

ANNUAL REPORT

2017/2018



THE DERBY BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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BRIEF HISTORY OF DERBY BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



On the initiative of Bosnian refugees sheltered from the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, ex camp prisoners and their families, medical evacuees and others in 1994, work on establishing organization

started in order to improve difficult situation of refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Association was established in January 1995, and registered as Charity in 1998. Former premises were secured using acquired grant from Lottery coupled by great voluntary work of Bosnia and Herzegovina refugees settled in Derby. Centre was officially opened in 2001.

It was a place of gathering for

Bosnians & Herzegovinians and others from ex-Yugoslavia that wanted to socialise and seek advice.

We have managed to start “One Stop Shop” in order to provide full set of different services via our partners organisations, Derby Refugee Forum and NCISE. It is necessary and vital for our “One Stop Shop” to be open to all people and on daily basis for clients irrelevant of securing the necessary core funding for workplace or not.

Chair Summary

As we bring to a close year 2018, we reflect back on the work that was carried out at the Bosnia Community Centre this year. It is great to see that 11,805 people visited the Centre this year for various reasons. Some 4,116 of those sought help through an advice session from the DBHCA (1,027 of which 450 were outreach visits) and DRAC (3,089).



We welcomed people from all walks of life and different ethnic backgrounds who sought advice in respect of employment benefits, housing and council tax benefits, immigration, help with letter translation as well as interpretation appointments outside of the centre and other personal issues that do not fall under either of the afore mentioned areas.

We have continued with the activities provided every Saturday funded by BBC Children In Need. Our funding came to an end in April 2018 and although we made an application for further funding, this was rejected. We have applied again for funding for one year and currently await the decision. Since April 2018 we have supported the activities on Saturday through our own reserves. I am hopeful that the funding will be provided to us to ensure that we can continue with our activities on Saturday as the Centre's reserves cannot sustain those costs.

In partnership with UK Network, we secured funding in May 2018 from Dunhill Medical Trust. We are now working closely with St Mary's Hospice in Birmingham undergoing intense training to get equipped with the knowledge on how to provide excellent End of Life Care for All.

We congratulate one pupil who graduated from the Bosnian School this year and welcome 31 children who continue with the Bosnian School.

We have continued to provide dance classes to children every Friday evening and currently have 16 children in the group. Children who are in the dance group have attended various performances this year, such as QUAD for the Holocaust Memorial Day, Refugee Performance Week, Supplementary School performance, and at our AGM Meeting last year.

The Centre has organised various events through the year which have had good attendance levels from the local community, the Mayor and various Council

members. These events included Holocaust Memorial Day, Srebrenica Memorial held at the Derby City Council and at the Centre, Visit from the supplementary school Coventry, Debate held with Ramiz Salkic, New Year party and presents for the children. We also held a number of training events for our staff and volunteers including the Trustees.

Current committee consists of 16 members who have met every quarter with the Project Centre Manager and continue to play a vital role in the good governance of our charitable organisation.

The committee members have undertaken safeguarding training as recommended by the regulator, the Charity Commission, and have been heavily involved in the changes and compliance of the General Data Protection Regulations which came into force earlier this year.

It is evident from the number of visitors that come to the Centre to seek help how important the Centre is and the work that is done by the staff and volunteers of the Centre and the Derby Refugee Forum. We continue to see a decrease in the funding available to support our charitable work, and have had to rely on our small reserves to keep the work going. We must continue to seek other avenues of funding so that our work can continue.

On behalf of myself and the committee members I would like to thank our staff and volunteers for their hard work and commitment this year. All the staff and the volunteers do an amazing job and I hope that we can continue to source funding in the future to keep this work going.

Once again many thanks to everyone and I hereby propose the adoption of the Annual Return 2017-2018.

*Nermina Webster
Chair (DBHCA)*

Chair Summary - Derby Refugee Forum

During 2017-2018 we have worked hard at Derby Refugee Advice Centre (DRAC) to try and continue developing actions, activities and strategies that enable asylum seekers and refugees to contribute to and benefit from, a wide range of support services.



We have a strong and stable team of over 40 volunteers who are involved in advice sessions, interpreting, teaching Maths and English, leading creative activities, shopping, supporting Reception, IT input and production of statistics, making drinks and distributing food in the kitchen and general cleaning. Everyone's input is incredibly valuable and contributes to a positive, friendly and welcoming atmosphere.

Over the year we have carried out 2489 advice sessions with 733 different clients from 44 nationalities. For asylum seekers the main areas of support required in advice sessions are asylum support i.e. aspen card not functioning or concerns with housing; immigration when we are able to refer them through to either Burton & Burton or Immigration Advice Service solicitors who came to DRAC on a weekly alternate basis - and health and destitution. For refugees the most frequent requests are for benefits and housing advice as well as help with general essential services like gas, electricity and mobile phone contracts and bills. We now have an agreement with Derby City Council where we support anyone who gets refugee status in Derby to access the appropriate benefits, apply for housing, prepare for employment and to move towards independence.

Ruth our Volunteer Coordinator and Admin Officer continues to develop a stimulating and exciting range of creative, educational and practical workshops and activities, both inside the Centre and externally. These include artistic sessions, health and safety, public service and private sector recruitment, theatre, music, the local museum, the library and school visits. We

have a very positive relationship with Crich Junior School and an excellent rapport has been established between the children, staff and many who use our Centre. Learning about life in the UK and helping people be active members of their local community is very important and Ruth is building new and constructive relationships with many organisations.

DRAC is one of many organisations in Derby who support refugees and asylum seekers in different ways, generally under the umbrella of the City of Sanctuary group. We aim to liaise, cooperate and share information and skills to the benefit of all. Our links with the British Red Cross are strong with an effective cross referral system, also with Upbeat Communities, Derbyshire Refugee Solidarity, Metropolitan and Arimathea Housing, STAR at Derby University and many other active groups.

Funding from All Saints Trust of £2000, YAPP Charitable Trust £3000, the Hilden Charitable Fund £6000 and Mugginton Parochial Church £2000 as well as many other individual donations enabled us to carry on our work. Thank you so much to everyone.

We could do none of this without the incredible support of the Bosnia Herzegovina Centre. They are the rock on which we build. Their knowledge and understanding of the world of refugees and asylum seekers enables us to learn and move forward. Thank you Ferid and Nedzad for providing us with so much practical, organisational and financial support. It leads to something very special.

*Janet Fuller
Derby Refugee Forum*

Teacher's Remarks

One of the key objectives of Derby Bosnia-Herzegovina Community Association is to continue to provide mother-tongue classes in Bosnian concentrating on language, core curriculum and cultural activities alongside activities such as music and dance.



Wherever possible we concentrate on making link with National Curriculum and supporting pupils' overall attainment and progress, however we also recognise that the impact of supplementary school on our pupils is not limited to their academic attainment, and indeed, there may be many wider benefits to their confidence, well-being, development of character and skills which are likely to be as important to the pupils and their parents.

The main aim continues to be preserving our community's heritage and incorporating it into our British way of life. We are still managed and run by our community members, on voluntary basis, and we teach children from a range of age groups, from pre-school to young adults. All of those involved in working with our pupils have been subject to Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.

We have introduced 'open classroom' policy where parents can watch their children being taught and participate or help with any classroom activities. Progress is key and so far, evidence shows, this is a great initiative and each pupil is making progress on their individual learning journey.

In order to continue meeting the needs of our children we resume to work with two groups. Alma Hrcic provided teaching for preschool children through to year 4 and Azra Basic, supported by Amela Zahirovic took charge of years 5 to 8.

In July, our pupils attended the annual Supplementary School Gathering event which took place in Hertfordshire.



We continued with our close working relationship with the University of Derby, offering work experience placement for two students who spent 15 weeks with us.

For our preschool children, we continue to offer a range of structured educational experiences based on learning through the play. The activities have involved play with mix of toys, games, singing, reading and painting.

Pre-school gives children a chance to interact with others. Interacting with other children means learning basic discipline. Young children learn social skills when they interact with other children.

31 children were enrolled during the 2017/2018 academic year. They all attended Saturday Activities, every Saturday, for two hours.

*Alma Hrcic
Supplementary School Teacher*



Choreographer Remarks

The main aim of this text is to provide you with the information about the activities of the traditional dance group "Bosnian Pearls" from Derby in the past 12 months. Before we do that, I'd like to briefly look back to the period of the establishment of the group.



Bosnian Pearls dance group has been in existence since the year 2000. Since then, a very large number of group members were involved, and they have performed at many festivals, parties, celebrations, events marking various important dates, social gatherings, etc. It's a group that has become one of the most liked in the city of Derby where many recognize us and invite us to perform at their events and celebrations.

Last year, we responded to many invites, not only those from Bosnian Community, but also those from other communities as well as local agencies. It's difficult to remember all the performances so I will only mention some of them. Traditionally, we continued with our performances at the Bosnian Supplementary School gatherings which took part in Hertfordshire this year. We also took part in marking this year's Holocaust Memorial Day as well as Refugee Week. Performances took place to mark National Day of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Independence Day celebrations at the premises of Bosnia UK Network in Birmingham.



Classes are held every Friday from 17:30 till 19:30 and everyone is welcome to join. It's a relaxed atmosphere where we all join in at times from the age of 5 to 65. We all sing and dance together.



As a choreographer, I would like to thank the following members for their efforts and dedication:

Group One: Adna Bjelobrvic, Aldijana Pobric, Sara Akram, Sana Akram, Sarah Gopo and Emina Hrnčić.

Group Two: Lejla Hrnčić, Amina Zahirovic, Dzenita Salkic, Deen Gopo, Kenan Gopo, Vedad Trnovac, Adnan Trnovac and Ayad Custic.

I would also like to thank parents of all the children for their time and efforts when it comes to bringing their children to the rehearsals. Despite significant decrease of the members, we have managed to maintain the continuity of performances, programs and rehearsals. There seems to be less interest in the last few years, therefore, we are asking parents for their support so that this beautiful tradition continues. Lastly, I would like to say thank you to everyone who supported us over the past twelve months.

Fahira Hasedzic
The Choreographer

Outreach Worker's Remarks

2017/2018 turned out to be very busy, enjoyable and, at times, challenging year. We continued to support our elderly and frail members of the community as well as those who are unable to come to the Centre due to their mobility issues or other health reasons.

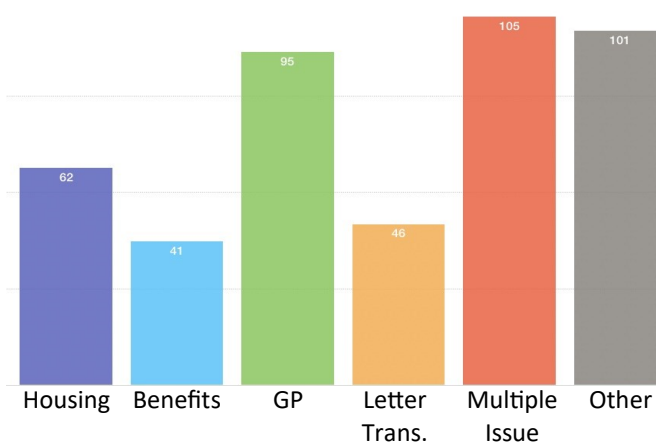


During the year four of the project, 450 outreach visits were carried out to 43 different families. 347 of those were home visits to 26 different families. The remaining 103 outreach services were in a form of interpreting or representation at Schools, GP Surgeries, Hospitals and other local agencies, spending an estimated 350 hours during the 12 month period.

Majority of clients live in Derby, however, few of them live in Nottingham. They are all of different age groups, gender and beliefs, however, most of them are elderly and members of Bosnian Roma Community, many of whom suffer from various levels of physical or mental health issues.

Support was provided in many different areas; interpreting, giving relevant advice, providing a listening ear and understanding their concerns, making telephone calls on their behalf, filling forms, liaising with local authorities, GP's, housing associations,

schools, health professionals, pharmacies and care agencies.



I'm very pleased to say that, so far, current project year has been as successful and I look forward to continuing to deliver the excellent level of service that our organisation has been doing for the past few years.

*Nedzad Salkic
Outreach Worker*

BiH UK Network: Another Year of Successful Cooperation

We would like to sincerely thank BiH UK Network for their support, cooperation and idea sharing during the last twelve months. It has been a very successful year for both organizations and I can proudly announce that, for the first time, we applied for a joint project funding which was successful and funding was approved in May this year. We are now working closely together in



order to successfully deliver the mentioned project.

We assure you that this venture between Derby Bosnia-Herzegovina Community Association and BiH UK

Network will benefit both organizations for a very long period of time.

It is encouraging to see the employees from both organisations maintaining the already established good working relationships between themselves. These are inevitable factors to both, positive workplace and success of the organisations.

EVENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Holocaust Memorial Day 2018

On Thursday, 25th of January 2018, Derby Bosnia and Herzegovina Community Association marked the Holocaust Memorial Day, the Day of remembrance of all those innocent victims from WW2 and all victims from conflicts after that, including victims from Bosnian civil war.

With this year's theme being **"The Power of Words"**, we took the opportunity to remind people about the atrocities that happened in our homeland with the main emphasis on Srebrenica Genocide which marked its 22nd anniversary this year.



Our event was attended by the Mayor of the City of Derby, chancellor John Whitby, Pledges and Events Manager from Remembering Srebrenica Charity Organisation, Amelia Handy, former BBC and Channel 4 cameraman, Stephen Foster, representative from the Ukrainian Embassy and many more.

Bosnia and Herzegovina National Day

On November 25th, 2017, we organised an event to celebrate the national Day of our homeland. Program was prepared by pupils of Supplementary School.



Srebrenica Memorial Day 2018

This year, Derby Bosnia-Herzegovina Community Association marked the 23rd anniversary since Srebrenica genocide.

First event took place on 6th July 2018 at the premises of Derby City Council and was organised by Charity Organisation Remembering Srebrenica, our Community Association and Derby City Council themselves.



The event featured, speeches, survivor testimonies, pledges and refreshments, bringing together not only members from the Bosnian community but also wider population, including Dr Waqar Azmi, chairman of Remembering Srebrenica, Gary Robinson, Cohesion and Integration Officer at Derby City Council and others.

Second event was marked on 8th July at our own Bosnia & Herzegovina Centre and was attended mainly by local members of our community. Event featured prayers, speeches and flower laying on the monument outside the Centre.



EVENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Refugee Week 2018

Derby Bosnia and Herzegovina Community Association once again played an important part in marking this year's Refugee Week.

We had an exhibition set up at our Centre which ran for one week. In addition to that, our dance group "Bosnian Pearls" also took part with a performance on a Market Place.



New Year's Presents

On 30th December 2017, Derby Bosnia-Herzegovina Community Association Derby treated all our Saturday Activity members with New Year's gifts.

In total, 26 presents were given away and it was a pleasure to see delightful faces of youngsters who turned up to this event in large numbers. Local magician "William the Wizard" did an absolutely fantastic job in entertaining children until Santa arrived.

Celebrating Independence Day

Event was organised at Bosnia & Herzegovina Centre to mark the Independence Day of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

For the first time, event was organised in cooperation with Bosnian Community from Coventry who joined us on the day. Pupils from the Supplementary Schools from both, Derby and Coventry prepared rich program featuring poems and songs and refreshments followed with an afternoon packed with fun and games.



Annual General Meeting

Derby Bosnia-Herzegovina Community Association's Annual General Meeting was held in December 2017. Annual as well as Financial report was presented.

Turnout was very good and a new committee of sixteen members was elected which is the largest committee we have had since the establishment of our organisation.



DERBY BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

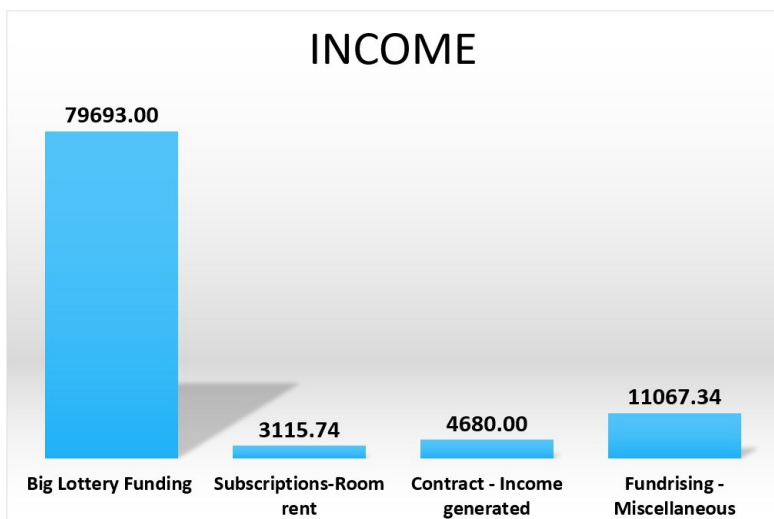
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

2017		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2018 Total £
Total				
£		£	£	£
	Income			
87094	Grants	0	84099	84099
6154	Donation & Invoiced Income	4680	0	4680
4095	Subscriptions	3116	0	3116
6070	Fundraising & Miscellaneous	11067	0	11067
103412		18863	84099	102962
	Charitable Expenditure			
73280	Salaries & Associated Cost	11142	63597	74739
3320	Travel Expenses	0	4851	4851
877	Training	0	830	830
2316	Telephone	0	2305	2305
1551	Fees	0	1654	1654
1538	Postage and Stationary	0	1981	1981
2210	Maintenance	0	1721	1721
398	Office Equipment	0	266	266
4168	Insurance & Tax	0	3680	3680
3572	Electricity, Gas, Water	0	3272	3272
3722	Sundries	1848	2433	4281
96952		12990	86590	99580
0	Cost of General Funds	0	0	0
501	Managing & Administering the Charity	0	400	400
97453	Total Expenditure	12990	86990	99980
5959	Surplus (Deficit) for year	5873	-2891	2982
55395	Funds Brought Forward	58464	2891	61354
61354	Closing Balance	64337	0	64336

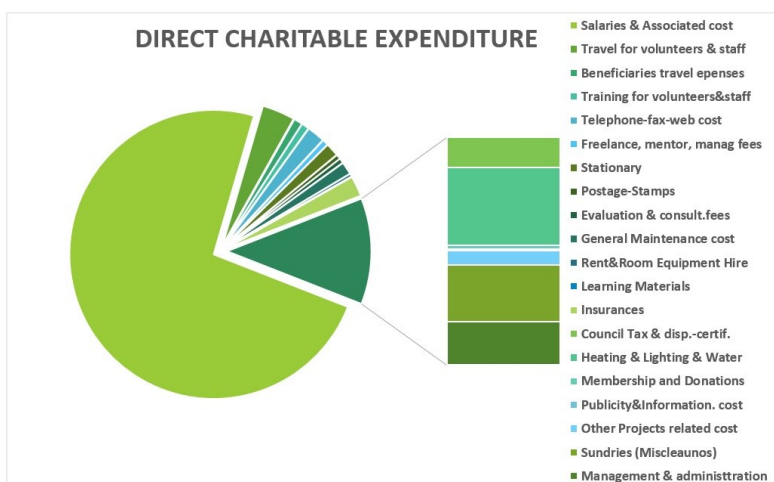
Finances | 2017-2018

INCOME



We continued to receive funding from more than one sources. The Big Lottery Reaching Communities Fund was a core funding. BBC Children in Need was very supportive to our Saturday Children Activities for the last several years, but we have failed to provide further funding. We have managed to raise funding from other sources: hiring centre, subscription, fundraising, etc. in around £18,863, keeping on track with planned long term objectives. We continue to keep our financial sustainability very healthy.

DIRECT CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE



The expenditure came around £2,500 higher than the previous year. This is mainly down to annual salary increases, but also, more was spent on travel expenses than the previous year. The expenditure was kept to the minimum level possible. The building expenditure was planned as part of Projects delivery. Finances were examined by Derby Community Accountancy Services and the Annual Return to the Charity Commission will be submitted after AGM. We are satisfied with the level of spending comparing to the work carried out, according to external monitoring report.

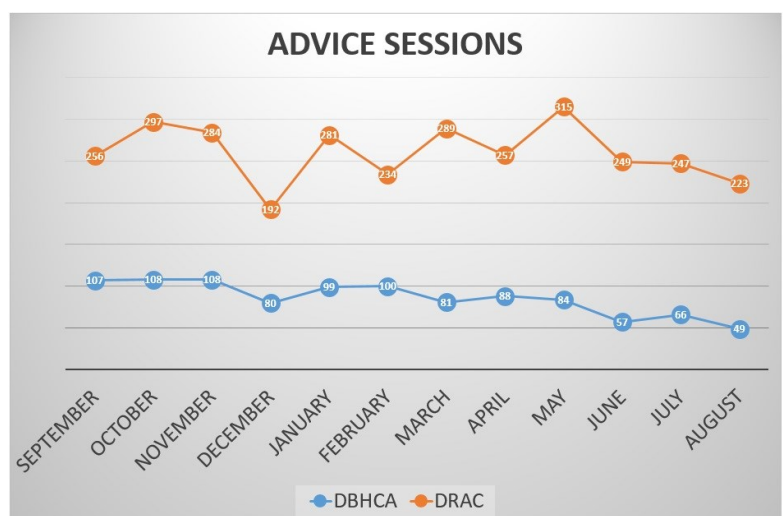
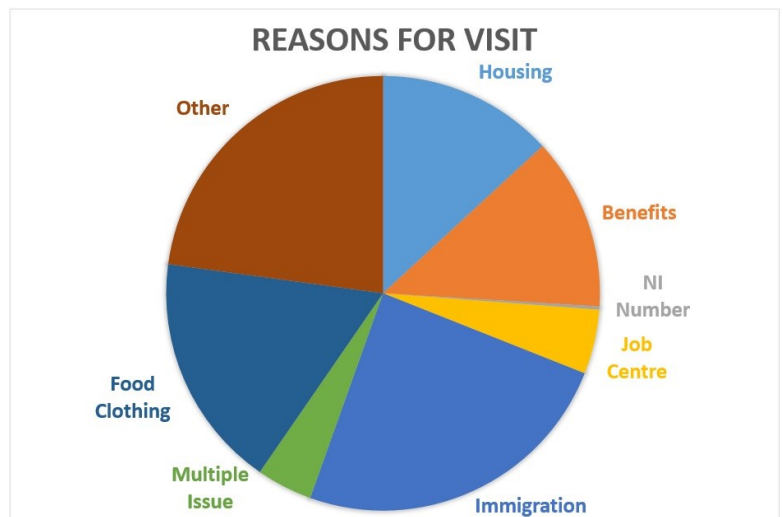
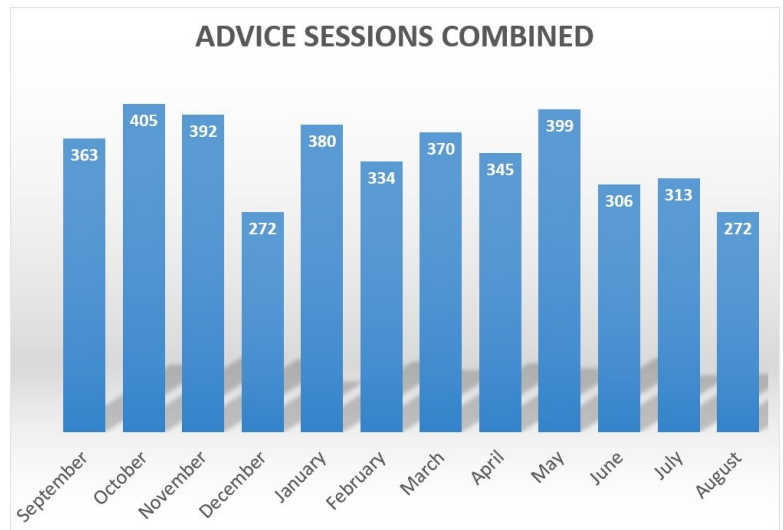
Balance Sheet

2017		2018	
Fixed Assets			
300000	Building	300000	
0	Depreciation	0	
300000		300000	
Current Assets			
61055	Balance at Bank	64036	
300	Cash	300	
0	Debtors	0	
61355		64336	
Liabilities			
0	Creditors	0	
361355	Total Net Assets	364336	

Statistical Information

Sep 2017 - Aug 2018

- **4116 Advice Sessions**
 - ◆ DBHCA 1027
 - ◆ DRAC 3089
- **450 of DBHCA advice sessions were outreach visits**
- **77 Applications to Home Office**
 - ◆ Travel Document 66
 - ◆ Biometric Card 2
 - ◆ Settlement 6
 - ◆ Citizenship 3
- **11,805 Centre Visits**
(Including Advice Sessions)
- **9 Events Organised**
- **44 Saturday Activity Sessions**
- **38 Dance lessons**
- **5 Bosnian Pearls Performances**
- **Training sessions for staff and volunteers**
 - ◆ Immigration (two day course)
 - ◆ Child Protection (two sessions)
 - ◆ Universal Credit Training
- **Work experience was provided for two student from the University of Derby.**
- **Placement was provided for one student from Allestree Woodlands School**
- **118 Advice Sessions were for Roma families.**



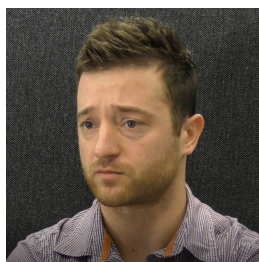
COMMITTEE | 2017/2018

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and appreciation to all the members of our incredible committee for all their hard work and efforts during the past twelve months.

Thank you for your support. Your personal commitment and energy have greatly contributed to the overwhelming success of our organisation.



Nermina Webster
Chair



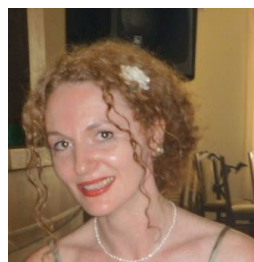
Arnes Pobric
Secretary



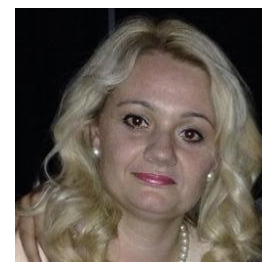
Muhamed Siranovic
Treasurer



Midhat Kapetanovic
Committee Member



Mualja Karahasani
Committee Member



Amra Bjelobrvic
Committee Member



Ahmo Salkic
Committee Member



Mujo Hrcic
Committee Member



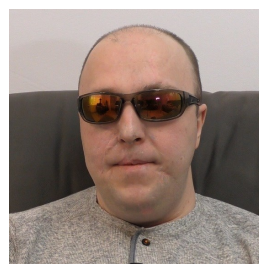
Ahmed Velic
Committee Member



Belma Velic
Committee Member



Irfeta Pobric
Committee Member



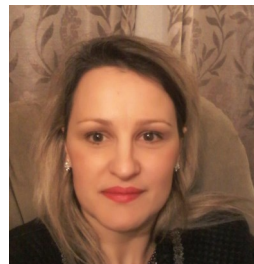
Eldin Isovich
Committee Member



Alma Pasic
Committee Member



Amela Akram
Committee Member



Elma Gopo
Committee Member



Ajsa Bjelobrvic
Committee Member

Derby Bosnia-Herzegovina Community Association Committee is made up of sixteen members who were elected during the last Annual General Meeting which took place in December 2017.

Over the past twelve months, committee held five meetings and response was always positive, averaging around twelve members per meeting, which meant that the committee always had a sufficient number of members present in order to be able to

make necessary and important decisions.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and appreciation to all the members of our incredible committee for all their hard work and efforts during the past twelve months.

Thank you for your support. Your personal commitment and energy have greatly contributed to the overwhelming success of our organisation.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to say a special thank you to the following:

- Big Lottery Fund
- BBC Children in Need
- Derby Refugee Forum
- Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina in London
- Parents of Children attending Saturday Activities
- BH UK Network
- Our Volunteers
- Statutory or voluntary organisations we have been working with during 2016-2017



LOTTERY FUNDED

Contact us

The Derby Bosnia-Herzegovina Community Association is a charity registered organisation. Registered in England and Wales number 1071955

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e: bihcommderby@hotmail.com
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OUR MISSION AND VISION

Our mission and aim is to provide support and confidential service to elevate effects of poverty, sickness and distress of Refugees from Bosnia-Herzegovina and from the Former Yugoslavia and others, regardless of their ethnic origin and background. We believe that all refugees have the right to live in a just and equal society. We aim to achieve this by providing information, support, training and educational opportunity for all of them.

Aims and Objectives

- ◇ to provide practical and social support to all refugees and others from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Former Yugoslavia, now settled in East Midlands.
- ◇ to provide advice services, support and a confidential information.
- ◇ to elevate effects of poverty and distress to Refugees mainly from Bosnia-Herzegovina and refugees from the Former Yugoslavia, regardless of their ethnic origin residing in East Midlands.
- ◇ to equally provide independent and impartial advice and support those mentioned above people, who are on benefits or low income, disable, elderly and vulnerable, residing in East Midlands.
- ◇ further development of the B-H Community Centre as a "One Stop Shop" place, as an efficient service for the Refugees and Asylum Seekers from all over the World.

Supported by



BBC

Children in Need

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