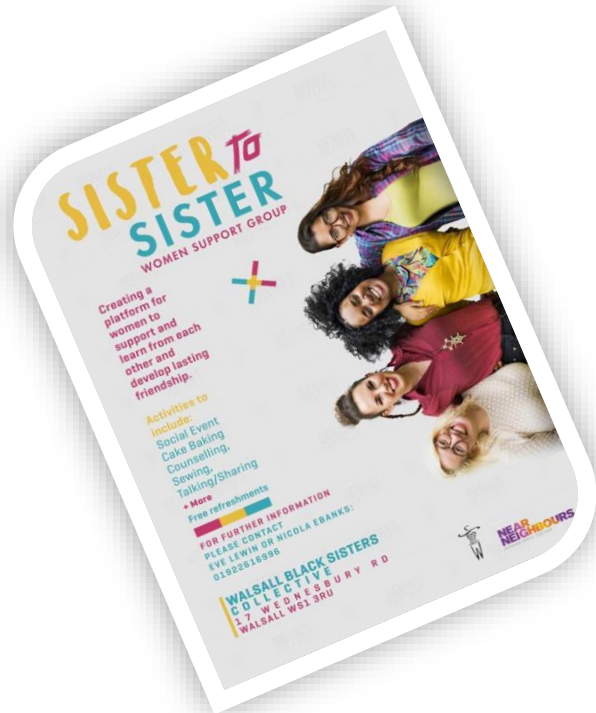


ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Walsall Black Sisters Collective

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Walsall Black Sisters Collective

Charity No: 1009687

Introduction

WBSC is a registered charity established July 1986. The main aim is to provide a community-based provision for BME and the wider community within the borough of Walsall. Having been established for over 30 years now, we have a proven track record and play an integral role in meeting the health and social needs of local people; ensuring that services are appropriate and sensitive to meet their identified needs.

We work in partnership with statutory agencies and voluntary organisations; ensuring that the services we provide demonstrate equality and that cultural needs are being met.

We are an organisation that is led by the community for the community. We advocate and ensure that local people are directly involved in decision-making processes which affects their lives.

U.S.P.

WBSC provides community activities to empower and develop deprived BME communities from various ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds in Walsall, addressing inequality and bringing long-lasting change to encourage community cohesion, cultural respect and a diverse community we can all be proud of.



A Walsall that values diversity, is caring, supporting and addresses the needs of communities

Mission Statement

To successfully provide an open quality service to the wider community of Walsall, enabling a better quality of life.



“Making a difference in Walsall”

Chair's Report

Maureen Scott-Douglas



“Another year has gone, and we are still holding on”. Like the words from the song we have managed to survive with a lot more stability than last year. I would like to thank firstly our staff, especially Chief Officer Maureen Lewis for moving the

organisation forward with that degree of stability.

We are in the 4th year of our lottery funding and have achieved all set targets this year.

Black Sisters have managed to reach more communities and users this year, through the Housing Floating Support Project.

Since the Elderly Day Care facility moved to a larger venue, Bethel Lighthouse, the numbers have increased immensely.

Links have also been made with some of the newer communities in Walsall, as well as having better relationships with established communities, some of whom are using our services.

We have developed working relationships with a greater number of groups and our staff are also established on a wide number of committees.

We held our annual community day trip to the seaside and again were able to fill the coach. There have been a number of other events that have taken place during the year.

The winning of an award from the Police and Crime Commissioner has given us a wide amount of marketing across the Midlands.

During the year we had a very good Development Day with the assistance of One Walsall, where we redrafted our aim, objectives and business plan. This document will serve as a template for the organisation in terms of marketing what we do, and future funding.

We did not quite achieve the completion of moving towards becoming a CIC and changing our name, and we remain in our current building, but this is still part of our plans to develop the organisation.

Long live Walsall Black Sisters! Hopefully the organisation will be rebranded next year, with a name that is more inclusive.



Chief Officer's Report

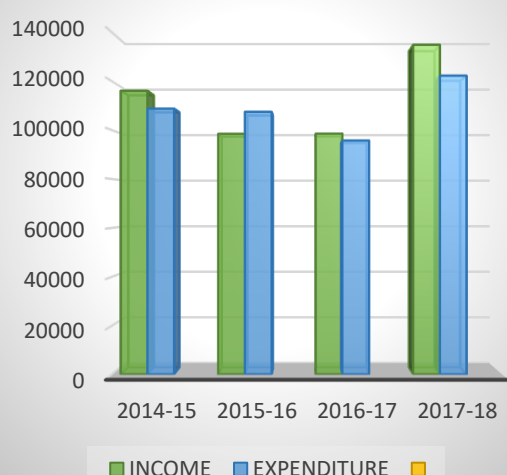


Maureen Lewis

This year has been a very stable year, the first for a very long time. There has been consistency with staffing and volunteers which has meant effective service delivery.

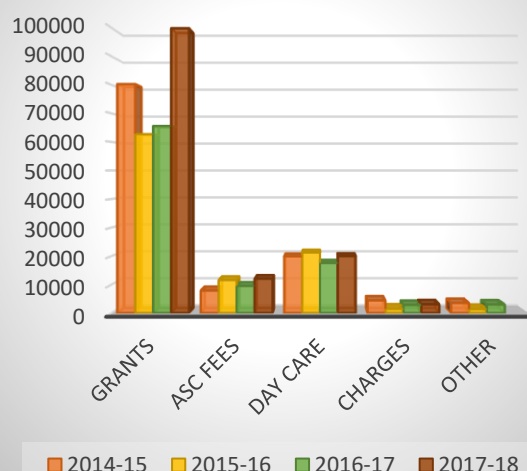
This has only been made possible by the fact that 5 years funding from the Big Lottery Reaching Communities Fund was secured. We are now in our 4th year of delivery and this has ensured continuity and stability.

Financial Report over 4 years

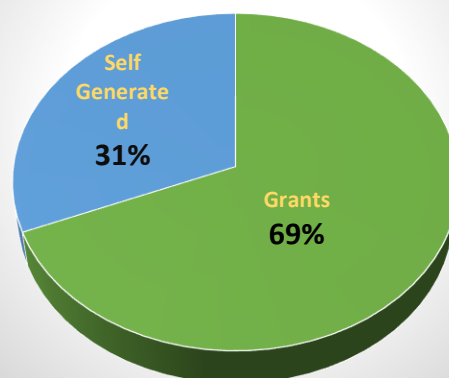


This year has also seen a rise in our overall Income and Expenditure, previous years have seen a decline.

Level of Income Generated



Level of Income Generated



Our grants make up 69 percent of our overall income, but we are pleased to say that there has also been an overall increase from 25 percent to 31 percent in our self-generated income. These includes After School fees, Day Care and other charges made within our services.

With this stability in mind, we are planning to ensure long-term sustainability and adapt to

be relevant in meeting the changing needs of our local community.

With additional funding secured from the Big Lottery Building Capacity Fund, and Walsall Council's Community Development Funding we had a Community Development Day. This was facilitated by Amy Saunders, from Walsall's umbrella group for the voluntary sector "One Walsall". From this we are near completion of our Development plan for the next 3 years and beyond.



We are also in the process of becoming a Community Interest Company (CIC) which brings protection to the organisation and scope to be more creative in our development. One of our long-term plans is to develop services that are chargeable, services like befriending, shopping, gardening, cleaning etc. This will be part of our long-term plan, which will then help us to be self-sufficient and not be reliant on grants.

One of our success stories for the year is that WBSC was awarded the West Midland Police Community Diamond Award 2018.

Working in the voluntary sector is so rewarding, working at grass roots level and seeing the difference you make in changing lives.



Services & Projects delivered over the year include:

- ◆ BME Housing Floating Support Project
- ◆ Older Peoples' Day Care
- ◆ Mental Health & Wellbeing Support Group.
- ◆ Counselling
- ◆ After School Provision
- ◆ Black History Month Open Mic Poetry Night
- ◆ Experience to Work & Training Programme
- ◆ Community Day Trip to Llandudno.
- ◆ Sister to Sister Women's Support Group
- ◆ WBSC Open Day
- ◆ SEED5000 – Soup Kitchen for Homeless
- ◆ Volunteering
- ◆ Multifaith Showcase Event
- ◆ International Women's Day Celebration

Housing Floating Support Project Report



Eve Lewin,

**Housing
Floating
Support Officer**

Overall Progress

The Housing Floating Support Project has made great progress this year mainly due to having a full working team. We have been instrumental in outreach in the community within homes, hospital, residential settings, community centres, community events and wherever possible to reach the needs of individuals and communities. We are aware that we cannot provide all the needs of individuals, therefore we have to signpost to other agencies that may specialise in the areas that are needed, and, because we have a good relationship with agencies within Walsall, referrals are usually quite straight forward.

Our day care provision twice weekly has continued to grow and develop with new members joining from areas outside of Walsall. We ensure that our activities are diverse, and person-centred and are beneficial to individuals encouraging growth and development, and people are learning new things. Our centre acts as a 'one stop shop' approach allowing our beneficiaries to receive and give information to ensure a good quality of life.

Over the year we have delivered the following activities:

- Hydrotherapy Pool exercise sessions
- Visits to other day centres in Birmingham and Wolverhampton
- Chair exercises
- Community trip to Llandudno
- Life with Art sessions
- Health & wellbeing awareness sessions
- Community Christmas Party
- Outings and Trips
- Coffee Mornings with the Muslim communities
- Open Day
- Celebrating International Women's Day



We have also developed a women's support group called 'Sister to Sister', aiming to create a platform for women to support and learn from each other and develop lasting friendships and promote women's advancement in the community.

Our befriending service is growing, and we are receiving more referrals from other agencies which is putting a strain on us due to limited human resources.

We have recruited volunteers. However, it has been difficult to sustain them due to the fact that when they have received the skills and knowledge they require they move on to other development opportunities, such as

further education or employment, which essentially is not a bad thing. One of our long-term volunteers has now retired and is now a service user.

The monthly soup kitchen is continuing to feed those who are homeless or suffering poverty and is a valid resource in the community. We encourage other agencies to come along to promote their services primarily on sexual health, changing lives for women, housing issues, and other services which are pertinent to this client group.

Connections Made / Partnerships

We have established partnership with a wide range of organisations to address specific issues identified by the community. We are aware as an organisation that it is impossible to meet all the needs, and we are not experts in all areas. Therefore, we have forged working relationships with statutory and voluntary organisations to establish a 'joined up thinking' approach to our work.

Current partnerships include:

- **Ahmadiyya Muslim Association** – We are working with this organisation to break down cultural barriers and perceptions and have worked collaboratively in initiatives such as joint open days, developing a women's support group, setting up coffee mornings, involvement in our soup kitchen project and supporting our day care service. We also attend events at the mosque to ensure collaborative working.
- **Health Watch Walsall** – Our service users have been instrumental in completing surveys and being directly involved in decision making processes to make changes and improve health

and social care services, which affect their lives.

- **Making Connection Walsall (Walsall Council)** – We have been instrumental in outreaching to lonely and isolated elderly members in the community to provide befriending and 'ring around' services to alleviate isolation. We also make referrals of isolated people to the Fire Service, who in turn provide health and safety checks within individual's homes to ensure their health and wellbeing.
- **Walsall Police** – We have regular contact with the police and are proactive in reporting any areas of concern, highlighted by the community in which we serve, and act as a bridge linking the police with community members; therefore, breaking down barriers and mistrust. We also attend police community meetings to advocate for less confident members of the community.

We are currently working with the police to develop projects to support people who have experienced issues around human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

This year Black Sisters Collective was awarded the Community Diamond Award by West Midlands Police for the work we do in the community.

- **Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership** – We have worked collaboratively in addressing the mental health needs of our service users, which includes attending meetings to raise our concerns on behalf of the community, allowing mental services to attend our day care provision, and an open day to raise awareness of their services to improve access.

- **One Walsall** – We have worked with this organisation to support the recruitment of volunteers, support in publicising our services and utilise their expertise in project development.

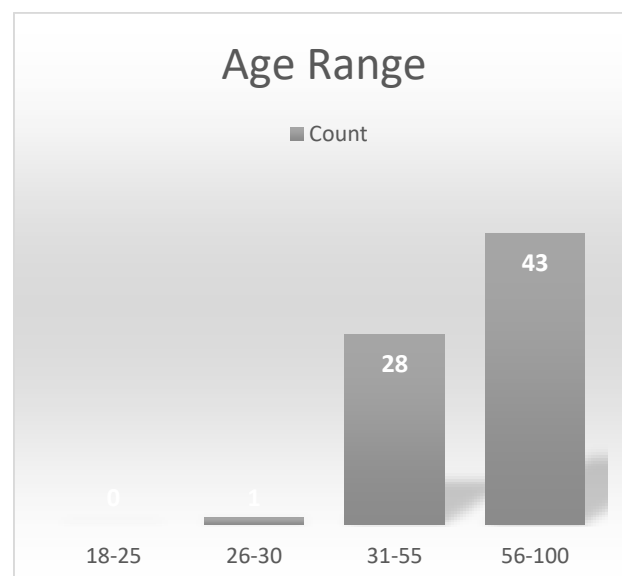
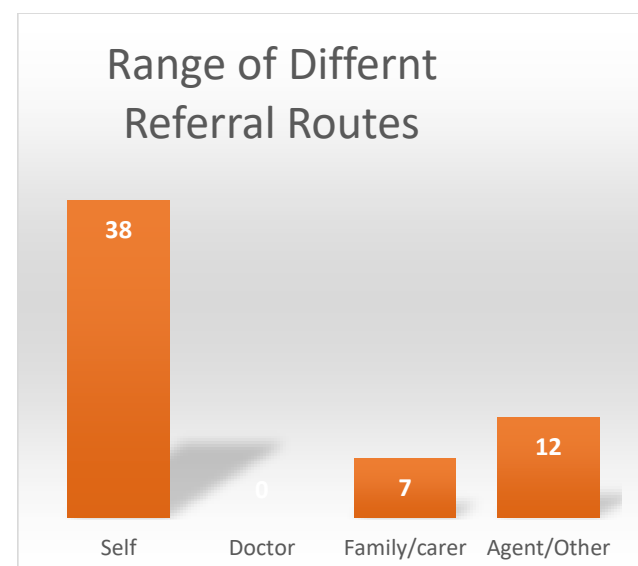
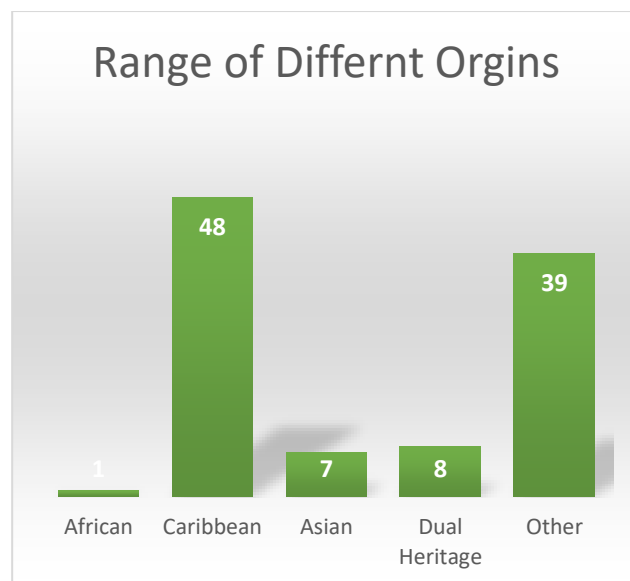
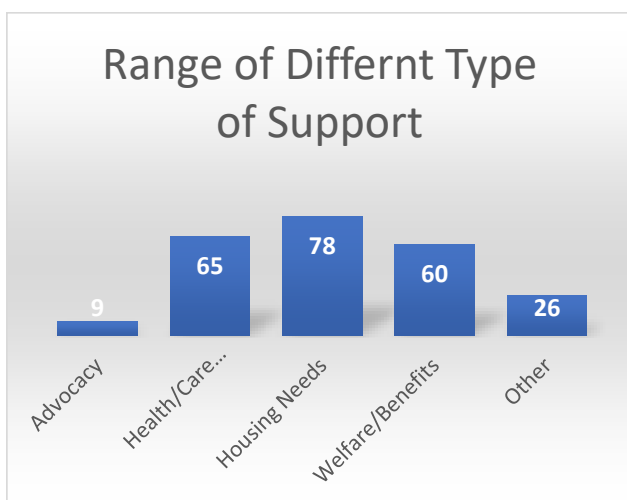
We are also working with the following partners:

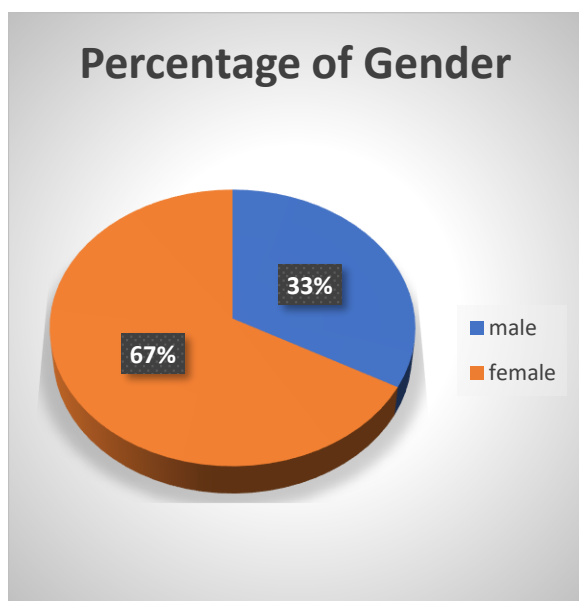
- Nehemiah Housing
- Walsall Council
- Social services
- Transforming Communities Together
- Walsall Housing Group
- The Vine Trust
- Aaina Community Hub
- Local Churches
- Walsall Street Teams
- Changing Lives
- Walsall College
- Bethel Lighthouse & other Local Churches

Our working relationship within the community is very good mainly due to our organisation being active for over 32 years.

Evidencing Impact

Below is a graph which highlights out outcome over the year





Learning

We have learnt that people and community needs are changing all the time, we must be prepared to change our services to meet current needs, and we are not experts on everything. Therefore, it is imperative to work in partnership with other statutory and voluntary organisations for the future economic and social development of our organisation.

We have also learnt that we cannot adopt a 'one size fits all' approach because every individual is unique, and they must be treated as individuals with a specific need.

It is also imperative that we as an organisation need to look at our current branding to ascertain if it is a barrier to far-reaching communities or if certain groups feel excluded from service delivery.

Looking Forward

We look forward to reaching more people over the next year especially those from migrant communities who are isolated and

dispersed and feel detached from the wider community.

It has been identified that lots of elderly people are lonely and isolated within their homes, therefore we are aiming to develop our befriending services widely to meet the number of referrals that we are currently receiving from other agencies.

We aim to be strategic in the community in which we serve to encourage a 'caring community' where people care about each other and are willing to help and support each, as neighbours or just walking on the street and seeing someone in need.

We are also looking at developing new initiatives such as:

- Summer School
- Private tuition in English and Maths
- Stay and Play mother and baby group
- Hypnobirthing classes
- Baby massages sessions
- Second Hand Clothes shop

These initiatives will encourage the involvement of younger people to access our services



After School Project Report



**Kamilah
Maynard**

Project Co-ordinator

During the last 12 months the numbers of children attending our After-School Service have been increasing. The club has also acknowledged children from three schools which are further out, recognizing the need to expand our radius, using another transport service to meet their requirements.

April 2015, we introduced a drop off service, after a few enquiries from parents at the schools. This service continues, but there seems to be less requirement for this service at present. There appears to be a demand for a before school service and holiday provision. We are looking into how this could be cost effective and benefit the business.

Price increase

Before we ended the school, academic year July 2018 parents were informed of the price increase for the service; as prices have remained the same for 3 years. It will not be a drastic increase only adding 50 pence per hour. We will also be increasing our registration fee to £10 for new customers, it will remain at £5 for existing customers.

Drop offs =£6.00

3-4pm =£6.50

3-5pm =£7.50

3-6pm =£8.50

New term September 2018

We designed a new flyer and poster for the new intake, circulating the information widely to attract new enquiries and enrolments for the new school year. This follows the success of our flyer handouts during June and July 2017 last year. The publicity poster on the mini bus has also been effective attracting new interests.

Staff and volunteers

There is me, Kamilah Maynard, coordinator/manager, Raheema Khatun, playworker, and Sabina Masih as an Assistant Playworker. All staff members have settled in nicely, and the children demonstrate they feel safe and have built up positive relationships with all the staff. The staff team has also built positive relationships between them, which clearly reflects on the service provided.



We appointed a new mini bus driver in March 2017 - Anthony Flash. This has helped to improve the pick-up and drop-off service relating to child safety and how behaviour is managed on the mini bus.

One our staff, Raheema Khatun left us in June 2018 and we are looking to replace her in September

Black Sisters After School Club always welcomes volunteers and students to help develop work experience and/or childcare skills.

Financial Report

2017-18

INCOME

balance c/f 2016/17	£4,375.12
WBSC Accumulated Fund	£3,082.28
ASC fees	£12,065.97
Day Care- Elderly	£19,984.14
Safer Walsall Partnership	£1,000.00
ESF Community Grants	£9,898.00
Making Connections Walsall	£1,250.00
Community Choir - S.C.V.O	£2,190.00
BIG Lottery	£54,415.00
Near Neighbours	£1,880.00
Awards for All	£9,830.00
Building Capabilities	£15,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	£134,970.51

EXPENDITURE

Payroll	£80,705.58
Rent & Rates	£573.36
Heat & Light	£306.35
Stationery	£1,079.44
Insurance	£2,685.73
Transport & Travel	£2,365.77
Repairs & Maintenance	£3,368.66
Recruitment	£0.00
Events	£3,113.74
Postage	£617.72
Professional fees	£7,493.17
Telephone	£2,537.38
Training	£350.00
Health and Safety	£1,230.51
Food	£3,768.05
Materials & Resource	£189.29
Volunteers Expenses	£1,562.78
Sundries/Misc.	£10.00
Marketing	£1,986.48
Bank Charge	£0.00
Refund	£100.00
Loan	£0.00

Printing	£1,170.97
Lease agreement	£724.56
Building - Maintenance/Utilities	£2,400.00
T.V Licence	£147.00
Room Hire	£769.26
Activities	£24.48
Cleaning/Maintenance	£396.32
CCTV	£709.53
Capital	£1,937.97
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£122,324.10

Surplus	£12,646.41
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