



**FATIMA  
WOMEN'S**  
ASSOCIATION

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**33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Report  
September 2023 – August 2024**

Charitable Incorporated Organisation Number 1160027

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Aims**

Fatima Women's Association aims to meet the needs of women from the surrounding areas of Glodwick, Alexandra, Roundthorn and other parts of Oldham. We provide and assist in the provision of training, educational courses, health and wellbeing sessions, recreation and leisure activities for women, young people, and children. We also meet our aims through the employment of staff, the development of partnerships with other agencies and using volunteers.

Within the last year FWA has created an environment, which appeals to and caters for the needs of the different local communities.

Through running numerous training sessions and courses FWA have succeeded in encouraging and supporting many women and young people in making the decision to go into further education and increase their qualifications, gain volunteer opportunities, chances of paid employment and improvement in their quality of life.

### **Chairperson's Report**

As the chair of Fatima Women's Association, it gives me immense pleasure to submit this 33rd annual report on the progress of the organisation and the new initiatives undertaken during the past year.

The progress of Fatima Women's Association in the past year has been challenging, encouraging and highly positive, improving services in the community immensely due to the focused management committee members, volunteers, and staff.

It has been an extremely eventful year where the association has delivered a range of new and innovative projects in response to what the community members have told us they need. For up-to-date information please go online at [www.fatimawomens.org.uk](http://www.fatimawomens.org.uk). This website will be updated regularly. Please visit FWA to register your interest in any of the training courses, educational courses, health and wellbeing sessions and children's activities that are being delivered.

### **Strengthening communities**

The manager has focused on the partnerships, particularly between the voluntary, community and the statutory sector. Working together has helped to enhance existing provision and has brought different sets of skills together to provide improved networks of services for beneficiaries. Furthermore, we host monthly consortium meetings at FWA. We work in close partnership with

Action Together, Oldham Lifelong Learning, Positive Steps, Bethel Church, Oak project, Get Oldham Working (Oldham Council), KOGGS, Faith Action, Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit, Lancashire cricket foundation, Peshkar productions, Salford CVS, The Christie NHS foundation, Ice Creates, Oldham interfaith forum, Saheli women's group, The University of Manchester, Xperthealth, Answer Cancer Manchester, Fresh Belief and Centre of wellbeing, training and culture.

### **Activities/Training**

FWA has been involved in consultation with local women, young people and children and networking with other agencies on an on-going basis to design and run new projects reflecting the needs of the community.

We as a team have continued to build on our past experiences to develop FWA towards its full potential.

We had 274 adults and 175 young people and children's membership forms completed. Over a 52-week period the average number of participants accessing the sessions was 128 individuals per week. F.W.A has had 20 different volunteers throughout a 12-month period.

Every year, thanks to the funding from the One Oldham Fund, The Volunteer celebration fund, we celebrate the commitment from the board of trustees and the volunteers for their hard work, dedication and feedback each year. We celebrate in a variety of ways, e.g. by awarding certificates, presenting gift vouchers, taking part in team building adventures, having a meal, bowling or going to the cinema.



**Volunteer celebration**

## **Funding**

It has been another successful year for FWA in raising funds to run projects, maintain overheads, resources, and staff positions. We are extremely pleased that new projects taken on by FWA are meeting their outcomes and that they have an enhanced impact on our core delivery.

The association has sustainability for the next 2 years. Each year we are very successful in bringing in new projects that benefit the community e.g. Answer Cancer to run a cancer awareness programme, Breast cancer awareness, Greater Manchester Crime Reduction Unit to talk about crime and parental awareness, One Oldham fund small grants to deliver 50 plus luncheon Club and many more. This is amazing news which would not have been possible without the hardwork and commitment given by the management, staff and volunteers.

FWA would like to thank the following for their financial support from April 2023 to March 2024:

Answer Cancer  
Breast Cancer  
Central district councillors  
Faith Action  
Garfield Weston Foundation  
Grace Trust  
Greater Manchester Crime Reduction, Violence Reduction Unit  
John Mason Family Trust  
Local giving magic little grants  
One Oldham Fund Micro  
One Oldham Fund Volunteer Celebration Fund  
Oldham poverty action network, Action Together  
Skipton building society charitable foundation.  
The National Lottery Awards for All  
The National Lottery Reaching Communities  
Tudor Trust

On behalf of the Management Committee, I would like to extend our appreciation and an excessively big thank you to all members of staff for their arduous work, commitment, and enthusiasm and all the volunteers of Fatima Women's Association, for their consistent and loyal support.

It is with immense pleasure that I present to you the 33rd Annual Report of Fatima Women's Association September 2023 to August 2024.

**Samina Iqbal**  
**Chairperson**



## **Interfaith Forum Event**

### **Our Strategic Objectives**

#### **Education/Training:**

To capacity build and empower disadvantaged women in Oldham, by building their confidence, self esteem, social and educational skills through the provision of a range of demand led, quality controlled and fit for purpose educational training programmes.

This year, our project has brought about remarkable transformations in the lives of individual women. Each has not only achieved significant personal and professional milestones but also demonstrated a commendable level of growth. We take immense pride in their progress and our project's positive impact on them.

Through our efforts, our learners have experienced a significant boost in confidence and independence. For many, the ability to break free from financial and personal dependence and pursue their desired life has been a driving force in their dedication to the courses and their subsequent progress. These transformations are a testament to the power of our projects and the potential they hold for future learners.

The participants, which included a rich mix of Pakistani, Bangladeshi, refugees, migrants, and members of more settled immigrant communities, truly reflected our commitment to inclusivity and diversity. This diverse mix allowed learners from different countries to learn cooperatively together and develop positive relationships with each other, fostering a sense of community and mutual respect.

At FWA, we place significant importance on collaboration, recognising its pivotal role in meeting the diverse needs of our community. Our project workers were instrumental in developing partnerships with other organisations to effectively design and deliver programs tailored to community needs. These partnerships were transactional and built on shared goals and mutual respect. Our projects were very well structured to



ensure alignment with our objectives. Each initiative is carefully crafted to maximize its impact and relevance to our communities. This structured approach and effective collaboration enabled us to achieve meaningful outcomes and drive positive change.

Feedback is not just a part of our continuous improvement efforts; it is at the heart of it. Our tutors regularly take opinions from learners regarding project effectiveness, which are then thoughtfully discussed with management. This feedback loop ensures that our projects remain responsive and relevant to the evolving needs of our participants. We value their feedback and consider it integral to our success. Communication with the community is paramount to us. We operate under an open-door policy, welcoming individuals to engage with any available staff members at their convenience. Verbal feedback was encouraged and valued as it provided immediate insights into community sentiments and concerns.

FWA has built social networks and friendships with other organizations in Greater Manchester area. FWA has encouraged women to:

Develop many new skills.

Improved physical, emotional, and mental wellbeing.

Accessing mainstream services and have the support they need.

Increased knowledge and confidence to create their solutions and plans.

Increased social networks and connections in their community.

Provided 1:1 support to vulnerable women experiencing domestic issues.

The association receives referrals from Jobcentre Plus, partly due to changes in Universal Credit and the benefit cap. The centre's location allows participants to walk to the classes, reducing their reliance on family members or public transport. New members continually join the sessions throughout the year; however, due to the training room's capacity, we can only accommodate up to 12 individuals despite significantly higher demand for these sessions.

FWA has improved leadership/governance. Including a review of board/committee policy and practice, Trustee training, involving users at the AGM. FWA has Improved strategic planning/policy, Including business planning, fundraising strategies, income generation, policy, and procedure reviews.

We devised several strategies to address challenges, particularly the linguistic diversity among women from various backgrounds. The high demand for training and activities strained our financial resources and limited our capacity to recruit more tutors. In response, we sought alternative solutions by recruiting six dedicated volunteers who generously offered language support and began teaching English classes. Three of these volunteers are actively delivering English classes, significantly alleviating the strain on our resources.

## Volunteers

The involvement of volunteers from the Bangla community has been instrumental in addressing specific issues faced by this demographic. Their expertise has shed light on barriers and challenges, leading to increased participation from the Bangla community. We continually welcomed new volunteers from diverse backgrounds, enriching our talent pool and perspectives. Our committee members, drawn from the community, serve as invaluable advisors, offering insights and guidance that shape our strategic direction. Their input is deeply valued, underscoring our commitment to community-led decision-making processes. Our approach to community involvement is holistic and inclusive, rooted in the belief that collaboration is the cornerstone of meaningful change. By actively engaging with and listening to the voices of the community, we strive to create programs and initiatives that genuinely make a difference.

## Goals

Our main goal has always been to boost the self-esteem and confidence of our students. We designed our projects with this goal and created an environment where participants felt encouraged to pursue their goals and share personal stories. We aimed to empower and unleash the full potential of everyone. With our pre-employability skills program, we aligned our efforts with both local and national needs. We actively supported learners at every stage of their journey, assisting them in their pursuits, and celebrated their progress. Our project has significantly increased women's motivation to learn, leading to greater engagement among this demographic.



**Presentation of certificates**

A project-based approach allowed learners to work in small groups, research, and visit places of interest, such as Bolton Abbey and Skipton Castle. Women presented about each place, allowing them to engage directly with local community members and share their learning with the broader community.

Sessions focused on practicing communication skills, both written and spoken. Learners engaged in role-playing, reading aloud, and reading comprehension tasks. They practiced spelling unfamiliar words and enhanced their understanding of English grammar. These activities were integrated into the course objectives and occurred in every session.

#### **Communication skills and confidence building, higher level class:**

The Spoken English program has been successfully running for many years, offering classes twice weekly during term time. The initiative has seen remarkable success, regularly benefiting those attending classes consistently.

Many young mothers have reported that they can now better help their children with homework and attend parents' evenings at their child's school.

#### **Pre-Employability Skills programme:**

Job search skills, learners studied their selected topics, including school education in the UK and the available jobs within this sector. They better understood how children are taught in schools and the roles of teachers, teaching assistants, and midday supervisors. Additionally, they enhanced their understanding of the structure of the school system in the UK. Learners actively searched for jobs within the education sector and analysed various job descriptions. They had the opportunity to meet with Home Organisation officers, who represent a charitable organisation providing volunteering opportunities. During these meetings, they learned about the requirements for becoming a volunteer with this organisation and how to apply for volunteer positions.

#### **Driving theory sessions with literacy:**

At the request of our learners, we have introduced driving theory sessions because they cannot afford private tutors. Many aim to work in the care industry but must improve their limited English and lack of driving skills. They have pointed out that other learning centres charge unreasonably high fees for similar courses, putting them out of reach. Furthermore, some learners need internet access, which highlights the importance of including this support in our Pre-Employability Skills program. As a result, we have adjusted our curriculum to seamlessly incorporate these driving theory sessions into our reading and writing class.





**Student presentation**

Eight women have passed the driving theory test. During the sessions, students focused on understanding the rules of driving theory and improving their English language skills related to the topic. They familiarised themselves with driving regulations and safety and studied road signs and markings. They began by observing their neighbourhood's road signs and markings and practicing with short tests. Additionally, some of the learners started practical driving lessons.

#### **ESOL:**

ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) lessons enhance communication skills, build confidence, and promote independence. They aim to remove communication barriers through carefully planned and customised instruction. Students who have attended these sessions have indicated that they become more independent and confident and often find it easier to progress to higher-level classes. It enabled them to communicate with professionals within schools, the NHS, public transport system etc.

#### **Life in the UK:**

Due to high demand, the Life in the UK preparation course has been delivered. The course sessions focus on studying the topics required to pass the Life in the UK test. Participants learn the vocabulary and information necessary to become knowledgeable members of the local community and British citizens. Additionally, they delve into the history of Great Britain. Many women passed their tests.

#### **Case study 1**

**One learner, X, said, she needed to pass the Life in the UK test but could not study alone. The volume of information was too much, and she couldn't motivate herself to start studying. It was too difficult. X became more familiar with the topics covered during the course and later said, "I can understand some of the information now. I feel I can do it. With the**

**help of the teacher, I will be able to pass the test. I learned many words and started reading *Life in the UK*."**

#### Case study 2

**Learner Y shared, "I came to the centre because my friend recommended the course. Initially, I hesitated, but my friend encouraged me to try it. I was worried that I wouldn't be able to understand the teacher because my English isn't perfect." After joining the class, Y worked hard and completed her homework assignments. She made progress and started feeling more confident. She began to believe that "I can do it." Y successfully completed all the sessions in the course and is eager to continue her studies. She now feels more confident and motivated to pass her test in the future. Additionally, she has applied to volunteer at Home Start.**

#### Case study 3

X came from Pakistan and spoke very little English. She could not read, write, or speak English, and had very low confidence. However, she was eager to learn. After attending classes for a year, she stated that her reading, writing, and speaking skills had improved. She could now go shopping, make appointments, and answer questions. This progress has motivated her to look for a job. She plans to attend more classes to become more financially independent and transition from receiving benefits to working.

#### **Bolton Abbey:**

40 learners with their children from FWA visited Bolton Abbey near Skipton in Yorkshire. They wandered around the area, exploring the priory ruins. Some of them visited the church building. We discussed the age of these buildings, the historical events that took place there, and the condition of the structures. The learners also strolled through the nearby cemetery, observing the old graves. It was an exciting and educational brief history lesson.

#### **Skipton Castle:**

40 learners from FWA and their children visited Skipton Castle in Skipton, Yorkshire. This 900-year-old building was once the residence of local lords. During the visit, they explored the dungeon, wine cellar, kitchens, some of the chambers, and banquet halls. The group discussed the purpose of such a building and its role in the local community. They imagined the conditions of life and how people lived during that time. Following the trip, the learners researched the castle's history and shared their experiences. This exciting lesson allowed the students to experience some of England's history.

<b>400 individuals attended a variety of courses from across Oldham</b>	<b>76%</b> Had a good experience	<b>91 %</b> Have gained better job prospects	<b>100%</b> Improved spoken English	<b>86%</b> Made new friends	<b>83%</b> Enjoyed Learning about History
<b>Educational training courses 356 sessions delivered</b>	<b>88%</b> Gained confidence	<b>80%</b> Improved writing skills	<b>70%</b> Happy with the teaching Method	<b>100%</b> Impressed with the teacher	<b>93%</b> Loved the environment
<b>Health and Well-being 100 sessions delivered</b>	<b>80%</b> Learned new things	<b>90%</b> Improved driving theory skills	<b>99%</b> Increased Knowledge	<b>100%</b> Improved vocabulary	<b>90%</b> Improved Mental well being

### Health and Wellbeing:

To improve the health, wellbeing of disadvantaged women and their children who may be experiencing isolation, poor physical and mental health, and domestic abuse by providing a variety of educational, social and leisure opportunities.

Recognising the complex nature of the issues faced by our participants, including poverty and domestic challenges, we took steps to provide holistic support. Our existing staff played a crucial role in offering emotional support, leveraging their understanding of Asian culture to better connect with and assist our participants. These strategies underscore our adaptability and commitment to overcoming challenges in our community development project. Our program encompassed a variety of health and well-being initiatives, including the "Colourful Mind" project, which four dedicated volunteers supported. These volunteers attended sessions as needed, providing valuable assistance and engagement.

### Colourful Minds:

Through the "Colourful Mind" program, we discovered that many women in the BME communities consume high cholesterol levels in their daily diets. This dietary habit contributes to a range of health issues, including coronary heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, migraines, arthritis, and various other short- and long-term illnesses.

To address these health concerns and promote overall well-being, weight management, and health improvement, we organized and delivered the following weekly sessions:

1. Nutritional education and cooking classes focused on low-cholesterol diets.
2. Physical activity and exercise programs tailored to different fitness levels.
3. Stress management and mental health workshops.
4. Regular health screenings and check-ups.
5. Support groups and community discussions on health and well-being.

These sessions aimed to empower women in the BME communities with the knowledge and tools they need to lead healthier lives. The women thoroughly enjoyed attending the Tea & Toast Hub, finding it a safe and welcoming space to connect with other women and openly discuss their issues. They appreciated gaining knowledge from various health talks from professionals in different fields. The fact that it is an all-women's hub allowed them to discuss women-specific issues confidently.

Initially, some women hesitated to join due to a lack of confidence and unfamiliarity with social and well-being groups. However, from the first day, they felt welcomed and were delighted with their decision to attend. They quickly formed connections and friendships and eagerly anticipated each Tea & Toast session to reunite with other attendees. They also exchanged healthy recipes, shared their weight loss journeys, and discussed their new low-fat lifestyles.

The women enjoyed the outdoor activities and walks, which, when weather permitted, took place in our local "Alexandra Park" and various countryside areas that many women were unaware of. When the weather was less favourable, activities were held indoors in our main hall. They loved the combination of indoor exercises and outdoor walking sessions, finding it an effective way to work on all parts of the body. The indoor five-mile walking sessions were enjoyable, and many women achieved the goal of 10,000 steps, while others gradually increased their steps each week.

In the BME community, it is often challenging for women to find places to exercise and socialise in a women-only environment. Many feel vulnerable walking outdoors alone. Thanks to the funding provided, we are delighted to offer this platform to the community. As an organisation, we have witnessed a positive impact on women's minds, bodies, souls, overall well-being, and increased confidence.

The women are immensely grateful for the support and opportunities provided by the Tea & Toast Hub.





### Older women's group:

Our 50+ Wellbeing Project aims to address the needs of women over 50, reducing social isolation and loneliness. We have conducted 30 leisure and social activity sessions for older women in the Oldham area, involving 40 women. These activities help them stay fit, have fun, and meet new people. We emphasise helping older individuals become more active, both physically and mentally. Our social activities include gentle exercise sessions to luncheon clubs, to help the women to feel energised. We collaborate with volunteers to offer various activities while addressing social isolation and promoting health-related activities and lifestyle changes. The women have attended mental health and dementia awareness sessions delivered by Mind



Oldham, with the main emphasis on breaking down isolation and providing an opportunity to socialise.



**50 plus Laughing Yoga**

Positive feedback and increased attendance are clear indicators of our success in reducing anxiety and depression and improving communication skills. This is a testament to the effectiveness of our approach and the value we bring to our participants. In addressing social isolation and domestic abuse, we observed improvements in overall well-being, family life, and community engagement.



**Health awareness Open day**

**Health Awareness Open day:**

60 women attended the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella event. We promoted awareness at various events, including having a personal stand at the Oldham Healthy and Wellbeing event day. Additionally, we organized a leading event through FWA, which coincided with the Eid celebrations to

capture a wider audience. The event also featured support from a pharmacist who was available to answer questions and provide interpretation services for attendees from a Bangladeshi background.

FWA received strong support from ICE CREATS colleagues, which helped keep the project's goals on track. Through this initiative, we have been able to network and collaborate with various organizations across the Northwest region. This has enabled FWA to continue building strong relationships with external organisations such as The Oldham Council and Public Health.

Initially, there were many reservations about the vaccines within the community, and I received a significant amount of negative feedback, due to misinformation. However, by actively listening to the community and addressing their concerns, it became clear from the events that women were engaged with the MMR vaccine and eager to learn more. We have had many positive conversations with community members and have fostered a culture of acceptance for the MMR vaccine. Overall, we received positive feedback on how the main event was delivered. Attendees appreciated having access to healthcare professionals in familiar surroundings, which made them feel comfortable and enabled open, honest conversations without feeling judged.

### **Creative English and Health Programme:**

Creative English for Health is a literacy program that empowers people with limited English language skills to access the health care support they and their families need.



**Visit to the  
Oldham library**

### **Case Study 1**

X arrived in the UK from Pakistan three years ago and was initially found isolated as a homemaker. However, after discovering Creative English from a neighbour, she decided to join the program. From the very first session, she seamlessly integrated into the learning environment. She said that "role plays, enable her to navigate daily life independently. She has learned to make appointments, recognize symptoms, identify body parts, and engage in

meaningful conversations with healthcare professionals. The newfound knowledge boosted her self-sufficiency and instilled a sense of empowerment.

### **Case Study 2**

Y, who came from Afghanistan and resided in the UK for the past two years, faced social challenges and hesitancy in joining community activities. Her friend encouraged her to participate in the Creative English Health program, Y decided to enrol and attend 12 sessions. Over this period, Y said "my confidence soared, particularly in the context of the NHS sector. The curriculum covered vocabulary improvement, pronunciation skills, and a comprehensive understanding of vaccination benefits. I have gained confidence in making informed decisions about my baby's vaccinations, showcasing a remarkable transformation in self-assurance."



**Health conversations**

### **Case Study 3**

Z, who arrived from Spain five years ago, struggled with extended family responsibilities, leading to isolation and fatigue. Seeking a remedy, she discovered FWA classes through a friend. She said, "The course proved to be a comprehensive source of information, covering various vaccinations and their benefits." Beyond the educational aspect, Z experienced improvements in both English vocabulary and overall confidence. Engaging in role-plays provided joy and laughter, significantly reducing feelings of isolation. The course broadened Z's knowledge and positively impacted physical and mental well-being, offering a holistic transformation.

### **Activities for children and young people, All United**

To further develop the skills, health and social wellbeing of vulnerable, disadvantaged children and young people enabling them to reach their full

potential in terms of education, economic and social contribution, health and wellbeing.

The aim is to increase confidence of the children and young people, enhance their mental and physical health and wellbeing, and develop their skills through various consultations, activities and workshops.

At FWA, we prioritise compassion and understanding, creating a safe and comfortable environment for children and young people to express their problems and challenges. Our staff will continue participating in training sessions to ensure they can offer the best help and advice when needed. We are responsive to their needs and strive to provide them with new courses and opportunities to enhance their knowledge.

We focus on reaching out to children and young people in underprivileged communities to help them build confidence and self-esteem and improve their mental and physical well-being.

Throughout the year, we noticed a need for activities in a different area of the borough. As a result, we offered children the opportunity to participate in multisport sessions in a nearby location. This 14-week program aimed to engage children in physical activities and various sports.

We had organised a variety of activities for different age groups, ranging from 5-7 to 8-11. Additionally, we ran a Friday evening club for young people aged 11 to 17. We recruit children and young people for various projects throughout the year, focusing on activities that enhance their well-being through recreational activities and sports, promoting positive engagement and informed decision-making.

Young people signed up for the Silver Arts Award and Bronze Arts Award as a progression from their previous involvement with Pushkar Productions, where they completed their first Bronze Award. The program lasted 28 weeks, and all participants successfully completed their awards. This challenging program required hard work and determination and allowed them to acquire various skills, ranging from poetry and digital arts to performance arts, visual arts, and play production. The young people produced some outstanding pieces of poetry and drama and had the opportunity to meet inspirational poets and artists.





**Digital arts festival**

We conducted workshops on drug misuse and the effects of antisocial behaviour. The young participants demonstrated various cultural talents, including henna art, and sewing skills. Emphasising these abilities provided them with validation and acknowledgment, thereby enhancing their confidence. We also encouraged the youth to cultivate entrepreneurial skills.



**Creative arts display**

Certain young children require emotional support and motivation through sports activities. We adjust to cater to the specific needs of each group and age bracket.

We organised activities and challenges for children to take home to help them develop stronger relationships with their parents. We allowed some free play for the children to build relationships within the group without structured



activities, which gave them a sense of choice and ownership in their social environment, helping them make positive decisions.

With the support of partner organisations, we provided environmental activities and promoted healthy lifestyle skills. Additionally, we educated young children on resilience, development, and coping with various situations.

We conducted culinary activities to help young people learn about budgeting and adapting to changes. They also learned how to cook cultural food that promotes well-being on a restricted budget.

Young females, who are culturally restricted from attending mixed gatherings, were able to meet their friends in a safe and secure environment while learning new skills. Participation in cookery classes, which were requested by their parents and the young people, opened doors for discussions around the table. These sessions brought up stories and issues that we addressed within the group, and we referred young people and parents to appropriate organisations for further support with mental health.

During other sessions, the young participants learned to design and dye their t-shirts, create canvases using acrylic paints and craft flowerpots from recycled towels and cement. They then painted the pots and used them for planting herbs.

Trips were organised to various locations, including Alexandra Park, Tandle Hill Park, Trafford Centre, cinemas, Northern Roots, Dovestone Reservoir, Bounce Nation, Odeon, Contact Theatre, the South Asian Museum, Blackpool, Southport, Hearts head pike, Escape room, and Crocky Trail. These trips helped the children and young people build confidence and integrate with wider communities. They also learned new skills, such as using public transport, which improved their social skills. The outdoor trips provided positive social activities and stimulated the young people both physically and mentally. Additionally, they learned about road safety and appropriate behaviour in public areas. The children also participated in a local digital arts festival celebration in partnership with Peshkar Productions, where they presented their poetry to a public audience at the Oldham Library.

#### **Highlights:**

Seventeen individuals worked extremely hard to achieve their Bronze/Silver Arts Awards. They performed at the local library. A group of 12 young people performed at the Oldham Library for the Digital Arts Award, in front of a public audience.

Eighteen young people who were unable to attend their school proms, due to cultural restrictions were provided with an opportunity to organise a first-time limousine experience and felt privileged about it.

We delivered 8 sessions of cricket to 35 individual children aged 5 to 11 years old in partnership with Lancashire cricket club. 2 children with their mother were given the honours and were invited through FWA to carry the ball to the pitch for a cricket match at Trafford cricket ground.

We participated in Glodwick move more event and promoted our activities. 8 young people volunteered in distributing our leaflets and talking to general public about FWA and our programmes.

We took young people and a mother to Violence Reduction Unit Launch event and showcased our plans for the forthcoming VRU delivery.

We had 80 children and young people and parents who came to the certificate ceremony on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> of September. We invited the local councillors, Peshkar productions, Oldham Mayor, and a representative from Lancashire cricket club.



**Presentation of certificates**



**Presentation of T-shirts by Lancashire Cricket Foundation**

Activities for children	Age	Number of sessions	Average attendance per week
Multi sports	5-11	20	16
Cookery	5-11	4	13
Arts and craft	5-11	4	14
Trips	5-11	6	16
Digital festival	5-11	1	12
Outdoor environmental workshops	5-11	6	13
Certificate ceremony	5-11	1	40
Celebration	5-11	2	26

Activities for Young People	Age	Number of sessions	Average attendance per week
Reducing crime workshops	11-16	2	18
Arts and drama silver arts award and bronze art award	11-16	28	16
Design and stitch	11-16	4	12
Henna art	11-16	2	13
Trips/ social skills	11-16	5	
Pyjama party/limo ride	11-16	1	18
Baking	11-16	1	15
Health and hygiene	11-16	2	16
Henna art	11-16	2	18
Certificate ceremony	11-16	1	16
Celebration	11-16	2	18

Children and young people from the same background have diverse needs and thrive on exciting new adventures. They need a platform to explore activities and skills that broaden their interests.

#### Case Studies:

Siblings X and Y, who come from a disadvantaged background, were recently diagnosed with ADHD. Their challenging and hyperactive behaviour was disruptive to the group, posing a risk to their peers when together. We had to manage their attendance and implement time-outs from their favourite activities when they misbehaved. Their mother expressed concerns about her own mental health and the challenges of coping with both children and their father, who also had additional needs.

We involved X and Y in performance art, which they enjoyed and through which they felt their opinions were valued. Their attitude towards the group changed significantly, and they acquired valuable communication skills

through drama workshops. We also educated the group on various forms of bullying and self-reflection, which had a positive impact on them.

Z is a highly intelligent young person, talented, and creative. In poetry, many discussions surfaced, and she expressed her loneliness. We delivered workshops that allowed young people to indirectly draft poems about their thoughts and feelings. We addressed her mental health and spoke to the parents about our concerns. Upon completing her poem and presenting it at the digital festival, she looked happier. All her peers praised her work, and she made new friends through the project. She has been given a leadership role to support other individuals who are reserved in the classroom. She has taken her role seriously and shows good leadership skills. Z has completed all her tasks for the Silver Arts Awards.

### **Our Strengths:**

Our entire team is comprised of dedicated local individuals who possess a profound understanding of the community and the unique cultural challenges faced by children, young people, and women. Our approach is focused on addressing the specific needs of each group and empowering them to make positive choices. In addition to their experience, our staff members are bilingual, which facilitates seamless communication between parents, young person and children.



**Working on the Silver Arts programme**

## SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR APRIL 2023 TO MARCH 2024

### INCOME

	£
Answer Cancer	8,000
Breast Cancer	2,525
Central district councillors	1,725
Faith Action	5,744
Garfield Weston Foundation	10,000
Grace Trust	1,000
Greater Manchester Crime Reduction VRU	21,750
John Mason Family Charitable trust	2,000
Magic Little grants	500
Oldham poverty action network	941
One Oldham Fund Micro grant	1,000
The National Lottery Reaching Communities	77,571
The National Lottery Awards for All	10,000
Skipton building society charitable foundation	1,500
Tudor Trust	36,667
Volunteer celebration fund	500
Other Small Funds	5,039
Activities for generating funds	6,574
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>193,036</b>

### EXPENDITURE

Events/Trips/Projects	28,712
Management and Finance	15,004
Miscellaneous	5,158
Office & Communication Costs	6,296
Payroll Service and Index	1,313
Property Expenses	3,969
Training	1,287
Travel	1,500
Staff Costs	95,602
Volunteers	3,090
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>161,931</b>
<b>Total Surplus/ (Deficit)</b>	<b>31,105</b>
<b>Balance brought forward FWA 01/04/23</b>	<b>133,006</b>
<b>Restricted Funds at 31/03/24</b>	<b>98,918</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds at 31/03/24</b>	<b>65,193</b>



# FATIMA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

## Staff Members

Fauzia Chaudhry	Manager/Development Worker
Uzma Khaliq	Finance Officer/Fundraiser
Farhanda Qadeer	Outreach/Development Worker
Shabana Parveen	Children's Co-ordinator
Arjam Sadiq	Children's Project Worker
Farhanda Qadeer	Children's Project Worker

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Samina Iqbal	Chairperson
Farzana Aziz	Vice Chairperson
Shamim Akhtar	Treasurer
Tabasum Kausar	Secretary
Nasreen Shabir	
Parveen Akhtar	
Maria Nessa	
Sylvia Akram	

**Fatima Women's Association is extremely interested in recruiting new Management Committee Members and volunteers. Interested individuals should contact F.W.A for further information.**

**Please visit our web page [www.fatimawomens.org.uk](http://www.fatimawomens.org.uk) for up-to-date information.**



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