



accg
african caribbean
care group

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2023/24**

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.





Objectives

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. Provide a meeting place for older adults of African Caribbean heritage to promote social inclusion. Offer the centre as a venue for clinics and other health activities

To develop community care services which can be delivered to people in their own homes and the day centre. Offer advice and support to service users to access welfare benefits and services

To provide culturally appropriate activities, food and promote healthy lifestyles. Provide a lunch club and meals on wheels service and support the health and wellbeing of our service users

To keep up to date with legislation, local and national changes in health and social care to deliver high quality care to service users. Work collaboratively with clinical commissioning groups and other relevant providers of care

Foreword

The last year was an exciting and successful year for the ACCG, and we are operating above Pre-Covid levels, and expanding the services we offer.

The Community Asset Transfer of the Claremont Centre is now nearing the final stages, with the ACCG expected to sign the lease in the coming months. We look forward to the diversification of services that the ownership of the asset will bring to the Charity.

ACCG are proud to have taken delivery of a brand new minibus, which has enhanced the service provided.

ACCG welcomed a new Treasurer to the Board of Directors to support the strategic work within the organisation.

The Charity has worked with JMA Architects on the building design and rebrand of the ACCG. Their engagement with the community and steering us in the right direction has been welcomed. We thank them for their support.

We would also like to thank our staff, volunteers, service users and supporters for their continued dedication and support of the Charity.



Monica Weir
Chair



Dorothy Evans
Chief Executive

Why choose the African Caribbean Care Group?

- For more than 40 years, we have been providing high quality, person-centered 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.
- We strive to offer our services at affordable rates for our community, while never compromising on quality and safety standards.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- We offer an open and transparent service, overseen by our elected Board of Directors, involving members in the planning of our services.
- 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.
- We provide Information and Advice services, offering members of the community access to free and impartial Advocacy, Welfare and guidance, enabling families to have greater choice and control to support their health and wellbeing needs.
- We are fortunate to be able to call on our team of dedicated, enthusiastic volunteers who support us in maintaining our high-quality services.



Achievements & Performance

Day Support

ACCG's Day Support service has seen a steady increase in the number of people accessing over the year. This is a vital service for older people who live within the community and have social care needs, plus it provides much needed respite for their Carers and families.

Whilst onsite, older adults have access to daily physical activity sessions, ensuring they keep moving and remain mobile for as long as possible. They also take part in various activities, such as Arts and Crafts, Music sessions, Bingo and Dominoes games, which help to keep their minds active and engaged.



Transport

ACCG are delighted to have taken delivery of a brand-new wheelchair adapted minibus which has replaced one of the old busses.



Meals Service

ACCG's lunch club and Delivered Meals services have seen a sharp increase this year in the numbers accessing. Affordable, healthy culturally appropriate African and Caribbean meals are cooked and served on site at the Claremont Centre. Meals are delivered to people at home and isolated people within the local community. ACCG's meals cater to a variety of dietary needs, including Vegetarian and Halal. Menus are planned and created considering the dietary needs of those with long term health conditions such as High Blood Pressure and Diabetes, providing reassurance to those living with these conditions that their meals are fresh, healthy and tasty.

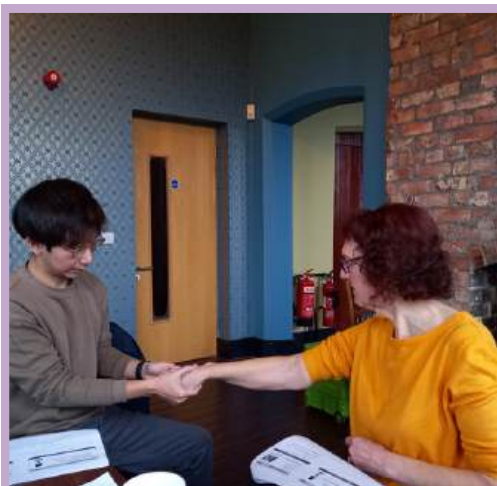
Health Promotion

ACCG have begun work on a Long -Term Condition (LTC) project for people living within the Trafford area. The project aims to enable people living with LTC, such as Type 2 Diabetes, High Blood Pressure or COPD, to be able to manage their condition more effectively. Participants will be invited to different sessions which will educate them on their condition and inform them of how they can live better with their LTC. Participants will take part in healthy cooking demonstrations, physical exercise sessions and health walks, plus have the opportunity to join peer support groups to get the chance to talk to other people living with an LTC and share thoughts and ideas.

The monthly Diabetes Forum has continued throughout the year, which is an informal group where service users are given information in the form of an interactive presentation on how to live well with Type 2 Diabetes.



ACCG supported the University of Manchester by recruiting attendees and facilitating focus groups to gather information to enable African Caribbean people to live well with a memory problem. ACCG's Dementia Advisor led on this work and was able to provide the university with good quality, real life data and information for their research study.





Day Trips

ACCG arranged several day trips over the summer months. Destinations visited included Lyme Park in Cheshire, Chatsworth House in Derbyshire, Chester and Llandudno. The trips were free for ACCG members and Carers. We received positive feedback from those who accessed the trips.



ACCG also organised an overnight stay in London and a trip to Buckingham Palace. Once again, attendees were not charged for this overnight stay, and were grateful and appreciative to be a part of such an experience.

Mid – Autumn Festival

ACCG hosted a Mid-Autumn Festival/Cultural Exchange Day with the aim of promoting cultural understanding and social inclusion among the Hong Kong (BNO) and Caribbean communities within Manchester. A diverse range of activities and entertainment were on offer, such as calligraphy, language exchange sessions, live music performances from a reggae band and a Cantonese pop group plus food from the Caribbean and Hong Kong. Those who attended enjoyed interacting with new people and learning about different cultures.



Community Outreach

ACCG has continued visiting community locations to inform the public of services provided and offer support. This year, ACCG were successful in securing a spot in three GP practices within Central Manchester, where members of the ACCG team hold weekly drop-in sessions. Information is shared with patients and if necessary, appointments are arranged with the ACCG Information and Advice team for the provision of support as appropriate. ACCG also visits other community locations throughout Central Manchester and Trafford to ensure our community presence remains strong.



Windrush 75

To celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Empire Windrush arriving in the UK, the ACCG held a celebratory event to mark the special occasion. The day started with a storytelling and poetry session led by local Historian Linford Sweeney and poet Deanne Heron, followed by a Caribbean lunch. Afternoon entertainment included music, African drumming, massage and a Tombola. Local councilors from Hulme and Moss Side were also in attendance.



Advocacy Information and Advice

ACCG provides advocacy, information and advice services to people from ethnic minority backgrounds. Over the past year, ACCG have provided support to those most affected by the cost-of-living crisis, support to reduce debt, grant applications, benefit applications and housing concerns.



Carers Manchester Central (CMC) Partnership

In April 2023, the second Carers Awards Recognition Ceremony took place at the Macdonald Hotel in Manchester. 70 carers received awards and recognition for the unpaid care they provide daily.



Also, this year, ACCG built a relationship with the Manchester Social Services Learning Disabilities team, to provide support to carers of people with Learning Disabilities. Over the next year, ACCG plan to expand on the Learning Disabilities work and reach more areas in Manchester.

De-carbonisation of the Claremont Site

This year, de-carbonisation work started at the Claremont site. Over the coming months, the old boiler will be replaced with a modern Heat Pump, solar panels will be fitted to the roof and radiators, and the lighting will be replaced. This work will make the Claremont site greener, which is better for the environment, and more energy efficient, which over time will lower the utility bills at the Centre and support Manchester's ambition for an improved carbon footprint.

Cost of Living Support

This year, the ACCG supported Manchester City Council to identify members of the public who were eligible for a payment from the Household Support Fund. Eligible individuals received a £400 one off payment to support the rising cost of living, including energy bills. ACCG referred 86 people in total, all of whom received these payments.



Funding received from the Lottery, which was used in part to provide stocks for the Claremont Community Grocers. Fresh ethnic food items such as yams, plantain, sweet potatoes and essential goods such as milk, tinned foods and toiletries were available. This support helped service users to make savings on their weekly shopping costs and bills. ACCG also introduced a free soup offer over the winter months, which was welcomed and very much appreciated.



Rebrand

ACCG have been working with Julian McIntosh Architects (JMA) on rebranding the organisation. ACCG's logo has been updated and looks much more modern, to reflect where the organisation is now and where they are headed in the future. All ACCG literature shared online has a new look and ACCG social media accounts reflect the new brand. We are currently working on updating ACCG's website. Eventually, all vehicles will be refreshed with the new ACCG Branding.

Supporters and Partners



Thank you to all our anonymous partners, donors, supporters and sponsors

Board of Directors 2023–2024



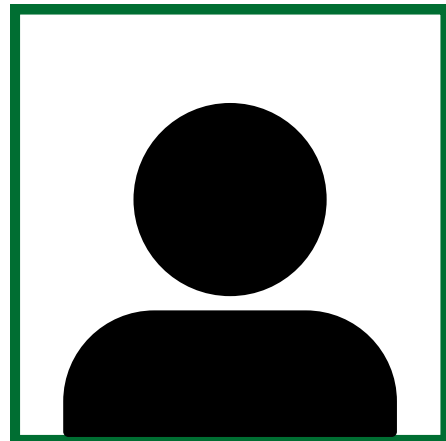
Ms Monica Weir
Chair



Mr Gary Gillett
Deputy Chair



Ms Pauline Gaye
Secretary



Ms Anna Sinclair
Treasurer



Ms Paulette Hanley
Director



Mr Raphael Hill
Director

Financial Review

The ACCG remains in a financially secure position. Leading up to the acquisition by asset transfer of the Claremont site, the Charity are now responsible for all utility costs, which has been a significant expense over the past year. To ensure the financial position of the charity remains secure, new income streams will be explored over the next year.

Summary of Accounts 2023 – 2024

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14		4,520		2,992
Current assets					
Debtors	15	14,724		19,119	
Cash at bank and in hand		504,460		457,186	
Total current assets		519,184		476,305	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	17	(70,184)		(25,324)	
Net current assets			449,000		450,981
Total assets less current liabilities			453,520		453,973
Net assets			453,520		453,973
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted income funds	18		93,293		103,757
Unrestricted income funds	19		360,227		350,216
Total charity funds			453,520		453,973

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

**Start the
De-carbonisation work
of the Claremont Site**

**Acquire the Claremont
Centre by Asset Transfer**

**To obtain a recognized
accreditation for the
Information and Advice
Service (Advice Quality
Standard- AQS)**

**To expand and diversify
the ACCG service
offering to better meet
the needs of the
community.**



To obtain more information about our services and membership of the charity, please contact the ACCG.

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Registered Charity Number: 1028464
Company Limited by Guarantee Number: 2802745