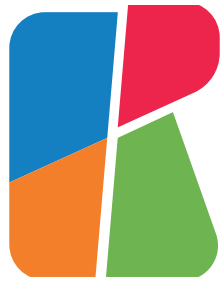


We are a  
**Living Wage**  
Employer



**Barlow Moor** BMCA LTD.  
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

# IMPACT REPORT 2022-2023



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# BMCA CHAIR'S REPORT



It is with great pleasure and pride that I introduce the Barlow Moor Community Association Impact Report for 2022/2023.

It has been another challenging but exciting and successful year and it's uplifting to read this report and hear about the amazing things BMCA has done and the real difference our services and support have made to people.

During 2022/23 we have faced a new challenge in the cost-of-living crisis which has had such a detrimental impact on our service users, local residents and on the Voluntary and Community Sector.

Staff at BMCA immediately stepped up and in June 2022 set up the local Cost of Living Partnership – a trail blazer for the city. It brought together schools, foodbanks, housing, health services, councillors and council officers to work together and plan ways of meeting the challenges facing residents. I'm really proud of this work and it has cemented BMCA as a key provider and partner locally and across the city and most importantly supported many people struggling with increased costs.

Another highlight of 2022 was Merseyfest (it's always my favourite)! Bigger and better and more vibrant than ever. Hundreds of local residents attended to enjoy each other's company, music, and food and a wide range of activities and fun on the playing fields. We enjoyed some lovely

get-togethers and playing out days to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee during the summer and our brilliant Christmas festivities were popular as always!

BMCA's day-to-day support for local people is second to none; well-being support, benefit advice, helping people get back into work and achieve qualifications can have a huge impact.

We know that children and young people suffered greatly during the Covid pandemic and missed out on many opportunities. BMCA was a constant source of support throughout that time and continues to play its role in providing many opportunities for local children to have new experiences, make friends and grow in confidence.

All of these activities and events at the centre would not be possible without our fantastic volunteers who help to staff them. We genuinely appreciate their time and input. A small group of volunteers were able to attend a thank you afternoon tea with

the Lord Mayor of Manchester arranged by local councillors. BMCA also holds an annual event to say Thank You.

Barlow Moor Community Association continues to gain respect for its work around the city and we always welcome the chance to work collaboratively with other organisations to improve the quality of life, aspirations, life chances and enjoyment of our local resident – they are at the forefront of everything we do.

A final thank you to the brilliant, talented and dedicated staff team at BMCA, our hard working Board and all our funders and partners without whom we would not be able to do the things we do. And to all our service users who make BMCA the fantastic community-focused, vibrant and welcoming place that it is.

Councillor  
**Joanna Midgley**  
**Chair of BMCA**

# VOLUNTEERS

Volunteering allows us to make the most of community strengths, resulting not only in better provision, but in a more confident, skilled and empowered community. Exercising skills, knowledge and interests through volunteering leads to a massive boost in confidence, self esteem, and general wellbeing, providing the motivation to pursue aspirations. We often find that people who come to BMCA to volunteer also access our other services such as wellbeing provision and complete qualifications in our learning hub. This shows how volunteering can be the start of a positive cycle of change, helping people to integrate in their community, make new friends, and undergo massive personal development. Volunteers who leave us with new found skills, qualifications and confidence are in a much better position to navigate future life difficulties, and this can prevent issues such as poverty, poor mental health, and social isolation escalating for them in the future.

  
**95**  
ACTIVE  
VOLUNTEERS  
*79 plus 7 Board  
members*

  
**19**  
YOUNG  
VOLUNTEERS

  
**4459.5**  
VOLUNTEER  
HOURS

  
**£61,095.15**  
SOCIAL VALUE

'I began volunteering at the centre initially to gain some confidence for returning to work after having time off to care for my child and ill partner. I quickly found it to be way more rewarding than I ever expected it to be. It did give me a confidence boost, but it also gave me a sense of purpose. I found the work to be very fulfilling. It felt really good to be involved in something that makes a real difference to people in the community and it definitely helped me focus on where my strengths lie, and which direction I would like to take my working life. You can feel the sense of community here. I've met some really lovely people, and the staff here are really warm, friendly and supportive. They immediately make you feel part of the team and help you in any way they can. My social skills and self esteem have definitely grown as a result

of being here, and it has all helped me gain the confidence to apply for jobs, be successful in interviews and find work. After being unemployed for 7 years it really strengthened my interviews to say I had been volunteering. This makes a massive difference to employers. I've gained valuable experience and it also provided me with references that prospective employers require you to have to start work with them, so that's all been very helpful for getting back out into work. I've now been taken on by 3 different recruitment agencies. I've made some really positive connections with the community and I will feel really sad when the time comes to leave. I am very grateful for my time at the centre and I would recommend the experience to anyone.'

*"Thank you so much for such an amazing experience, and being so friendly, kind and welcoming. I have a lot of respect for everything you do for the community. You are all incredible people who are such an inspiration to the world.*

*P.S. I'd like to confirm that what you say is true... I don't want to leave! Thank you for everything!"*

# VOLUNTEER JOURNEY

After a long period of unemployment due to a redundancy and health issues, H first came to BMCA for an appointment with BeWell. They had been feeling isolated and wanted to get back out in the community and engage with the activities they enjoy art, socialising and being active. They liked the atmosphere of the community centre so enquired about volunteering opportunities, and started working in the library 2 hours a week.

They found that being at the centre really gave them a boost it felt good to have a purpose, and be in an environment where they could meet new people, chat with and help library users. With the encouragement of staff, they accessed several courses such as Food Hygiene, Introduction to Volunteering, and Defibrillator Training. They really enjoyed having the opportunity to learn something new, and gain life skills- being mentally active again led to a boost in self esteem and overall wellbeing.

They decided to take on additional volunteering in Men's Den. As a very social person this was a perfect fit, so it was rewarding to be able to meet new people and see how these groups improve peoples quality of life. As they made more connections in the community, they started to engage with more activities as a service user, attending yoga, craft group and self defence classes. Being disabled, they saw huge benefits to their physical health from being more active, as well a boost in mental health from being

less isolated. They were now attending the community centre 3 days a week, and joked that they may as well live here! During a volunteer meeting, they expressed that they would love to lead on a more creative project with BMCA. Working with the volunteer coordinator, they decided on making a banner for the Queens Jubilee with the young people in Senior Youth, that could be displayed at BMCA events throughout the summer. The banner was beautifully designed and painted, and received many compliments at Merseyfest!

When a vacancy came up at BMCA, H was immediately excited as it seemed like the perfect role for them. They applied for the job, quickly secured an interview and started work the next week! Since working here they have not only built on and contributed to peoples positive experiences at the community centre, but have further developed our provision to offer new sessions in line with what people have asked for. This ensures we are adapting to the changing needs of



our community, and makes H's job more rewarding and enjoyable- H can often be heard saying 'I have the best job in the world!'.

## IMPACT

- Gained full time employment
- Developed skills and knowledge
- Increased self-esteem and confidence
- Social interaction
- New friends
- Own sense of achievement
- A valued member of the volunteer team
- Improved mental health & wellbeing

# SOCIAL ACTION

## UPCYCLING EVENT

**In April our 'Upcycle' event returned for a second year, with the local community coming to BMCA to enjoy a car boot sale, preloved sale, a maker's market, food and playing out.**

In the weeks before we collected plastic bottles and cardboard tubes so that 2 of our volunteers could run a sustainability focused workshop making musical instruments, showing us that we can make household waste into something new and fun! The food was prepared by our senior youth in partnership with Groundwork, cooking a delicious jack-fruit curry to end a 6 week course around low carbon footprint meals. This event was a great way for us to see low carbon solutions that are also enjoyable, practical and low cost, all while bringing the community together to reduce social isolation and loneliness.



## DIVERSITY DAY

**In October we delivered a 'Diversity Day' to celebrate Black History Month.**

The youth team held a playing out day, and a local volunteer cooked a delicious Jamaican inspired meal; jerk chicken, rice and peas, coleslaw and a bean stew. Recipe sheets were available for people to recreate this meal at home. In this weeks 'Music for Mind-fulness', our music volunteer planned and delivered a themed session focusing on Motown music and its connection to the civil rights movement. This day of intergenerational socialising was a great way to celebrate diversity in our community.



## VACCINE CHAMPIONS PROJECT

**Last December, our volunteers braved the cold to spread the word about the winter COVID vaccination programme, after attending a training session with NHS nurses.**

This resulted in an amazing 60 vaccines being delivered in the local area, including a local house-bound patient. Thanks to their efforts we have a better protected and informed community!

*'I didn't find it challenging as the training taught me only to do what I am comfortable with.'*



## GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

**This March, BMCA pledged to help #KeepBritainTidy, a national campaign to get our streets and green spaces free from litter.**

Adult volunteers teamed up with our nursery children for a morning of intergenerational community action, developing our children's awareness of how important it is to look after the environment in our local area and beyond. Since then we have started a BMCA Social Action Group, who work together to identify important issues that affect them and the wider community, and work on solutions that improve residents overall quality of life.

## MANCHESTER DAY PARADE

This year it was extra important for our young people to take part in the Manchester Day Parade as the theme "Our Year"; chosen to honour all things Mancunian was a salute to Manchester's young people and children and how they make Manchester one of the most iconic cities.

Our group of young people worked closely with an artist during sessions, planning and coming up with ideas based around the theme "home sweet home". Within this theme we were to think about what home means to us and come up with ideas to celebrate our community. The young people worked together to create and design large hands to showcase at the parade. The hands represented the helping hands of our community and were decorated with hearts to show the love we have for one another.



## MEROS WORLD BLEED CABINET EVENT: Where we unveiled our newly installed 'Bleed Cabinet' in collaboration with the Meros World foundation.

The bleed cabinet is a lifesaving piece of equipment for knife crime related emergencies and this event not only announced its installation, but it raised money for a charitable cause and helped us raise awareness on the issue of knife crime and furthers the work the young people have done around knife crime with 'fighting chance communities'.

# POSITIVE CHANGE

## HOUSING CASE STUDY

**Person A was referred to BMCA Adult Services internally for support.**

Over the past couple of years, we have supported this individual by applying for Universal Credit, updating their Manchester Move application and ensuring they are able to apply for social housing. Through this support the individual has not only been receiving benefits on a regular basis to be able to provide for their family but has been accepted and in the process of moving into their own house. The impact this has had on the individual has enabled them to have their own safe space, independence and a place to call home.

Person A said *'Thank you so much for the help you have given me, I am so glad I have now got my own house.'*

## COMMUNITY TRAINING WITH EXTERNAL PARTNERS

**Working with external partners we have been able to provide basic first aid courses to both children and adults, also defib training for our volunteers and local community.**

These sessions have provided the community with life skills which has developed confidence and encouraged interaction and teamwork for those who accessed.

After receiving feedback from our volunteers, we have sourced training around manual handling. We have also continued to offer our range of accredited courses flexibly to meet the needs of local people.



## WELLBEING/CRISIS SUPPORT CASE STUDY

**Person B attended BMCA to use the library after wanting to access the computers. They had recently been discharged from mental health services, left with no food, unsuitable housing furniture/white goods and no money.**

Through an informal conversation with this service user in the library it became apparent that this individual needed a lot of support in different areas; food, housing and mental health.

BMCA worked with this individual on a one-to-one basis providing food parcels, exploring their benefit eligibility and supporting them to make the appropriate benefit claims. As part of their first initial advice and guidance appointment we discussed the wider work of the centre and sessions that may be of interest to them. Through this the individual began to access our Men's Den and Let's Cook project. Alongside this we have been able to up-skill the individual to speak to the housing provider to secure a permanent tenancy with his property. This individual has seen a massive improvement in their mental and physical wellbeing through accessing services on a daily basis and now have improved communication skills, confidence and self-esteem to face their daily challenges themselves while coming to BMCA for additional support.



Service user C says *"From realising I had serious issues regarding money, housing, food and loneliness, BMCA picked me up and gave me the support I needed meaning that I am still here today," he said.*

*He now accesses BMCA four times a week and supports the Music for Mindfulness group every Friday, 'helping people like BMCA helped me'. "BMCA is probably the one and only place that really understand the word community, they embrace lives and create relationships and friendships. Providing support from simply being fed, to developing skills and creating confidence.*

*"Every person who turns up walks out 100% more confident and independent knowing they are cared for and come back time and time again."*

## KICK START PROGRAMME

**In partnership with Southway Housing, we were able to offer a six-month work placement to two young people through the kick start programme.**

This was a huge success as they both quickly fitted into the centre and brought with them unique skills and knowledge. After the six-month programme we were able to offer them both roles within the adult services team. Elena and Elle have made a huge difference to the services that we provide and support so many local people.

## DIGITAL INCLUSION

**Continuing to work with our service users to ensure that they have the resources and skills to become more digitally included.**

By providing resources such as mobile phones, tablets and SIM cards which offer free calls and data through Vodaphone.

Our digital programmes have included working with service users to gain access to NHS services in a safe and secure way.

Our online courses continue to be popular and as well as assisting people to gain employment it also increases confidence in using digital resources.

## Training and developing our centre volunteers to enable them to support delivery with events and provision within the centre.

Service user A first came into the centre to enquire about volunteering, they were new to the area after coming from overseas with their partner's job. When talking to the staff they discussed that they were currently studying to take the English tests and found that they were struggling particularly with their spoken English. We suggested to them that they attend our English conversation café to develop this area.

They regularly attended the session at first as a participant but soon as a volunteer. They also became a regular volunteer in the library and joined in with the gardening project, making friends with other volunteers and service users.

Their own children also attended the centre using the library, joining the junior youth sessions and attending regularly during the summer play scheme. The whole family came along and enjoyed our yearly trip to Llandudno.

Service user A successfully passed the English test, their confidence grew along with the involvement in the centre. As they were keen to gain employment, they undertook a number of courses including Food safety, volunteering and a customer service course. They received one-to-one employability support with a CV and cover letter.

We were able to signpost service user A to a local recruitment fair as they had a particular interest in employment in the health and

social care sector. When they returned to the centre they shared the information they had and made a decision to apply to become a volunteer with the NHS as a way to improve their skills and knowledge, hopefully being able to apply for a role within this organisation further down the line.

Working together we supported service user A with the online application form, the interview and when offered the volunteer role the completion of a number of online course.

Service user A has started their volunteer role within the NHS and continues to volunteer here at BMCA in the library and community events, as a fantastic volunteer they are known by all for their welcoming manner, pleasant personality and time for everyone.

### IMPACT

Gained in confidence in own ability  
Spoken English has increased  
Purpose and routine for each day  
Made new friends, for self and family  
Achieved qualifications  
Feels valued  
Has become part of the community

We continue to work with Service User A, looking and applying for suitable roles within the NHS. Following a recent successful application Service User A has been invited to interview (exciting news) in preparation we have recently supported with interview preparation and mock interview skills.



# VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

## THE DEN

**The Den our Community Café has opened two days a week providing low cost meals for individuals in the community serving a range of different breakfast items and drinks.**

The Den has been well utilised and has enabled BMCA to engage with the wider community outside of the centre.

Feedback from this provision has included, *'It is so lovely to see The Den back open as its been shut for so long and nice to get a hot breakfast.'*

The café has been supported by volunteers alongside our Community Cook since its opening. This has allowed many people from the local community and beyond to gain skills, experience and qualifications, as well as getting their social wellbeing needs met through engaging with new people and increasing community cohesion.

## MUSIC

**At the request of our service users, we have brought back our 'Music for Mindfulness' session, which aims to be a calming space where people can informally learn guitar, keyboard, drums or just come to relax.**

This session is supported by a volunteer who is studying at Royal Northern College of Music, and aspires to be a music therapist. She has had a really positive influence on the session, as the free guitar lessons she offers makes the session accessible to complete beginners. On a few occasions she has led various themed sessions, but on the whole finds that the group works best when the session can take shape according to the mood of the day. This also gives other service users the opportunity to offer peer support to each other, making the session a really nice co-learning space. This session provides a valuable opportunity to decrease social isolation, and boost self esteem and confidence by accessing a new skill. Through community consultation, we have identified that some of our service users would really benefit from a community choir being facilitated here. This is something we are looking to explore as a possibility for next year, dependent on interest.

## TEA DANCE

**As part of Loneliness Awareness Week and the Queen's Jubilee celebrations we held a Queens Jubilee Tea Dance.**

With 40 older people in attendance, the group enjoyed afternoon tea, live entertainment and ice cream. The group enjoyed the afternoon with them singing and dancing along to the music and enjoying a cold ice cream on a hot day.

Feedback from the event included, *'Thank you so much for a lovely afternoon, with entertainment, afternoon tea and ice cream, it was wonderful.'*

## THEATRE TRIP

In November we took 19 older people to see Neil Sands Christmas Memories at Stockport plaza, an afternoon filled with singing their favourite Christmas songs and getting into the Christmas Spirit. Our older people really enjoyed it.

Feedback included, *'Thank you so much, I've had a wonderful afternoon and so did my sister who's first time it was.'*





## TAI CHI

**Since November 2022 we have had the pleasure of weekly Tai Chi classes by our skilled teacher Edna, who volunteers her time to share this practice with members of our community.**

Our service users have praised how relaxing and enjoyable the classes are, and how refreshing it is to try something new. As this activity combines stretching and movement with breathing, relaxation and meditation, it provides both physical and mental health benefits and boosts overall wellbeing. As the class can be taken either seated or standing, it has been great to see people of all ages and mobility levels taking part!

## WREATH MAKING

**In December our service users really enjoyed getting creative during our wreath making sessions; having something festive to decorate their home with brings a sense of achievement.**

As all of the materials were foraged locally by our Walk and Talk group, this low carbon craft shows us that we can be creative using the resources around us without the need to create waste, or buy expensive products.





## WALK AND TALK

**Our 'Walk and Talk' group have taken ownership of raised beds in the community garden in Chorlton Water Park, planting seeds and bulbs to improve the green area for local residents, and also encourage diversity of wildlife.**

These walks continue to have a positive impact on the attendees' physical and mental health by encouraging them to exercise, socialise, connect with nature and their local community, and have a sense of routine.

Service user A first came into the Centre for the 'Digital Drop In' session that we run on Monday mornings as they were referred by Southway Housing.

At the start, they needed help with writing up a CV, as they knew that they wanted to work with animals. They came in to see me every week so that they could have a go at writing their CV on their own but with extra support from me if needed.

To give extra help, I signed Service user A up for 'Indeed' so that they could have a look at available jobs that they may be interested in. They found a job advertised for 'Harrison's Family Vets' but unfortunately didn't feel that they would like the role so instead, looked for volunteering roles at places that would allow them to spend time with the animals.

A week later, I received the following email from them.

*"Hi Elle had a great time at the dog home I got to walk 3 dogs it's amazing going back a week on Monday hope your well and thanks again for helping me find it I found it ok it only took me less than an hour to get there take care will see you soon x"*

After some time, Service user A had let me know that they are interested in volunteering at 'Manchester Dogs Home', which is when I helped them fill in an application form. After about three weeks from applying, Service user A informed me that they have been invited to do their first day of volunteering. I was then able to help them find a suitable route and transport to get to the Dogs Home.

**I also received an email from Southway:**

*"Hi Elle,  
I hope you are well.*

*Just to let you know, if you don't already, Service user A has started volunteering at Manchester Dog's home and they are over the moon! They are still doing their regular job at the Co op but we are keeping our fingers crossed that the volunteer work will eventually lead to some paid employment. As you know, working with animals has always been their passion. They are managing to do this now every Monday when they are free from work or home commitments.*

*Thank you very much for all the help you have given them at BMCA and for taking the time to go above and beyond by helping them to complete the online application for Manchester Dog's Home. You are doing an amazing job !*

*Kind regards"*

# COST OF LIVING PARTNERSHIP

## FOOD PROVISION

**As we work through the current cost of living crisis we have seen an increase in demand for our food poverty support including; food parcels, lunches, breakfasts, Lets Cook and introducing a new Slow Cooker course.**

Our complimentary lunches run four days per week and on average see 36 attendees enjoying a hot two course meal. The impact this provision has on the local people enables the community to come together to help reduce loneliness and isolation, increase self-esteem and improve communication.

### Slow Cooker Course

During the course, users learn how to use a slow cooker to make easy and cost effective meals by using a different recipe each week, meaning they have food to take home, and are given a slow cooker at the end. Giving people the knowledge and confidence to cook their own meals with an energy efficient appliance is empowering for people and reduces their reliance on expensive alternatives (ready meals, takeaways). This not only helps them eat a healthy and balanced diet, improving their



overall wellbeing, but reduces the financial impact of the cost of living.



**Feedback: 'Can I just say thanks ever so much for lunch today it was brilliant, thanks David for cooking it, and to everyone else that work in BMCA thanks for your support and advice over the past year, big hugs very much appreciated.'**

## SCHOOL UNIFORM PROJECT

Over the summer working with our Charity shop and a local resident we have been able to support access to school uniform, providing a uniform swap shop as well as accessing funding to provide specific items such as high school blazers.

**Feedback: 'Thank you so much for the uniform, I just didn't know what I was going to do, I just couldn't afford the cost of the high school uniform.'**





In response to the Cost of Living crisis BMCA have initiated a Cost of Living partnership meeting for partners to attend from the Chorlton, Chorlton Park and Burnage areas. During our initial meetings we have so far established the following:

## HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

69 individuals accessed either £50 or £160 for pension households with a total value of £5210 distributed.

## HIGHER ENERGY BILLS

Groundwork Green Doctors delivered an energy information talk to help reduce energy waste.

## INFORMATION LEAFLETS

BMCA and partners have produced a Cost-of-Living leaflet which has been distributed to 5000 houses on the Merseybank and Arrowfield estates and surrounding areas to inform local people about what support is available.

## WINTER WARMER PACKS


We have produced 200 Winter Warmer packs for families to help keep them warm during the colder months.

## ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY

A localised meaningful Anti-poverty strategy has been produced for the neighbourhood in partnership with Manchester City Council.

  
**552**  
 FOOD PARCELS

  
**£5210**  
 HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT  
 FUND ISSUED

  
**32** FAMILIES PROVIDED  
 WITH SCHOOL UNIFORM

  
**76** £50 ALDI  
 VOUCHERS ISSUED

  
**320** FOOD BANK  
 VOUCHERS

  
 WINTER WARMER  
**173** PACKS DISTRIBUTED

  
**45** CHRISTMAS DINNER  
 IN A BAG

  
**111** FAMILIES SUPPORTED  
 WITH CHRISTMAS TOYS

# Worried about increasing costs?

Partners across Chorlton, Chorlton Park & Didsbury are here to help



Email: Rachel@barlowmoorca.co.uk Website: www.bmcaltid.co.uk  
 Telephone: 0161 446 4805 WhatsApp: 07760 117 235

- Benefit Support including Benefit Checks and Form Completion
- Housing Support
- Information, Advice & Guidance
- Crisis Support
- Health & Wellbeing sessions
- Digital Support
- Food Parcels
- School Uniform Support
- School Holiday provision



Every other Wednesday at 10am – to book an appointment call  
 Sure Start 0161 245 7013 | Barlow Hall Primary 0161 881 2158

- Welfare Rights Advice
- Income maximisation
- Benefit Queries
- Housing Benefit Enquiries
- Council Tax Support
- Form Completion
- Support with Appeals



#### Provision of a 3 day food parcel

You will need a voucher code which can be accessed from your local Housing Association, School, GP or Community Centre. Alternatively call the free National Helpline on 0800 208 2138.

Once you have your voucher code take it along to:

Christ Church, West Didsbury, M20 2ZD,  
 from 11am – 12.30pm WEDNESDAYS

St Barnabas Church, Chorlton, M21 8DH,  
 from 12.30pm – 2pm FRIDAYS

#### Further Support

Additional support can be accessed through a referral from your local School, Community Centre or Housing Provider

- Toiletries
- Toddler Sessions
- Toy Libraries
- Gardening Sessions
- Food parcels
- Debt Advice/ Support
- School Uniform
- Newborn and baby essentials

Alternatively you can complete a self referral for the following:  
 This Bread and Butter Thing – £7.50 for £35 worth of shopping  
[www.breadandbutterthings.org](http://www.breadandbutterthings.org)

Community Grocery: 0161 946 9494  
 £5 annual membership then £3 per shop  
[www.communitygrocery.org.uk](http://www.communitygrocery.org.uk)



If you are a Southway tenant you can access a lot of the help mentioned directly from them. Visit their website, email [connect@southwayhousing.co.uk](mailto:connect@southwayhousing.co.uk) or call 0161 448 4200.

*“The BMCA cost of living group has inspired us with a fantastic example of what grassroots led coordination at a neighbourhood level looks like and we want to help others learn from this and strengthen and empower these kind of connections.”*

*“Great connections and conversations with other stake-holders”.*

*“Initially worried about the sheer scope of need, then energised by the amount of support already available across the ward and the fact people are showing up to these meetings to work more collaboratively.”*

*“Helped improve our thinking around what grassroots leadership and coordination looks like”.*

# PARTNERSHIP WORK

Our community Cost Of Living Crisis meetings organised by Barlow Moor Community Centre have honestly been the best and most useful meetings I have attended in years! It has been invaluable getting everyone in a room together to share ideas and ensure we can offer a wrap around service to our clients at this crucial time.



# FINAL THOUGHTS

## CEO Statement

It's a delight to share our annual impact report and a real honour to be in the position as CEO of such an amazing organisation, based at the heart of an area with real sense of community spirit. The last year has gone in the blink of an eye, it seems like only yesterday Toni, and I were preparing the 2021/22 impact report and our first CEO statement; but what a year it has been. Writing these reports provides a real opportunity to sit and reflect on BMCA's achievements in what has been a very busy year with many highs but also the inevitable lows.

You will have seen from our report that there are many highlights including our work with the Meros World Foundation, community social action activities, #KeepBritianTidy and the further development of our Music Group which has just come on leaps and bounds this year. We have celebrated joyous occasions such as our annual Merseyfest where we embraced the jubilee with a series of themed events and activities and enjoyed community playing out days and annual events. However, we also joined the nation to mourn the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, worked together as a community to build

back following the pandemic and stood together to face the significant challenges brought on by the cost-of-living crisis.

BMCA have, over the past 12 months, strived to reduce the negative impact on people, working in partnership with others to ensure the best possible outcomes for those in our community. The strengths of our partnerships and the positive impact of collaborative efforts has brought about positive change, it is clear to see this approach has been successful and a real strength of BMCA's when initiating and leading on this work. This reinforces our commitment and together with our partners, we will strive to ensure that every member of our community has access to the support they need to lead happy and healthy lives.

Despite these challenges we, as a community, have not waived; the strength, resilience and community spirit of local people has empowered them to take action and enhance community cohesion, these achievements are the result of a collective effort from our dedicated board, staff, volunteers, and the support of our community and partners. Together, we have shown what can be accomplished when a community comes together with a shared vision and determination.

Our work is far from complete, as we move into the final year of our current business plan 2020 – 2023 we can confidently say that we have met and exceeded many of our goals. Our programs have positively impacted our community in ways we could only have dreamed of when we began this journey.

As we begin to plan for the next phase of growth and development, we are in the process of diligently consulting with key stakeholders and partners, 2029 seems an awful long time away, but that's what Toni and I thought when producing the 2020 – 2023 plan and that has just flown by! The new plan will build upon our past successes and set even more ambitious goals for the future. We are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and are dedicated to continuing our mission of improving the quality of life for all members of our community.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who makes BMCA's mission possible, and I look forward to what we will achieve together in the years ahead.

A service user once called BMCA "the flagship of the community", and we will strive to continue to be.

### Best wishes

Becky & Toni



SHORTLISTED  
FINALIST

**'Be Proud' Award in  
the category**

**'Helping to tackle poverty'**



**208 Children and  
Young People**



**324  
Adults**



# OUR YEAR





# THANK YOU



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Chorlton, M21 7NT

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