u>

Approved by the Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Date: 25/08/2017

  
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**SOMALI COMMUNITY PARENTS ASSOCIATION C.I.O.  
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**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - 31 MARCH 2017**

**1 . Accounting Policies**

The principal accounting policies are summarised below.

**(a) Basis of accounting**

The financial statements are prepared on a receipts and payments basis which summarises the movement of cash in and out of the organisation. In this context 'cash' includes cash equivalents, such as bank accounts where cash can be readily available to pay debts as they fall due. This format of accounts is available to non companies charities with gross annual income of £250,000 or less.

**(c) Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objective of the CIO.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the granting body.

**(d) Incoming resources**

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

**(e) Resources expended**

All expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

**2. Trustee Remuneration and Related Party Transactions**

No members of the Management Committee received any remuneration during the year.

No Trustee or other person related to the Charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by charity during the year.

**3. Taxation**

As a charity, Somali Community Parents Association CIO (SOCOPA) is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act or s256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

No tax charges have arisen in the Charity.

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(SOCOPA)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - 31 MARCH 2017

4. Grants and donations

	<b>Mar-17</b>	<b>Mar-16</b>
Awards For All	9,978	-
Ernest Cook Trust	-	2,500
Leicester City Council NLDC St Mathews	3,000	5,000
Leicester City Council Youth Programme	6,310	6,310
Herritage Lottery Fund	24,900	-
Sports England	10,000	-
St Mathews Big Local	-	5,825
General donations and sundry income	1,484	250
	<u>55,671</u>	<u>19,885</u>