



**AFRICAN CARIBBEAN
CARE GROUP**
ANNUAL REPORT
2021-2022

The Mission

The mission of the African Caribbean Care Group is to ensure the wellbeing of members by:

- Providing culturally appropriate health and social care.
- Creating opportunities and avenues for self-expression of views and opinions.
- Supporting equal access to our service.
- Involving service users in planning of services to meet individual needs.
- Creating a warm, friendly and welcoming service.
- Working with young people to enhance their understanding of caring needs of older adults in the community.
- Working collaboratively with statutory agencies in the community.

ACCG values

Our Values are at the heart of everything we do to benefit our community.

ACCOUNTABLE Always responsive and take ownership.

CARING Compassionate, treat people with respect and kindness, everyone matters.

COURAGEOUS Say what we mean, mean what we say respecting opinion of others.

GOVERNANCE Take ownership, be responsible, sound structures, policies and procedures.

Care Group Objectives

- 1** To provide a caring and supportive service for older people of African Caribbean heritage who are residents of Central/South Manchester, Trafford and surrounding areas.
- 2** To provide a meeting place for older adults of African Caribbean heritage to promote social inclusion.
- 3** To provide culturally appropriate activities, food and promote healthy lifestyles.
- 4** To provide a Lunch Club and meals on wheels service.
- 5** To develop community care services which can be delivered to people in their own homes and Day Centre.
- 6** To work collaboratively with the Clinical Commissioning group and other relevant providers of care.
- 7** To offer the centre as a venue for clinics and other health activities.
- 8** To offer advice and support to service users to access welfare benefits and services.
- 9** To support the health and wellbeing of our services users.
- 10** To keep up to date with legislation, local and national changes in Health and Social care to deliver high quality care to service users.

Foreword

Reflecting on 2021 we are extremely proud that ACCG has not only navigated a safe path through a challenging year, but we have continued to strengthen our financial and operational platform for our future.

Given the challenges faced with Covid 19 the progress made is extremely satisfying and reflects extraordinarily well on our team of staff and volunteers who have worked hard to provide the high standards and quality of service to our service users.

We recognise the contribution of Mrs McInnis, ACCG Director, who sadly passed away during this period.

Thank you to our staff, volunteers, and every supporter for your ongoing commitment last year, and as we head into a challenging but courageous and compassionate future together.



Monica Weir
Chair



Dorothy Evans
Chief Executive

Why choose the ACCG?

- 1** For almost 40 years, we have been providing high quality, person-centred health and social care to the African Caribbean community. We are here to ensure the well-being of our members in Manchester, Trafford and the surrounding areas.
- 2** We strive to offer our services at affordable rates for our community, while never compromising on quality and safety standards.
- 3** We are proud of the links we have built up with partner organisations over the years and we embrace collaborative working to expand the range of services we can offer.
- 4** Our staff are all fully trained in health and social care and are kept up to date with specialised training courses and changes in legislation. We offer excellent career opportunities throughout the organisation and are committed to staff development.
- 5** Our Well Being services within the Day Centre provide a friendly, welcoming environment where members can meet up with friends old and new. Activities and social events help everyone to maintain a healthy lifestyle.
- 6** We offer an open and transparent service, overseen by our elected Board of Directors, involving members in the planning of our services.
- 7** We provide our service to the whole family, not just the person being cared for, supporting everyone involved. Increasingly, we also work with younger people, supporting them with developing their life skills.
- 8** We provide information and advice services enabling families to have greater choice and control to support their health and wellbeing needs.
- 9** We are fortunate to be able to call on our team of dedicated, enthusiastic volunteers who support us in maintaining our high-quality services.
- 10** Our future plans include expanding our services to more users in more locations.

Achievements & performance

Visit By Mayor

ACCG proudly welcomed the Lord Mayor Cllr Tommy Judge and Lady Mayoress to meet with service users, staff and volunteers. Being good sports, they also joined in the popular physical activity session.



Older Peoples voices: Community Reporters

Trafford Borough Council recognised ACCG as a community organisation who played a key role in recovering from this pandemic. With funding and support from Yellow Jigsaw, we worked with our service users who became older people's champions and reporters. This gave them a voice and platform to share interests and concerns on issues affecting them and promote community events and excursions.

ACCG's Community Reporters held a press conference with Cllr Jo Harding covering topic such as the Age Well Board, GP appointments, rising living costs.



Advocacy Information & Advice

There has been a significant increase in the demand and need for this service, driven by the impact of Covid 19 and the continuing financial crisis. This impacted the mental health of many people we have supported, leading to referrals to the appropriate Mental Health support services. ACCG worked with MACC to enable those eligible for the Household Support Fund to receive a £70 or £100 payment.

BBC Comic Relief Appeal 2022

ACCG featured on the BBC's 2022 Red Nose Day Comic Relief appeal to raise much needed funds for good causes, as well as promoting the great work undertaken by staff and volunteers within the charity. The Red Nose Day appeal raised significant funds for Comic Relief.

Lenny Henry reflects on food poverty in the UK: Red Nose Day 2022
www.youtube.be/r96cp9b4MwY





Claremont Food Bank/Parcels

The Claremont Food Bank was established in December 2021 following requests and enquiries from potential beneficiaries who told us how much this resource would benefit those in our local community. The food bank has been funded through generous donations from Mac Fresh bakery and food supplies, Rafiki Food Network and Fareshare. It is stocked with ethnic foods, general food and essential supplies.



ACCG delivered food parcels to people struggling to afford food due to low or lack of income. In some cases, we found some people isolated without a support network.



Hong Kong Exchange

ACCG through a cultural exchange with the Hong Kong Cultural Community held a special event sharing food, music and activities. Both African Caribbean and Chinese delicacies were shared – Jerk chicken, turnip cake, fried salt fish, plantain and much more was enjoyed by all.

Carers Support

ACCG working with our partners within the Carers Manchester Central Partnership continued to support Carers through each step of their caring Journey, ensuring the right support and advice is available when they need it. We have sought through various media including pop up stalls, radio, leaflets, and 1-2-1 meetings, to identify those new to the Caring role. Carers have told us how they have valued the regular Carers Forum and short break respite.



Personal Care

Carers have valued the opportunity that ACCG's personal care and support offer gives them. This service enables Carers to continue in their caring role and employment. Service users are cared for within the Day Centre where they can socialise with others and participate in activities. Since Covid 19 we are supporting a greater number of people with increased levels of need requiring a higher level of care.

Poetry Workshops

ACCG worked with the Poetry Group Young Identity to host three Poetry Workshops which encouraged service users to develop skills with regard using a jotter to collect their thoughts to create poetic verse. Service users really enjoyed the connection with the young people.



Claremont Gardens

ACCG has overhauled the gardens at the Claremont Centre with funding received from ScrewFix. We have built large planters using recycled plastic timber allowing accessibility for people in wheelchairs to participate in gardening activities. Old benches and outdoor seating have been upcycled and refurbished allowing for greater use of Claremont's great outdoor space. The transformation was undertaken by ACCG volunteers.

Intergenerational work

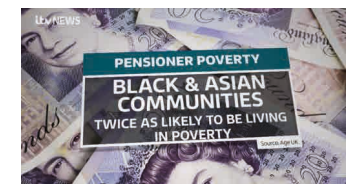
The easing of Covid -19 restrictions allowed ACCG to resume intergenerational activities which has been welcomed by all participants. A youth group of around 15 young people planned and led a gardening activity and coffee and chat session with older adults at the Claremont Centre with older adults. Everyone enjoyed the social interaction of this activity.



ITV Granada Reports

The impact of Pensioner Poverty was highlighted by ITV Granada Reports featuring ACCG service users giving them a voice to share their experiences and struggles of living on a pension. It was reported that people from Black and Asian communities are twice as likely to be living in poverty. This feature clearly demonstrated the need for, and the impact of ACCG's services on our community.

www.itv.com/news/granada/2022-03-24/why-is-pensioner-poverty-on-the-rise



Household Support Services

During the winter period ACCG received funds to provide a Household Support service to vulnerable adults who required assistance with shopping, light touch cleaning and befriending. Many of the people supported lived alone without a support network. This was a vital lifeline where users established a regular social connection and support.

Community Connections

The work undertaken to increase community engagement has resulted in an increased number of people accessing ACCG services. The varied activities compliment services such as the Lunch Club, Delivered Meals and Holistic Therapies. Through this service we want to strengthen personal connections and improve people’s ability to offer and access help when they need it.



ACCG Directors 2021–2022



Monica Weir
Chair



Gary Gillette
Deputy Chair



Francine Kayombo
Director



Karen Zaman
Treasurer



Vera James
Director



Minette McInnis
Director

Supporters & Partners



Financial Review

The effects of the coronavirus pandemic on ACCG's finances have been significant, most notably for the trading income lost through lockdowns during the pandemic. The ACCG remains in a stable financial position at the year-end despite challenges and the ongoing impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

Summary of Accounts 2021–2022

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2022

	Note	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14		5,920		2,867
Current assets					
Debtors	15	44,755		43,397	
Cash at bank and in hand		315,792		227,274	
Total current assets		360,547		270,671	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	17	(17,223)		(18,727)	
Net current assets			343,324		251,944
Total assets less current liabilities			349,244		254,811
Net assets			349,244		254,811
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted income funds	18		128,547		68,823
Unrestricted income funds	19		220,697		185,988
Total charity funds			349,244		254,811

For the year in question, the company was entitled to exemption from an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

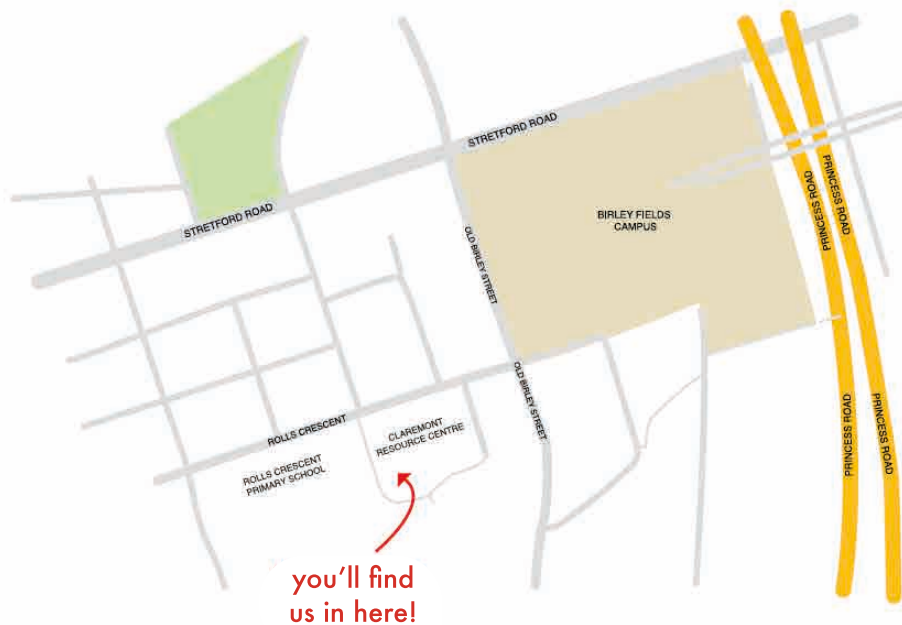
Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006,
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts

These accounts are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and constitute the annual accounts required by the Companies Act 2006 and are for circulation to members of the company.

Our Future Plans

- Build on the work undertaken to identify Carers at the start of their caring journey
- Progress the Community Asset Transfer of the Claremont Resource Centre which will provide opportunities for service expansion
- Develop more online services for older adults
- Expand the Digital Inclusion service
- Provide opportunities for volunteers to develop and learn new skills.



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