SOUTHALL Community Alliance

2024-25 ANNUAL REPORT

Connecting and Inspiring Our Communities

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Message from the Chair

Jags Sanghera

Chair, Southall Community Alliance

Dear Southall Community Alliance (SCA) friends, I am honoured to introduce our Annual Report for 2024/25 and share the fantastic work that SCA has delivered.

It is my privilege to have been elected to stand as the new Chair of SCA, taking over the reins from our long-standing Chair, Harsev Bains. Harsev, alongside our Treasurer, Ravi Jain, are the founding members of the charity and are now both stepping down from their honorary positions. However, they will continue playing an active role on the Board of Trustees, and Harsev will serve as the new Vice Chair at SCA. On behalf of SCA, I would like to express our sincere thanks to both Harsev and Ravi for their outstanding contributions over the years and look forward to continuing to work with them.

We have eight volunteer trustees who play a crucial role in overseeing the work and direction of the charity. I would therefore, like to express my thanks to the other trustees, including Ahmed Mohamed, James Jerald, Jaskaran Singh, Sarabjit Bhachu, and Tajinder Paul Singh.

The widespread work of SCA would not be possible without the fantastic support of our funders. During the year, we have seen an increase in the number of service users and organisations seeking support. Thankfully, the number of funders has grown, enabling us to meet the increasing demands we have witnessed over the last few years. We offer our thanks to our funders including 4in10, Baring Foundation, BIHR, Cadent, City Bridge Foundation, Genomics England, Global Action Plan, Heathrow Community Trust, Imperial Charity, Institute of Development Studies, John Lyon's Charity, London Borough of Ealing, and Trust for London.

Our amazing staff ensure the delivery of our many projects: Janpal Basran, Niharika Batra, Yomna Abdelgawad, Clara Kraebber, Amelia Sarmouk, and Kamaljeet Sembhi. Beyond delivering on our agreed project commitments, the team has exhibited a real 'can-do' attitude in responding to the evolving needs of the communities SCA serves.

Message from the Chair

SCA continues to provide high-quality output in connecting our communities, in tackling different forms of poverty, in using our streets to deliver imaginative and creative arts activities, and involving hundreds of pupils from local schools to build an appreciation of place and sense of pride in Southall.

Whilst we are in a challenging economic environment in the UK, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, we can confirm that the charity is financially robust and viable and that we have financial controls in place to ensure the transparent use of public funds.

This strong foundation ensures that we look forward to the year ahead and the challenges of working with an ever-diversifying Southall community. There will be matters that we can progress ourselves, but there will be many more occasions when we will rely on our partners and stakeholders to help us in realising our shared vision of a Southall where communities live, work, and thrive together in a safe and welcoming place.

Jags Sanghera
Chair, Southall Community Alliance

About Southall Community Alliance

Southall Community Alliance (SCA) is a registered charity (charity number 1104671) established in 2000, dedicated to serving the socially and economically disadvantaged communities in Southall and its surrounding areas. Our mission is to develop the capacity and skills of these communities while promoting equality, diversity, and good race relations to enable full participation in society.

Vision

Creating “Destination Southall” where communities live, work and thrive together in a welcoming, safe and inclusive environment.

Mission

Bring together and collaborate with community groups, residents, businesses, and statutory partners in Southall to address social, economic, cultural, health, and environmental challenges, creating a thriving, inclusive, and fulfilling place to live, work and visit - what we call ‘Destination Southall’.

Values

Our policies and practices are based on 4 inclusive values, the **4Cs**:

- **Connecting** - Welcoming and bringing together diverse organisations and communities with utmost impartiality, whilst showing respect for their history and traditions.
- **Community** – Nurturing strong relationships and working collectively to shape an equal, thriving, and inclusive future for all.
- **Challenging** - Amplifying the voices of Southall’s communities by listening and building consensus while recognising Southall is a dynamic town with evolving challenges and priorities.
- **Caring** - Supporting and caring for communities while fostering a shared sense of responsibility and pride within Southall.

Organisational Overview

Staffing

The SCA staff team grew during the year and we had welcomed some new additions to the team. The existing team of Janpal Basran, Niharika Batra, Yomna Abdelgawad, and Kamaljeet Sembhi were boosted by the arrivals of Clara Kraebber and Amelia Sarmouk, both working in new project roles.

The staff showed great commitment to work during the year, as evidenced by the broad range of tasks they had to cover. The concern and the empathy for local people facing hardships is embedded within the team and we hope this will provide a springboard for further success.

Southall Town Hall

SCA have now been based within the Town Hall for over 12 years and for much of this time we have tried to provide resource centre support to community organisations and residents. With the growth of our staff team, we began to experience challenges in both hosting events and in providing accommodation for employees, as space within the building became more congested.

Towards the end of 2024, we were approached by Ealing Council regarding a proposed new arrangement for the future use of the Town Hall. The proposal involves the arrival of Change Grow Live (CGL), the borough wide drug and alcohol recovery service.

All tenants within the building were asked to vacate by February 2025 and discussions have since been taking place between SCA, CGL and the Council about shared working arrangements for the future. This could provide the stability of long term accommodation security which is invaluable for future planning.

Organisational Overview

Trustees and Governance

SCA has eight volunteer trustees who play a critical role in overseeing the work of the charity and in setting the future direction of the organisation. These trustees included: Ahmed Mohamed, Harsev Bains, Jags Sanghera, James Jerald, Jaskaran Singh, Ravi Jain, Sarabjit Bhachu, Tajinder Paul Singh. During this period the trustees regularly met in six Board meetings, four Personnel Sub-Committee meetings and five meetings of the Finance Advisory Board.

It is important to acknowledge the time that trustees dedicate to their voluntary roles when considering the time spent on finance/governance, staff recruitment, event planning and managing financial payments. We have estimated this to be over 400 hours of voluntary input annually and based upon the national minimum wage this equates to £4884 of volunteer input.

During the year we saw two important changes to senior trustees. Firstly, the long-standing chair, Harsev Bains, was replaced by Jags Sanghera and secondly our treasurer, Ravi Jain, was due to be replaced by James Jerald. Our special thanks to both Harsev and Ravi for their hard work over many years and their great commitment to SCA.

A staff and trustee away day was arranged in January 2025 to scope new ideas, emerging trends and identifying future work priorities for the organisation.

Highlights of the Year

14 Key projects

15K+ Residents served

25+ Partnerships

Finance

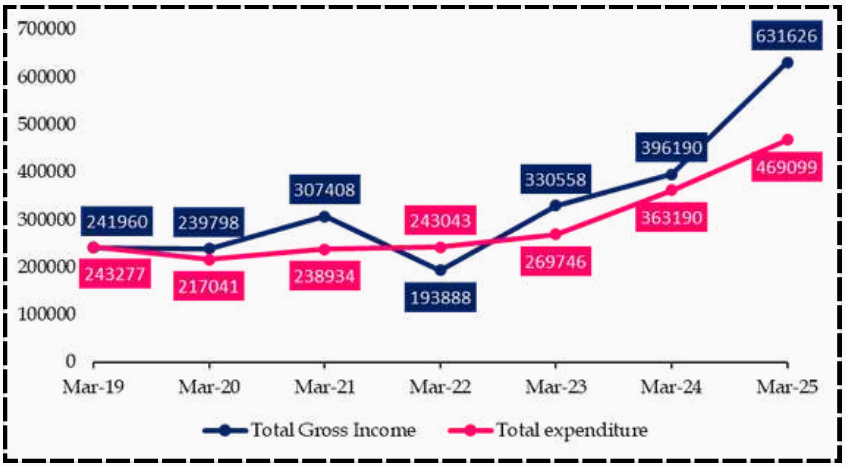
As a charity, SCA's main income is derived from grants, the majority of which are provided for a specific or restricted purpose. Following a few lean years, we have now witnessed a steady increase in our income and work over the past two years. Our grant-based income in 2024/25 reached approximately £630K, our highest ever level. In addition to increasing overall organisational income, we also managed to replenish our unrestricted reserves during this financial period.

During the year, we had 14 funders, including: 4in10, Baring Foundation, BIHR, Cadent, City Bridge Foundation, Genomics England, Global Action Plan, Heathrow Community Trust, Imperial Charity, Institute of Development Studies, John Lyon's Charity, London Borough of Ealing, and Trust for London.

We offer our thanks to all our funders for their wonderful support and also to Ravi Jain and James Jerald, our Treasurer and Deputy, for their ongoing oversight and scrutiny.

Community Forums

Our monthly community forum meetings continue to provide an opportunity to learn about and influence local developments. In the absence of other regular engagement opportunities in Southall, this is an important platform and during the year covered numerous issues.



The frequency of meetings and the variety of topics raised confirms how SCA has acted as a unifying voice on local issues for years. This is a timely realisation particularly as poverty levels have increased, alongside resident anxieties about the impacts of regeneration and large-scale housing led development in Southall.

During the year:

- Nine community forum meetings arranged during the year
- 179 people attended the community forum meetings
- Issues covered in these meetings included policing and community safety, human rights in Southall, Ealing transport strategy, Save Ealing Children's Centres Campaign, Ealing Race Equality Tribunal etc.

SCA PROJECT REPORT

Safer Southall

Funder: Cadent Gas

Cadent
Your Gas Network

Project Lead: Amelia Sarmouk & Ishita Agarwal (former Community Energy Adviser)

Focus Areas: Gas Safety & Energy Efficiency

‘Safer Southall’ project aims to raise awareness on the issues of Gas Safety and Energy Efficiency in Southall. The project seeks to establish ‘Centres for Warmth’ around Southall alongside outreach into community hubs. Both aim to provide support for the most vulnerable residents by equipping them with better knowledge about Carbon Monoxide (CO) dangers within their homes and providing support, information and further resources for savings on energy bills, particularly with the current rising gas costs. Resources including FREE CO alarms, leaflets and saving tips will be distributed alongside other means via outreach.

Key Activities:

Energy and Gas Safety Stalls at Community Events:

- Outdoor Theatre Event (February 20, 2025) - Reached 500+ residents through partnership with Punjabi Theatre Academy
- Gas Safety Stall at Southall Town Hall during Eid celebrations (March 31, 2025)
- Sports & Cultural Events including Cricket Dhamaka and Sports Day with direct community engagement

Educational Workshops:

- Delivered energy awareness sessions at St. George's Church, Voice of Women, and Mahila Sabha
- Created comprehensive presentations covering CO awareness, energy efficiency, and Priority Services Register (PSR)
- Provided on-site PSR registration support and office consultations during working hours

Resource Distribution:

- Distributed information packs to 30 local organisations, including leaflets on gas safety, PSR services, energy efficiency, and cost-of-living support

500+ ↗
CO Awareness Leaflets

485 ↗
Energy Efficiency Leaflets

393 ↗
PSR Information Leaflets

299 ↗
PSR Conversations

Equity in Genomic Research

09

Funder: Genomics England

Project Lead: Niharika Batra and Janpal Basran

Focus Areas: Health Inequalities

Genomics England funded SCA to organise two full-day community workshops on “Diversity in Genomic Research.” Trupti Patel and Bemnet Teferi from Genomics England were the main facilitators and SCA staff co-facilitated these workshops. The workshops focused on four main themes: Engagement Practices, Consent Practices, Research Governance, and Industry and International Partnerships. The participants took a keen interest in understanding how their data would be used and stored, and the safety around their data. Genomics England invited SCA to appear on their podcast to share insights on ensuring equitable access to genomic medicine.

Key Community Insights:

Cultural Motivations:

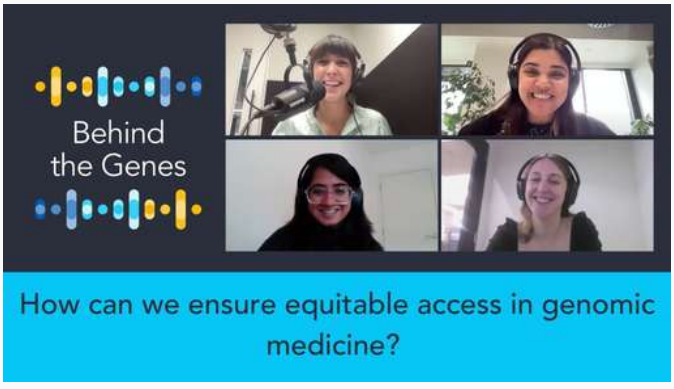
- Participants showed strong motivation to contribute when research was framed through cultural concepts like "seva" (service) and collective community benefit

Trust & Consent Concerns:

- Historical trauma: Fears about eugenics and colonial exploitation of communities
- Power dynamics: Concerns about consent processes during vulnerable moments (terminal illness, new parenthood)

Preferred Approaches:

- Pharmacogenomics favored over gene-editing due to concerns about "playing god"
- Co-productive research models preferred over tokenistic consultation



"The equity in genomic research workshops were quite enlightening. The facilitators comprehensively explained not only the basics and utility of genomic research but also demonstrated institutional transparency and a desire to positively involve members of the target communities by identifying their concerns. I hope this helps shape future decision-making and organisational governance with a participatory process."

- Dr Shahzad Nayani, Workshop Participant,

22 ↗

Community Voices Directly Influencing Genomics England’s Governance and Engagement Framework

Community Action Southall

Funder: City Bridge Foundation

Project Lead: Kamaljeet Sembhi

Focus Areas: Anti-Poverty Initiative

'Community Action Southall' is an anti-poverty project that aims to support local communities in Southall by addressing poverty through practical support, community empowerment, and collaboration. Key target groups included low-income families, women, elderly individuals, and youth. The project also focuses on digital inclusion, access to benefits and universal credit, cultural activities, and networking.

Key Activities:

London Challenge Poverty Week

Southall Community Alliance hosted an intensive five-day programme bringing together local organisations, voluntary groups, service users, and local authority representatives for collaborative poverty reduction strategy.

Daily Themes:

- Adequate Income (Social Security and Work)
- Housing and Homelessness
- Physical and Mental Health
- Poverty, Dignity, and Discrimination
- Poverty and Climate Change

Other Events:

- Co-facilitated Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Awareness Workshop with Imperial College NHS Trust at Jasmine Community Centre
- Supported with outreach for Voter Registration Awareness Workshop organised by the Race Equality Foundation

"I didn't know how to fill out online forms before. Now I can check my Universal Credit and even help my neighbour. Thank you for your patient support."
- Mrs. Bainti Bansal, Southall Resident

25-30 ↗

Participants Attended London Challenge Poverty Week Each Day

Human Rights Outreach & Protection Endeavour

Funder: The Baring Foundation and City Bridge Foundation

Project Lead: Clara Kraebber

Focus Areas: Human Rights

Key Partners: British Institute of Human Rights, Southall Black Sisters, IWA (GB), Asian Community Concern, Young Ealing Foundation, Contact Ealing

Through the Human Rights project, SCA aims to raise awareness among SCA staff and trustees, voluntary sector workers, and Southall residents about human rights issues and empower them to advocate for their rights. SCA will lead a human rights coalition in Southall by partnering with organisations already working on addressing various human rights issues including gender-based violence, modern slavery and exploitation at workplace, disability rights and children's rights. Through workshops, training sessions, and community events, this project will enhance understanding of human rights and provide information on available legal support for addressing human rights violations.

Key Activities:

Human Rights Corner - Outdoor Outreach

- Set up during an outdoor art event by SCA staff and BIHR's Charlotte to understand local human rights issues
- Over 30 Southall residents discussed housing, healthcare, employment, and statutory service experiences

BIHR Training Sessions

- Workshop for SCA staff and trustees significantly improved human rights understanding
- Community forum attended by 27 members, delivered by BIHR CEO Sanchita Hosali

Campaign Strategy Workshop

- Focussed on using human rights-based approaches in community campaigns
- Enabled strategy discussions for children's centre closure prevention campaign

Human Rights Coalition

- SCA is establishing a coalition co-chaired by organisations working on gender-based violence, workers' rights, disability rights, and children's rights

50+

Residents and VCS Staff Received Human Rights Act Training

Stronger Voices

Funder: Trust for London

Project Lead: Niharika Batra

Focus Areas: Community Campaigning and Community Asset Management

Community Partners: Samafal Community Association and Indian Workers Association (GB)

Training Partners: Sheila McKechnie Foundation and The Equality Trust

Stronger Voice project aims at building capacity of community organisations and residents to develop effective community campaigns to save and preserve community assets and build skills within the voluntary sector to successfully manage community buildings and assets.

Workshops Delivered:

Rights of Residents and Voluntary Sector

- 6 out of 11 participants learned about Equality Act 2010 for the first time
- Understanding of socio-economic inequalities improved from "no understanding" to "good understanding"
- Learning about saving Southall Town Hall campaign sparked future participation commitment

Introduction to Campaigning & Social Change

- Participants designed personalized social change grids for issues they wanted to tackle

Community Organising & Local Influencing

- Participants developed strategic thinking about resource allocation and influence mapping

Creative Communities - Outdoor Workshop

- Participants reflected on the importance of secular and safe community spaces

Socio-Economic Duty of the Council

- Training delivered to decision-makers and policy implementers

5 ↗

Workshops on Organising Successful Campaigns

37 ↗

Residents and VCS Staff Attended the Workshops

"The social change grid gave me clarity on what activities are suitable for each institution or group and how designing a social change grid can enable us to campaign successfully."

- Shivani Chaudhary, Workshop Participant

Household Support Grant

Funder: London Borough of Ealing

www.ealing.gov.uk

Project Lead: Janpal Basran, Yomna Abdelgawad

Focus Areas: Cost of Living Support

As a result of increasing cost-of-living pressures upon households, Ealing Council supported SCA and other voluntary groups through their Household Support Fund.

This funding enabled us to work with schools and provide food deliveries, and make direct financial payments to families in need. By working with a number of schools, we ensured that the funds were allocated to the widest geographical area possible and that they helped families in the most acute need.

Many thanks to our trustees, Ravi, T.P. Singh, and Harsev, for their patience and perseverance in making the many payments required. We must also thank Sira Cash & Carry from Hayes for their help in making the food deliveries.

Key Activities:

- Support delivered at 14 different schools
- Food deliveries and direct financial payments
- Wide geographical coverage ensuring help for families in acute need

Schools Supported: Featherstone High, Villiers High, Greenford High, Dormers Wells High, Khalsa Primary, Clifton Primary, Featherstone Primary, Dairy Meadow Primary, Havelock Primary, Durdans Park Primary

817 ↗

Families with Children Supported During the Year

Southall Street Mela

Funder: London Borough of Ealing (Mayor of London's UK Shared Prosperity Fund)

Ealing
www.ealing.gov.uk

Project Lead: Niharika Batra

Focus Areas: Art & Culture, Community Connections

SCA organised an outdoor street event at Southall Manor House providing free arts and craft activities to enhance pride in Southall, support local businesses, and provide skills development opportunities. Art and craft activities for young children and families were led by Mahenderpal Sorya with the students from the University of Arts London.

600+

Young People and Their Families Attended the Southall Street Mela

Key Activities:

- Art and craft activities for young children and families
- Caribbean steel band performance
- Karaoke with classic Hindi songs
- Community engagement outside Southall Manor House

Project Aims:

- Build and enhance a sense of pride and belonging in Southall
- Support local businesses
- Provide opportunities for people to develop their skills

Plant to Plate

Funder: Imperial Health Charity

Project Lead: Janpal Basran

Focus Areas: Climate Action, Mental & Physical Health, Healing Justice

The ‘Plant to Plate’ project was funded by Imperial Health Charity and sought to connect women with nature and learning how to grow food. Many of them learned how to grow from seed and small plant plugs and helped with the maintenance of our Urban Garden, regularly watering and nurturing the plants they had grown. During the year, we began to harvest some crops, including cucumbers, marrows, vegetable gourd, chillies, herbs, tomatoes, and aubergines.
By increasing awareness of the potential of using green spaces to activate resident involvement, we achieved a key outcome through this work. We hope to expand the teaching of food planting and growing skills to women in future.

Key Activities:

- 27 food growing sessions involving women and children
- Arranged innovative healthy cooking courses with Featherstone Primary School
- Produced and circulated a wonderful educational film about the food-growing work

Generation Art & Outdoor Art Events

Funder: People's Health Trust

Project Lead: Janpal Basran

Focus Areas: Art & Culture, Community Connections

The People's Health Trust have funded us for a two-year project that focuses on using art and creative activities to connect residents, especially young people, and improve community interaction. In this respect, we had a very successful year with some amazingly creative street events and art sessions involving families and children.

Key Activities:

- Five street-based art zone events with themes including Life's a Beach and Soulful Southall
- Community Sports Day at Spikes Bridge Park, combining art and health activities
- Weekly 'Generation Art' classes at Southall Town Hall

Our kids love coming to the art events outside Southall Town Hall. Every time they come here, they leave with colourful badges, jewellery, caps, and an ear-to-ear grin. Thanks to you guys for doing these activities for kids.

- Parent of A Young Child

5 ↗
Outdoor Art Events

7 ↗
Art Classes for Young Children

1000+ ↗
Young People and Their Families Attended Art Events and Classes

Southall Connect

Funder: London Borough of Ealing

Project Lead: Janpal Basran, Yomna Abdelgawad, Niharika Batra

Focus Areas: Community Connections & Social Isolation

‘Southall Connect’ is our four-year project, funded by Ealing Council, aimed at reducing social isolation and improving community connections in Southall. As we entered the third year of work, our four main priority aims have remained constant:

- Strengthening and connecting communities
- Increased activity and independence
- Reduce social isolation
- Improving health and well-being

Our work during the year involved 11 other organisations:
London Tigers, Havelock Family Centre, Mahila Sabha, British Keralites Association, Southall Day Centre, GOSAD, Lancaster Estate Residents Association, Voice of Women, Horn of Africa Disability Elderly Association, Mael Gael, and Contact Ealing.

Key Activities:

- Providing health improvement advice and advocacy support
- Socialising activities for elderly residents
- Parenting skills training and workshops
- Arranging our monthly community forum meetings
- Keep fit activities for a range of residents and abilities
- Celebration of faith and cultural festivals
- Annual Community Sports Day

60+ ↗
Sessional Activities for Residents Weekly

7000+ ↗
Users Annually (95% from BAME Backgrounds)

Young Voices

Funder: John Lyon's Charity

Project Lead: Janpal Basran, Niharika Batra
Focus Areas: Local History & Anti-Racist Education

In the second year of the 'Young Voices' project, we continued our groundbreaking work with Southall school children to promote local history. Our aim was always to create a sense of pride in Southall by enabling the children to produce artworks that helped them understand local history and anti-racist activism from the 1970s.

Key Activities:

- History talks with arts activities at local schools
- Created short film ***'Young Voices'*** capturing school work
- Essay writing competition across 3 primary schools
- Southall Resists Exhibition (April 23, 2024)

Notable Achievement:
10 silk paintings by students were borrowed by Pitzhanger Manor Art Gallery and Gunnersbury Park Museum for display

Schools Involved:

- Greenford High, Villiers High, Featherstone High, Khalsa Primary, Tudor Primary, Hambrough Primary, Blair Peach Primary, Three Bridges Primary, Durdans Park, Lady Margaret Schools, Dairy Meadow Primary, Havelock Primary, St Marys, Dormers Wells Infant & Junior

18 ↗
History Talks

1000+ ↗
From Years 5-9 at 14 Schools Learnt About Southall's History

500+ ↗
Attendees at Southall Resists Exhibition in 2024

Many thanks to Mahenderpal Sorya for his wonderful creativity and Suresh Grover for his help in engaging school children about local history.

Anchor Programme

Funder: City Bridge Foundation

CITY BRIDGE FOUNDATION

Project Lead: Janpal Basran

Focus Areas: Long-Term Core Funding & Organisational Capacity

One of the big challenges for many grants funded charities is the short-term nature of most funding. As an organisation that is reliant upon grants, it has always been problematic that many grants were either for 1-2 years or for new project work.

We were therefore delighted when our application to the City Bridge Foundation's Anchor Fund was approved, providing us with funding over 8 years. This provided a contribution towards our core staff costs and a measure of financial security for the charity.

City Bridge Foundation sought to provide long-term, core funding to second-tier organisations that provide support to frontline groups and were addressing the marginalisation and discrimination experienced by those with intersecting identities.

Anticipated Outcomes:

- 8 years of financial stability and reassurance
- Improved organisational capacity to help other groups
- Increased collaborative practice across the sector
- Stronger partnerships with smaller organisations

Key Activities:

International Women's Day Celebration and Panel Discussion

- Static IWD march and outdoor event at Southall Town Hall with 400+ attendees, including residents, councillors, council staff, and Ealing Southall MP
- Panel discussion on "Countering Backlash Against Women's Rights Globally and Locally" with women's organisation representatives

Fundraising Workshop

- Workshop and 1-on-1 advice sessions on writing successful bids delivered by National Lottery Community Fund Grants Manager

Caretaker's Cottage

Funder: John Lyon's Charity

Project Lead: Janpal Basran (Temporary)
Focus Areas: Children's Mental Health
Key Partners: Dormers Wells Learning Trust (DWLT), MIND

The Caretaker's cottage is a new project for developing a mental health support hub in the heart of Southall. The project has been created to turn an old building on the grounds of Dormers Wells Primary School into a welcoming space for children between 5 and 12 years old and their families. It is a partnership between Dormers Wells Learning Trust, the SCA, and Mind. Three organisations are working together to develop a long-term partnership and collaboration in developing a culturally sensitive approach to providing mental health support services in the community. We will be able to provide support for children between 5 and 12 years old, Monday to Friday, anticipating helping 100+ families in the course of its length.
The project is in its early stages, but we aim to develop it in a way that allows us to extend the service to young adults and support older children and their families, in two years' time.
In this partnership, SCA aims to be the community pillar, providing further outreach to mental health services and information for parents. We aim to make connections with the Southall community, linking our vulnerable people to external non-clinical interventions and support already existing in the community.

Key Activities:

- Recruited a part-time Well-Being Outreach Worker
- Developing a community outreach delivery model

The Caretaker's Cottage

Health Determinants Research Collaboration

Funder: National Institute for Health and Care Research

NIHR | National Institute for Health and Care Research

Project Lead: Janpal Basran, Yomna Abdelgawad, Niharika Batra

Focus Areas: Community-Led Health Research

The Ealing Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC) in Ealing is a 5-year research programme funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) to improve health outcomes in Ealing. At the heart of the programme is community-led research to address health inequities.

SCA was one of a number of community partners involved in developing a model of community research that can be applied in the future. In its first phase, resident community researchers were recruited and received training to undertake research activities broadly related to health in their local communities. In the second phase, the community researchers will work together and with other local agencies to implement plans aimed at improving community health outcomes.

Towards the end of the year, a recruitment drive took place to attract resident community researchers, and after a careful process, approximately 28 researchers were selected.

SCA was offered the opportunity to retain these individuals, short of employing them, and by the close of the year, we had taken on 27 researchers, with the responsibility of paying them.

23 ↗

Community Researchers Trained

Southall Community Awards

Sponsored By: Punjab National Bank, Rehncy Shaheen Chartered Accountants, AN&, Pushpalata Dance Troupe, Cadent Gas, Mehak Travel Club
Supported By: Indian Workers Association (GB) & Featherstone High School

We arranged our third annual Southall Community Awards evening at Featherstone High School. Building on the work of the previous years, we wanted to celebrate the work and role of community volunteers in Southall.

Award Categories:

- Southall's Best
- Young Southall
- Team of the Year
- Community Business
- Leadership and Inspiration

Award Recipients:
Kuldip Gill, Zarifa Mohammed, Rayjolina Vales, Mandie Wilde, Navin Narayan, Cllr Surinder Jassal, Johan Mariyathas, Southall Transition, Jasmine Community Centre, IKB Eventworks, The Green Quarter

Key Contributors:

- ***Organising Trustees:*** James Jerald, Harsev Bains, Ravi Jain, Jaskaran Singh, T.P. Singh, Sarabjit Bhachu, Jags Sanghera
- ***Volunteers from Featherstone High School***
- ***Surinder Kenth*** for food and catering arrangements

2024–25 Funders

Some of Our Partners During the Year

Some Other Partners:

Dormers Wells Learning Trust

Mahila Sabha

Samafal Community Association

SCA Staff

Janpal Basran

Director

Joining Southall Community Alliance in April 2003 as Network and Community Development Manager, Janpal initially focused on resource support and capacity building. He has since helped make the organisation financially sustainable while developing projects addressing local needs, including initiatives on female genital mutilation, park redevelopment, food hub establishment, poverty alleviation, anti-racist education, and health programs. This work has established SCA as an important local voice for Southall.

Janpal enjoys reading, gardening and badminton in his spare time.

Niharika Batra

Community Projects Manager

Niharika Batra joined Southall Community Alliance in December 2023 and since then has gained experience in project design, fundraising, community engagement, and multi-stakeholder collaboration. With a master's in Gender and Development from the University of Sussex, she has over three years of experience advancing gender equality and social justice. Niharika previously worked with organisations like UNDP India and with Foundation of Women's Health Research and Development. She is passionate about working with young women, girls, and diverse communities to challenge harmful gender norms.

In her spare time, Niharika enjoys swimming.

Clara Kraebber

Human Rights Officer

Clara joined Southall Community Alliance in January 2025 after completing her MPhil in History from the University of Cambridge. She is leading the human rights project at SCA that aims at empowering communities to speak out against human rights abuses, increasing human rights knowledge among residents, organisations and public authorities through free workshops and establishing a Southall Human Rights Network.

Previously, she has worked for The American Civil Liberties Union of Texas and The Bail Project. She is also currently working part-time at the Howard League for Penal Reform.

Clara enjoys writing short stories and spending time in the sun.

SCA Staff

Yomna Abdelgawad

Office Manager

Yomna is the Office Manager at Southall Community Alliance, dedicated to ensuring smooth operations that allow the team to focus on making a positive community impact. She handles administrative coordination, resource management and office organisation, creating a supportive environment for staff and volunteers.

Since joining SCA in September 2022, Yomna has been passionate about serving the diverse communities and creating systems that enable SCA to focus on its core mission of connecting and inspiring communities.

Kamaljeet Sembhi

Anti-Poverty Support Officer

Kamaljeet has been working at Southall Community Alliance since June 2022, building relationships with local community groups and empowering voluntary sector organisations by securing resources and training while addressing language barriers and digital exclusion.

She brought London Challenge Poverty Week events to Southall and secured sports training for young people. Kamaljeet is also a radio presenter, Community Cricket coach, and sports participation ambassador for women, girls and children. She represented Southall at the Newgen Festival in 2023 and 2024.

Amelia Sarmouk

Community Energy Adviser

Amelia joined SCA in January as Community Energy Adviser, committed to serving the local communities. Her role involves partnership with Cadent to enhance gas safety and energy efficiency for vulnerable households. Having studied Politics and International Relations, her political background helps her grasp policies and schemes that give voice to communities.

Her extensive voluntary sector experience, including work at New Routes Refugee charity and volunteering at Kings College Hospital A&E, provided strong public and community engagement skills.

Amelia enjoys journal-style writing, having published two university articles and interviewed prominent politicians. She also enjoys yoga, swimming and hiking in the Highlands.

SCA Staff

Marta Patrício Álvares

Well-Being Outreach Worker

Marta joined SCA in June 2025 as part of the new project for developing a service of early mental health intervention, caring for the well-being of children and their families in our local community. Marta has worked in education, early years, and children's media. She has a degree in drama and in psychodynamics of human development. She has the ambition of becoming a child psychotherapist, using art and drama in her practice.

In her spare time, Marta likes to go swimming or to go to spoken word and comedy events.

Ishita Agarwal

Former Community Energy Adviser

Ishita worked with SCA from May to November 2024 as the Community Energy Adviser, leading the Safer Southall project on energy efficiency and gas safety. She is now with UNICEF UK.

Originally from India, Ishita holds a Master's in Development Studies and an undergraduate degree in Literature. Her interests focus on sustainable development, community building, and addressing power inequalities. She has research experience with NGOs across India on education, women's rights, and youth empowerment projects.

Outside of work, she enjoys reading postcolonial literature, knitting, and pop culture.

Board of Trustees

Jags Sanghera, Chair

Harsev Bains, Vice Chair

Ravi Jain, Treasurer

Ahmed Mohamed

Jaskaran Singh

James Jerald

Sarabjit Bhachu

Tajinder Paul Singh

SCA Members

A Rocha

Apna Youth

BEfriend

British Keralites Association

Contact Family

Ealing Trades Union Council

Golden Opportunity Skills and Development

Gunnersbury Park Museum

Havelock Family Centre

Heartlink - Ealing Hospital - Heart Support Group

Helplink

Horn of Africa Disability Elderly Association (HADEA)

Indian Workers Association (GB)

Lancaster Estate Residents Association

London Tigers

Mael Gael Multicultural Community Project

Mahila Sabha

Open Southall

Punjabi Theatre Academy

Refugees in Effective & Active Partnership (REAP)

Samafal Community Association

Somali Women's Empowerment & Organising Services

Southall Black Sisters

Southall Day Centre

Southall Self Defence Club+Life

The Ealing Parks Foundation

Voice of Dalit

Voice of Women

West London Asian Society

Women Empowered

Young Ealing Foundation

Become Our Member

SCA encourages new community organisations to become members of our network and benefit from:

- Help to set up and develop your community organisation
- Networking and partnership opportunities
- Support with fundraising to sustain community groups
- Use of our resource centre and hot desks
- Joint working on events and activities that engage our diverse communities
- Receipt of our quarterly newsletters and e-updates
- Contribute towards being a ‘voice’ for Southall

Interested organisations can download the application form from our website and send the completed form to office@southallcommunityalliance.

Please note, all applications are vetted carefully by SCA trustees before they are onboarded as SCA members.

Financial Statements

The year ending 31 March 2025 saw exceptional financial performance with total income of £631,626 compared to £396,513 in 2024. This 59% increase reflects successful grant applications from major funders including the Baring Foundation, City Bridge Foundation, and Trust for London, who have acknowledged the evolving landscape and needs of the communities in London.

Income Statements

£631,626 ↗
Income

£469,099 ↗
Expenses

£274,934 ↗
Restricted Funds

Balance Sheet

£344,981 ↗
Assets

£39,313 ↗
Liabilities

£33,297 ↗
Unrestricted Funds

Notes:

1. The assets include Debtors and Cash at Bank and in Hand
2. SCA's substantial restricted reserves of £274,934 represent committed funding from various grant providers that will be carried forward to the next financial year to deliver specific project activities

Future Outlook

As we look ahead, SCA is committed to strengthening our impact and expanding our reach within Southall's diverse communities. Building on over 40 years of trusted service, we are embarking on an exciting phase of strategic growth and innovation.

Our focus this year centres on creating **“Destination Southall”** - a thriving, inclusive community where residents, businesses, and visitors can flourish together. This ambitious vision will guide our work across all areas.

Priorities for Coming Year:

- Recruiting up to 7 new trustees with specialised expertise in fundraising, policy advocacy, and community engagement
- Launching Destination Southall initiative
  - Establishing four thematic forums bringing together businesses, arts & culture groups, youth & schools, and health organisations
- Rebuilding unrestricted reserves through diversified income streams
- Growing SCA’s membership base from 30 to reflect Southall’s diverse communities

With strengthened governance, expanded partnerships, and innovative approaches, SCA is positioned to make an even greater impact in addressing Southall's challenges whilst celebrating its remarkable diversity and heritage. Our commitment to bringing communities together remains at the heart of everything we do as we work towards making Southall a truly inclusive destination for all.

Contact Us

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