



# SASCA ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES

CHARITY NUMBER: 1143949.

COMPANY NUMBER: 6656591

153B PRINCESS ROAD, MOSS SIDE, MANCHESTER, M14 4RE

OPENING TIMES: MONDAY TO WEDNESDAY. 9AM-1PM

[WWW.SASCA.ORG.UK](http://WWW.SASCA.ORG.UK)

[INFO@SASCA.ORG.UK](mailto:INFO@SASCA.ORG.UK)

# Table of Contents

Chair's Report	1
Manager's Report	3
SASCA in Numbers	5
Case Studies	7
Partnership Work	10
Our Volunteers	13
Accounts	15
Thank You	16

# Chair's Report

This has been another successful year for SASCA, and I am immensely proud of the work we continue to do in supporting our community. Our achievements would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of our staff and volunteers, who work tirelessly to deliver SASCA's services and ensure that those who need support can access it. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to our Trustees, whose efforts behind the scenes ensure that the organisation remains well governed and able to meet its responsibilities. We are equally grateful to Manchester City Council for its ongoing support. At a time when the world can feel increasingly uncertain and, at times, hostile for communities like ours, the importance of safe, supportive spaces and strong community organisations such as SASCA has never been clearer. In these challenging times, we will continue to pull together to support one another and strengthen our community. By working collectively with compassion, solidarity and determination, we remain committed to ensuring that our community feels supported and valued.

SASCA has six trustees including the chair. Trustees are responsible for the overall governance and strategic direction of SASCA, and they ensure that the organisation is fulfilling its charitable purpose, operating in line with its governing document, and complying with relevant laws and regulations. Trustees oversee how SASCA is managed, make key strategic decisions, and ensure that funds and resources are used responsibly and in the best interests of SASCA's beneficiaries. They also support and hold the manager to account, helping to ensure the organisation remains effective, sustainable, and true to its mission.



**Anya Ahmed,  
Chair of the Board  
of Trustees for  
SASCA**

Of the six trustees, three are women, three are Somali and two are of Somali heritage. They have a range of skills and experience: including community and local knowledge; research and bidding skills; expertise in social and health inequalities; expertise in GM systems and processes; youth justice; and social care.

Finally, a massive thank you to our funders for their support:

- **Answer Cancer**
- **Manchester City Council**
- **Postcode Lottery**
- **The National Lottery Community Fund**
- **NHS LCO**
- **Manchester Community Central**

# Manager's Report

Over the past year, SASCA has continued to grow and strengthen the support we provide to the Somali community in Manchester. We have stayed focused on helping people who face barriers to accessing services by offering clear advice, practical support and the confidence to improve their circumstances.

It has been a year of progress—both in our services and in building a stronger foundation for the future.

Our advice and advocacy service remains central to our work. We supported thousands of residents with issues including benefits, housing, debt, immigration, health and access to public services. Many clients face complex challenges and feel overwhelmed by difficult systems. Through culturally appropriate and accessible support, our team helps people understand their rights and take steps to resolve their problems.



A major achievement has been helping families secure the social security support they are entitled to. Our advisers assisted with applications, appeals and communication with government departments, ensuring many households accessed essential income and reduced financial hardship.

Debt advice has also been vital. Rising living costs have placed many households under pressure, and we have helped clients understand their finances, negotiate with creditors and manage or reduce debts. Repayment plans and debt write-offs have eased the burden on many families and individuals we have supported.

Housing remains a significant issue. We have supported residents facing eviction, rent arrears or poor living conditions, working with landlords and housing providers to

resolve disputes and secure essential repairs—helping families live in safer, healthier homes. Partnership working has been a major strength. We continued collaborating with specialist advice services and strengthened relationships with health partners, community organisations and Greater Manchester Police. This has included supporting Somali families affected by knife crime, raising awareness and building trust between the community and local services. As an organisation, we also made strong progress. We strengthened financial planning and governance, balanced our budget and secured funding to support long-term sustainability. Achieving Real Living Wage accreditation was another key milestone, reflecting our commitment to staff and organisational stability.

One of our proudest achievements this year was launching the ‘Know & Go: Cancer Screening Awareness Workshops’. The project aimed to increase awareness of the important issue of breast and cervical cancer within the community which included the commissioning of a dedicated cancer outreach worker. The workshops were delivered across several local sessions which were widely accessed and met a critical need among women in the area.

In the year ahead, we plan to increase access to all our services by opening the office an additional day each week, expanding our volunteer programme, deepening partnerships and further improving how we measure and demonstrate impact.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our staff, volunteers, trustees and partners. Together, we remain committed to supporting our community and strengthening SASCA as a trusted organisation for Somali residents in Manchester.



Images from our ‘Know & Go: Cancer Screening Awareness Project Workshops’. Delivered the project raising awareness about breast and cervical cancer and encouraging screening uptake. The Outreach Worker helped the community learn about breast and cervical cancer, early detection, and healthy living.

# SASCA in numbers

**2663** Clients supported last year

**1536** Men and **1227** Women

**76** Consumer agreements

**367** Clients supported with debt

**468** Clients supported with immigration advice

**303** Clients supported with housing

**456** Clients supported with access to health

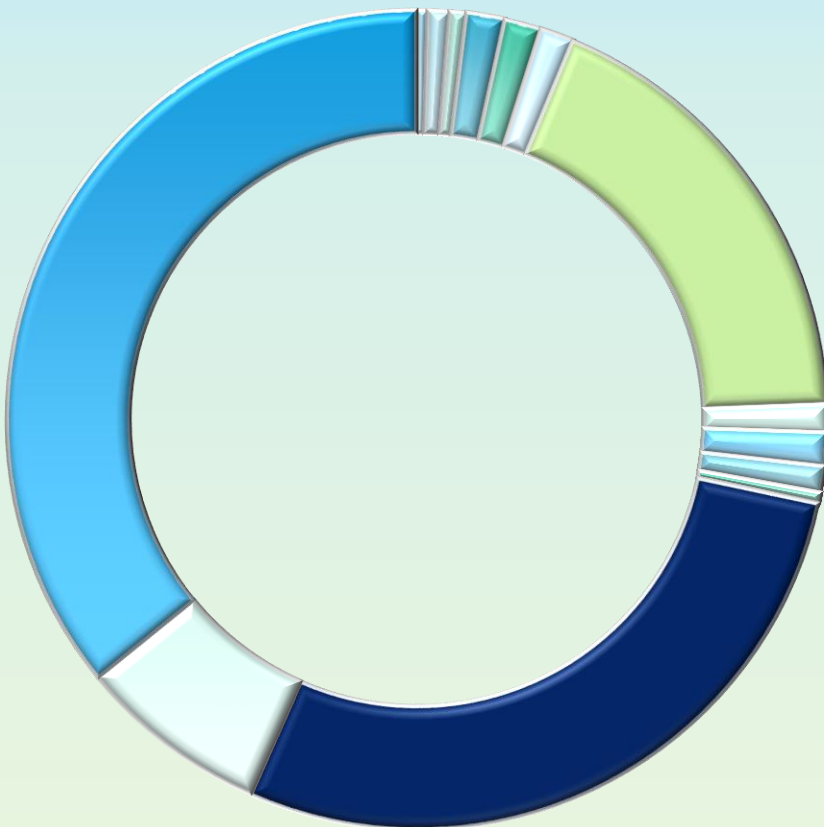
**135** Clients supported with mental health and wellbeing

**233** Cases supported with access to education

**625** Clients supported with welfare benefits

# Manchester Areas Supported

Clients Supported per Area



- North Manchester – Cheetham hill - 32
- North Manchester – Moston - 63
- Central Manchester – Ardwick - 49
- Ancoats - 2
- Central Manchester – Gorton & Abbey Hey - 111
- Central Manchester – Hulme - 107
- Central Manchester – Longsight - 100
- Central Manchester – Moss Side - 1348
- Central Manchester – Rusholme - 84
- South Manchester – Fallowfield - 96
- South Manchester – Whaley Range - 76
- South Manchester – Withington - 31
- Burnage - 5
- Manchester - 2104
- Outside Manchester - 559
- Total - 2663

# Case Studies

## Welfare Rights Support

Mr. F, a 66-year-old man, faced ongoing difficulties understanding council letters and completing benefit applications. Confused by repeated requests for information and unsure about his entitlements, he turned to SASCA for support. Our volunteers worked closely with Mr. F, helping him complete the necessary forms and explaining the requirements in clear, simple language. Through regular advice sessions, we ensured he understood each stage of the process and felt confident in the decisions he was making. With SASCA's continued support, Mr. F successfully managed his benefit claims and gained greater clarity and stability in navigating the welfare system.

## Housing Support

Mr. S is a 41-year-old father of three young children, with a fourth on the way, who was facing eviction after challenging his landlord about a sudden and unaffordable rent increase. The situation caused significant stress for the family, who were already living in poor housing conditions. SASCA supported Mr. S throughout the entire process by helping him understand and respond to court letters, advocating on his behalf with the landlord and housing services, and ensuring he was aware of his rights. When eviction became unavoidable, SASCA connected Mr. S to the appropriate homeless services, ensuring the family was not left without support. As a result, Mr. S and his family were placed in temporary accommodation that was safer and of a much higher standard than their previous home, providing stability during a difficult period and reducing the pressure on his pregnant wife and young children.

## Outreach Support

Mr. M is a 59-year-old stroke survivor who still experiences difficulties with tasks such as writing messages and remembering names. He contacted SASCA for help reporting two urgent maintenance issues in his home: a radiator dial that could not be adjusted and a cistern tank flush that was not working. These problems were causing discomfort and affecting his daily routine.

SASCA responded quickly by contacting his housing provider and the relevant case handler to report the issues and explain the urgency due to his health condition. They advocated on his behalf, ensured the problems were prioritised, and followed up until repairs were scheduled and completed. Throughout the process, volunteers provided reassurance and support. As a result, the repairs were carried out promptly, improving Mr M's comfort and reducing his stress by ensuring his needs were clearly communicated despite his poststroke challenges.

## Mental Health Support

JM is a 26-year-old woman referred by her mother, who was concerned about her daughter's wellbeing after she experienced severe low mood following failure in her A level exams. A home visit was carried out by our mental health counsellor to assess her mental health, during which JM showed signs of depression and low mood. She was given information about available support services, including the organisation's mental health support, CALMS, Black and Caribbean Mental Health Services, and her GP. She was reminded that, as an adult, she must make her own decisions about engaging with support. Information about counselling and mental health services was provided, and she was encouraged to consider accessing help, with the importance of her active participation explained clearly. JM chose not to engage with any services at this time. Her mother was informed that support remains available, but intervention is limited without JM's consent. Ongoing contact will be maintained with her mother to monitor the situation and offer emotional support, and support will remain available should JM decide to engage in the future

## **Debt Support**

Mr. Y aged 61, struggled to manage a complex banking issue that left him worried about his finances. Unsure how to communicate with the bank or resolve the problem, he sought help from SASCA. A volunteer accompanied him to the bank, advocating on his behalf and ensuring he understood the information provided. With this support, the issue was resolved promptly, relieving Mr. Yusuf of significant stress and helping him regain control over his financial situation.

## **Immigration Support**

Mrs A is the mother of an adult son with a hidden disability, and she was struggling to complete his citizenship application because he was unable to pass the required tests. The process caused her significant worry, as she feared her son would be denied rights and protection he was entitled to. SASCA intervened by helping her identify the correct immigration route for applicants with disabilities, contacting the relevant health professionals to obtain supporting evidence, and assisting with the completion of the complex application forms. This guidance ensured that the application accurately reflected her son's needs and circumstances. The application was successful, and Mrs. A expressed great relief at finally, being able to secure her son's citizenship. With SASCA's support, she now feels empowered to advocate for his rights and ensure he receives the recognition and protection he deserves

## Partnership Work

We are grateful for the strong partnerships we have developed with a range of organisations and individuals. These collaborations are vital to our work, helping us reach more people and provide more comprehensive support to our community.

SASCA works closely with a wide range of partners, including:

- The NHS – supporting health awareness sessions delivered with clinicians, alongside our staff and interpreters.
- Answer Cancer – raising awareness of breast and cervical cancer and encouraging screening among BAME women.
- Manchester Adult Education Service (MAES) – providing ESOL classes for our clients.
- Manchester City Council – working together to support residents affected by the cost-of-living crisis.
- Neighbourhood Health Champions – delivering community health drop-ins covering issues such as diabetes and blood pressure.
- Manchester Refugee Support Network – collaborating to support refugees and people seeking asylum.
- Robert Darbishire Practice and The Whitswood Practice – partnering with us to deliver Know & Go screening workshops.
- Local MPs and Councillors – supporting clients through referrals, advocacy and assistance with complex casework.

These partnerships are grounded in trust, shared priorities, and a collective commitment to meeting the broad and varied needs of our community. By working together, we have been able to expand the support available to our clients—whether

**STRONGER TOGETHER:  
ENDING KNIFE CRIME**  
Community Awareness Event

Tuesday, 23rd September 2025  
Phil Martin Centre, 17:00 to 20:00  
135 Princess Rd, Moss Side,  
Manchester, M14

**Programme Highlights**

- Arrival & Refreshments
- Opening Remarks
- Keynote Speakers
- Panel Discussion on Ending Knife Crime

**Who's it for?**  
The whole community – youth, parents, and local residents.

**Why Attend?**  
Together, we can raise awareness, share experiences, and build safer communities.

**Creative Voices - Spoken Word**

Organised by:  
Community Members

07909 551493

Let's take a stand – Stronger Together, Ending Knife Crime.



SASCA Manager Mahdi, engaging with the local community in discussing the tragic death of a young boy in Moss Side.

through health and wellbeing initiatives, fostering awareness, or strengthening services for refugees and asylum seekers.

Our aim is to continue strengthening these partnerships while building new connections with other organisations that share our commitment to community wellbeing. These relationships enable us to serve as a vital link between Manchester's Somali community and the mainstream services they have too often been excluded from. By deepening this collaborative work, we hope to ensure that more individuals can access the support, opportunities, and resources that have historically been out of reach.

Some highlights from our community engagement activities this year:

In partnership with Heald Place Primary School, we hosted an important and engaging community discussion on school readiness within the Somali community



MAES: Provided ESOL health classes to support the local community at SASCA's office, helping individuals improve their language skills and access health information and services.

Neighbourhood Health Champions:  
Delivering health drop-in sessions at SASCA's office, supporting individuals with health advice, guidance, and access to relevant services.





**Hate Crime Awareness Event: Raising awareness of hate crime and providing information about the support available within the local area. The event was a massive success with a large community turnout.**



**We were delighted to welcome senior officers from MSV Housing to our office. During their visit, they toured the premises, met with our team, and learned more about the work we're doing to support local families and communities.**

**Our colleagues Roda, Suad, and Paul gave excellent presentations about their projects and the positive impact of our work. It was a great opportunity to discuss how we can strengthen collaboration between SASCA and MSV in the future and our guests were very impressed with the dedication of our staff and the difference our services are making.**

# Our Volunteers

## SASCA Trustees



**Chair, Prof Anya Ahmed**



**Secretary, Lorna Chesterton**



**Mohamed Egeh, Trustee**



**Treasurer, Ahmed Mohamed**



**Roger Bysouth, co-opted  
Trustee**



**Hassan Cumar Trustee**

**Alison Barrett**

## Volunteers

### Mohammed Aljak

Mohammed recently joined our team. He supports our administrative worker in the office and accompanies our outreach worker on community visits.



### Ahmed Bashi

Ahmed has been a long-term volunteer at SASCA. He supports clients by appointment on Thursdays and Fridays.



### Paul Morris

Paul has had a strong, 30-year relationship with the Somali community in Manchester. He assists clients with immigration information every Monday. His contributions to the Somali community have been immense.



### Our Staff

Thanks to our staff, Roda, Suad, Safi, Abdnassir, Mowlid, Abdullahi.



We are constantly looking for more volunteers to help us support our residents. We rely on volunteers for jobs like:

- *Administration*
- *Reception*
- *Interpreting and Translation*
- *Advising*
- *Trusteeship – being on our Board*

We offer training to our volunteers to help them carry out all these tasks. If you are interested in volunteering with SASCA, please call us or send us an email.

# Accounts

Summary SASCA accounts for the 2024/25 Annual Report

## Financial Overview

(FY2021/22–FY2024/25)

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Cash at Bank	32,790	32,664	60,327	64,743
Income	65,363	69,762	85,505	138,338
Expenditure	53,991	69,227	57,816	104,631
Reserves	33,869	34,404	62,093	98,450

*This is just a summary of our independently audited accounts. If you want more information, please contact us or access it on our website.*

# Thank You

NHS Local Care Organisation  
Manchester Metropolitan University  
Neighbourhood Health Champions  
Manchester Adult Educations Service  
Afzal Khan MP  
Moss Side Councillors  
Other Manchester Councillors  
Manchester Refugees Support Network  
Manchester City Council  
Al Furqan Islamic Centre  
United for Change  
Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit  
BHA

