



**NEW BEGINNINGS
COMMUNITY**

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**ANNUAL
REPORT**

newbeginningscommunity.co.uk

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OUR AIMS

- Contribute to the improvement of the local community's quality of life
- Provide a place that's accessible, welcoming, and serves as a focal point for the community
- Promote and advocate for the needs of groups based at the centre, as well as provide opportunities for more integration and inclusion among users
- Engage and support our activities that help people connect and engage with their communities and others to combat isolation and loneliness
- Promote learning and development by providing a local resource
- In response to local needs, provide educational, recreational, social, and cultural activities
- Act as an informal information point on activities, groups, events and services
- To maintain strategic relevance with partnerships and funders



Peter Spence,
Chair of Trustees

Chair of Trustees Report

New Beginnings Community began as a seed of an idea in the summer of 2021. It came about as we looked at how we could continue and develop some of the things we had already been doing. And so New Beginnings Community was born officially on 10th September 2021.

We opened our family hub in the empty community hall at St Marks on Thimblemill Road in Smethwick and we are so grateful to Fred Rattley, Thrive Together Birmingham, the Diocese of Birmingham and Old Church Smethwick for their support and encouragement, not just to get us going but as we have continued to evolve and grow.

As the new hub got going I had to acclimatise to a role which saw me being the one who focused on the majority of the fundraising, thereby releasing our CEO Carrie Pearson and her wonderful team to get on and do the work with the community. Fundraising is something I had dabbled with 🧐 in a small way previously, so this was a steep learning curve, and in truth still is. 🧐

Thank You

I want to thank the many funders who have trusted us in this first fifteen months and I hope we can be careful stewards of your trust and funding to all our community to discover how it can become a more enriched version of itself.

Over the course of the first fifteen months, we have seen some amazing community events:

Christmas Markets



←
Santa with his elves and helpers for the Christmas Market

Cllr Richard McVittie, Corey, Kelli, Carrie, Sandwell Mayor Cllr Richard Jones and baby Stanley enjoying themselves at the Pride Party!

Jubilee Party



←
The Jubilee Party dream team!



and **Pride Family Disco** to mention three.

All of these events and the ongoing and growing range of programmes which run in the hub are the output of, in my view, a world class group of incredible staff and volunteers, led and inspired by Carrie Pearson.

This venture may have been the seed of an idea that myself and a few others had but Carrie and her team are the ones who make it real. They show the community what acceptance and continual unconditional welcome look like and I am forever thankful for them.

I hope you find our first report uplifting and inspiring and I hope above all that our work together in this community can continue to evolve, reach and include even more people.

Thank you for being part of this incredible journey.





Our CEO Carrie Pearson, finalist at the BBC Radio WM 'Make a Difference Awards'

CEO's Report

New Beginnings Community (NBC) has had an extremely successful start. Over the past 15 months, NBC has increased from one day a week to a full programme across seven days, of groups, classes, sessions and community support.

NBC began with four trustees and a few volunteers, and the community rooms at St Mark's Church Thimblemill Road. Our focus was mainly on providing baby bundles for vulnerable mums and their new babies, a stay and play toddler group and securing funding to enable growth.

We are now fortunate to be supported by over 25 volunteers who offer their time and individual expertise that has helped NBC's growth. We work with an Asset Based Community Development approach that aims to strengthen our community by recognising, identifying, and activating the skills, resources, experience, knowledge, connections, and passions within it.



Some of the wonderful people who make up our community. Relationships and a sense of belonging are very important to us

Our NBC programme provides opportunities for our local families supporting children, and vulnerable members of the wider community. This consists of Little Fish Baby and Toddler Stay & Play Group, New Beginnings Baby Bundles supporting vulnerable families, Survival Lighthouse, Coffee Morning 'Fancy a Brew' Warm Hub Place of Welcome and so much more.

We are also very honoured to work alongside The Changes Programme funded by Sandwell Public Health. We host an extensive amount of sessions which are led by NBC's employees, supported by our volunteers.



As well as our community groups we have also held a number of events which include Christmas Markets and a Celebration event for the queens Jubilee. With over 500 people attending each event which included local councillors, The Mayor of Sandwell and the Deputy Lieutenant for the West Midlands.

THANK YOU

I would personally like to thank our amazing staff and NBC volunteers for all their hard work to make NBC a place where people feel welcomed and cared for. I would also like to thank our local community for welcoming us to Smethwick and providing the support we needed to get NBC off to such an amazing start.





John Pearson,
Treasurer

Accounts

I am pleased to present our Independently Examined Financial Statements for period ending 31st December 2022.

We are most grateful for all the support we have received.

NEW BEGINNINGS COMMUNITY

REG CHARITABLE NO.1195791

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

BURNS & CO
CHARTERED CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANTS

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2. Income and Expenditure Account
3. Balance Sheet
4. Schedule of Fixed Assets

NEW BEGINNINGS COMMUNITY
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT

In accordance with your instructions, we have compiled, without carrying out an audit, an Independent Examiners Report and income and expenditure account and balance sheet from the accounting records and information and explanations supplied to us.

We have no concerns and have come accross no matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


Burns & Co
Chartered Certified Accountants
181-183 Summer Road
Erdington
Birmingham
B23-6DX

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NEW BEGINNINGS COMMUNITY
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

		<u>2022</u>
	£	£
<u>INCOME</u>		
Rental Income		17,070
Donations		37,680
Grants		14,287
Other Income		5,613
		<hr/> 74,650
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Food	216	
Decorations and Consumables	417	
Cleaning	643	
Kitchen Equipment	1,510	
Salaries and Wages	10,784	
Baby Equipment	2,428	
Repairs and Renewals	2,944	
Printing and Stationery	1,414	
Sundry Expenses	3,131	
Insurances	673	
Rent	11,254	
Baby & Toddler Group Expenses	4,755	
Event Expenses	4,899	
Depreciation - Plant & Equipment	541	
Depreciation - Fixtures & Fittings	356	
		<hr/> 45,965
<u>SURPLUS FOR THE PERIOD</u>		<hr/> <hr/> £ 28,685

NEW BEGINNINGS COMMUNITYBALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2022

	<u>2022</u>
	£ £
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>	
Depreciating Assets	5,080
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>	
Bank Instant Online Account	220
Bank Treasures Account	23,385
	<u>23,605</u>
<u>NET CURRENT ASSETS</u>	<u>23,605</u>
	<u>£ 28,685</u>
<u>REPRESENTED BY:</u>	
<u>UNRESTRICTED CHARITY FUNDS</u>	
Surplus for the period	28,685
Approved by the Chair of Trustees:	<u>£ 28,685</u>
	
Reverend Peter Spence	

NEW BEGINNINGS COMMUNITYSCHEDULE OF FIXED ASSETS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022**DEPRECIATING ASSETS**

<u>COST</u>	<u>Plant & Equipment</u>	<u>Fixtures & Fittings</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	£	£	£
Additions in the Period	3,606	2,371	5,977
At 31st December 2022	<u>3,606</u>	<u>2,371</u>	<u>5,977</u>
<u>DEPRECIATION</u>			
Charge for the Period	541	356	897
At 31st December 2022	<u>541</u>	<u>356</u>	<u>897</u>
<u>NET BOOK VALUE</u>			
At 31st December 2022	<u>3,065</u>	<u>2,015</u>	<u>5,080</u>



New Beginnings Baby Bundles

“ I had one of your baskets full of clothes and you will never understand how grateful I was at that desperate time ”
Moses Basket recipient

We provide, through referral agencies, Moses Baskets filled with items for new born babies and their mums, for some of the most vulnerable in our community.

We are extremely grateful to have been one of the Mayor of Sandwell's nominated charities this year



In September 2022 we provided our 1000th Moses Basket.



Carrie, Pam & Peter at Mayor Richard Jones' Charity Dinner, with Cllr Richard McVittie



Lots of beautifully prepared Moses Baskets ready for collection



We are consistently blown away by and thankful to the incredible generosity of our community and businesses who donate to us. We couldn't do any of our work without this.



Last but not least, where would we be without our volunteers! A massive **THANK YOU** to Carrie and her incredible team. All of you are what make this possible



Fancy A Brew?



Fancy a brew has been running for just over a year. What began as a simple coffee morning has now developed into a Warm Space where breakfast is served to those in our community seeking a warm, safe place to connect with others.

As well as offering a warm space, our amazing team of volunteers are always on hand to give

Delicious Breakfast!



information on the cost of living and support services that are available locally. Most recently we were visited by Healthwatch Sandwell, Sandwell Mobile Library and Friends of West Smethwick Park.

Our Christmas Dinner - lots of fun



Fancy a Brew runs every Wednesday from 10am till 1pm and currently sees around 20 people each week.



The Birthday Project

In the Autumn of 2022 we started 'The Birthday Project' as a response to our referral agencies telling us about families struggling to afford birthday items for their children.

We provide a 'Birthday in a Bag' for children in need (up to age 11) to ensure they do not go without on this special occasion.

As with our Baby Bundles we work through referral agencies.



Birthday bag for a Boy aged 6

Each pack contains at least 2 presents, chocolates or sweets, wrapping paper, Sellotape, a birthday card and party decorations.



Birthday bag for a Girl aged 3



Our 'Birthday in a Bag' storage area with some very welcome donations

Other items that may be included depending on supplies are party hats, badges, cake mix, frosting and candles.



Little Fish



Our Little Fish Baby & Toddler Group has had a great start. We currently run 3 sessions of our Baby & toddler group in 2 locations. Little Fish is an important part of our community and sees over 150 people attend each week. The group ranges from birth



All set up and ready for the children at the New Beginnings hub

5 years. Our wonderful team of volunteers provide snacks and refreshments for all to enjoy. With a team of 10 volunteers, we make sure everyone that attends our sessions feel welcome and cared for whilst



Ready for the children's arrival at St Hilda's

children play in a safe, fun environment. A big thank you to all our volunteers.



Home corner dress up

There are several areas set up to help children develop all areas of learning and development in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage. These include a craft area, reading area, home corner, construction play and much more.



Vegetable printing craft!



Our popular 'Book Swap' library

We chatted to a number of parents about what they would like to see at the group. Many parents said they were struggling to weigh their babies. With funding from SCVO we were able to purchase a set of baby weighing scales and a measuring chart.



This year's highlights have been celebrations of World Book Day, Easter, Diwali, and Christmas

What people say about Little Fish...

Everybody is very welcoming, friendly. Lovely atmosphere, plenty of toys for the little ones to play with

Lovely place. Great atmosphere, so much for kids to play with plus lovely hot cup of coffee for adults

Highly recommended. I take my 2yr old granddaughter there, she's been going since was 1. She loves it. Very clean place and lovely people.

The friendly staff. The freedom the children have to play. There is always someone to talk to if I need help or advice. The variety of snacks for children

The Aim of Little Fish is to:

- Welcome everyone** - Give a warm welcome to everyone, whatever their age, relationship to the child, culture, colour, gender or disability
- Be excellent** - Show excellence in all that is done in our group, from making coffee to comforting a person in distress. At all times, try to maintain our high standards
- Provide a safe and happy environment** - Offer a safe and happy environment for parents, carers and children
- Offer friendship** - Offer true friendship to everyone who comes to our group and create an environment where friendships can be made among our group
- Involve parents and carers** - Encourage parents and carers to assist and participate fully in the group, as the group is for them and their children



Changes

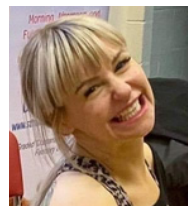


The Changes Programme is funded by Sandwell Public Health. We host an extensive amount of sessions which are led by New Beginnings Community's employees and supported by our volunteers. We have found these sessions are really popular with parents and care-givers, and not just for the children to play and explore but to help parents and care-givers make new friends and talk and share parenting experiences. Our groups include:

- 🦋 Changes Sensory
- 🦋 Changes Time to Rhyme
- 🦋 Changes Messy Play
- 🦋 Changes Little Chefz
- 🦋 Changes Nature Club
- 🦋 Changes Zumbini



Hannah & Kelli run most of the Changes sessions



Sam, who teaches Changes Zumbini



Steph, Pam & Carrie, just a few of the Changes volunteer team

🦋 Changes: Sensory

This group is run by Carrie, Kelli and Pam. The children are free to explore the toys, and all the toys are sensory toys like food tasting, the black out tent and more. We find the moms enjoy the free flow.



What can be more sensory than sitting amongst food-colour dyed spaghetti!



Our Blackout Tent, with colourful lights and soft, comfortable pillows



The session is also a great bonding time for parents and carers

🦋 **Changes: Time to Rhyme** This session is run by Kelli and Hannah. We set the room out with different crafts based around a nursery rhyme and the children love to get stuck in with the crafts (so do the parents!)



Easy to guess which nursery rhyme was featured on this session!



🦋 **Changes: Messy Play** This session is very popular. Let's face it; there are some activities you would rather not do at home, especially those involving paint and water!



Changes



Changes: Little Chefz

Wednesdays are our busiest day filled with Messy Play and Little Chefz. These sessions, run by Kelli and Hannah are popular with parents and caregivers and they can make lots of mess without the worry. Little Chefz helps the children with many skills and we learn how to make simple but healthy meals or snacks for the children.



Some careful stirring



Choosing ingredients for Pitta Bread Pizzas!

Changes: Nature Club

This session is run by Kelli and Hannah and we use the outdoor space to do all things nature like planting, exploring bugs and animals, and lots of crafts based on nature. The parents that come along and say how much they enjoy this group with and for their children.



Exploring Autumn

Getting ready to make bird feeders



Having fun planting



Changes: Zumbini

Zumbini is a form of Zumba for babies together with an adult and is taught by qualified Zumbini instructor and dance teacher Sam. There is a question of who is more energetic - the children or Sam... most there would agree it is definitely Sam!



No chance of a sit down. Sam has everybody on their feet!



Mayor Richard and Santa join the conga line at the Changes Christmas Party!



The children love Sam



Events at New Beginnings Community

We love sharing time and celebrating with our lovely community. Here is a snapshot of our main events so far... Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who made these events possible.



**NEW BEGINNINGS
COMMUNITY**

Christmas Market 2021!

Our first event as New Beginnings Community took place on Saturday 11th December 2021. We had over 500 people attend the event which raised over £1000 for the charity. With round 20 craft stalls, Santa visits, live entertainment, raffle prizes and yummy treats, our community had a fantastic time and so did we!



Santa Dave & Cllr Parbinder Kaur declare the market OPEN!



Santa's Elves waiting for the man himself!



Standing room only as people enjoyed the market stalls



Carrie, Mayor Richard Jones, Cllr Kaur & Peter, masked up and enjoying themselves





Santa giving Sandwell Mayor Richard Jones a tree decoration - we think Mayor Richard made it onto Santa's nice list!



Sarah singing some Christmas favourites!

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

On Sunday 5th June 2022 we held a community event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with over 500 people joining us. With funding from the National Lottery we were able to host a free event which included fun activities and curry courtesy of The Little Bangla.  Our wonderful volunteers provided crafts and live entertainment, and we had children's entertainment and treats from Shelley's Treats. 

We also had a special guest, The Deputy Lord Lieutenant John Wood from the West Midlands Lieutenancy.



Kate and Sarah beautifully sang hits old and new



Just some of our fabulous volunteer team



**NEW BEGINNINGS
COMMUNITY**

The weather was typically British but we kept calm, carried on and had a great time!

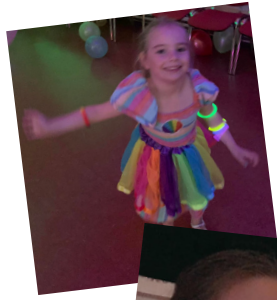
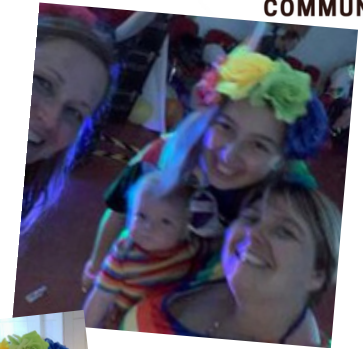
Events at New Beginnings Community



**NEW BEGINNINGS
COMMUNITY**

Pride Family Fun Disco

Also, in June we celebrated the month of pride by holding a family fun disco. Everyone had a brilliant time including the Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Richard Jones and the Mayor's Consort Councillor Richard McVittie.



Everybody got into the rainbow spirit - a great celebration for all

Christmas Market 2022!



On Saturday 10th December 2022 we held our 2nd Christmas Market which raised over £1500 for the Charity. A special thank you to the fabulous Dave Upson (AKA Santa Dave - the real Santa) for seeing around 300 children and families and for making the day so special for us all.



Kelli, Pam, Gail & Carrie - Santa's team!

Tina & Esther with the Christmas treats



Sam & Hannah - Hot Chocolate anyone?



Another full house



Willow excited for Christmas!



Yup! Laura made the 'nice' list!



Once again our incredible volunteers make it happen

Mayor Richard Jones, Carrie, Peter, Cllr Parbinder Kaur, Pam & Cllr Richard McVittie. We are so very grateful for the support of our Mayor and local Councillors



**NEW BEGINNINGS
COMMUNITY**

THANK YOU!

New Beginnings Community would be nothing without our amazing staff and volunteers. We must pay special tribute to our wonderful **CEO Carrie Pearson** who is the brains and inspiration behind everything that happens at the hub. Here is the list of our fantastic team!

STAFF

Carrie Pearson
Kelli Bird
Hannah O'Neill

TRUSTEES

Peter Spence
Esther Spence
John Pearson
Pamela Hancox
Gail Sault

VOLUNTEERS

Pam Hancox
Gail Sault
Julie Savell-Boss
David Upson
Kate Groom
Sam Steatham – Edmunds
Stephanie Orchard
Corey Bird
Chris Bird
Shar Robinson
Stephanie Easter
Laura Wroe

Tracey Wroe
Lauren Wroe
Tina Sharp
Mandy Reeves
Denise Quinn
Leigh-Ann Coggins
Peter Spence
John Pearson
Kelli Bird
Hannah O'Neil
Esther Spence

FUNDERS

New Beginnings Community is incredibly grateful to our funders. We are most appreciative to be considered for support from such a generous and wide ranging group of organisations

