



**Organisation for Sickle Cell Anaemia Research and Thalassaemia Support
(OSCAR SANDWELL CO LTD)**

**ANNUAL REPORT
1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016**



THE ORGANISATION IS SUPPORTED

BY



**Sandwell and West Birmingham
Clinical Commissioning Group**

Better Care Fund

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to take the opportunity to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone who has given their support to the organisation.

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Officers:

Chairperson	Sharon Wilson
Vice Chairperson	Marcia Spence-Williams
Director	Anthony McFarlane
Co-opted Member	Patricia Brocklesby
Co-opted member	Kevin Dunkley
Director	Shirlee Oliver

Staffing:

Rachel McFee	Centre Manager/Secretary to Board
Jean McFee	Administrator
<i>Leandra Gebrakedan</i>	<i>Support and Development Worker</i>
Sonia Ashfall	Support and Development Co-ordinator
Abdul Alim	Support and Development Worker
Stan Simms	Caretaker
Mary Millard	Cleaner

Personnel Committee Members

Sharon Johnson – Volunteer
Sharon Wilson – Chairperson
Rachel McFee – Centre Manager
Jean McFee - Administrator

Volunteers:

Crystal Marshall
Jessica Lough
Fauzia Jabeen
Lorna Patterson
Elaine Davis
Lloyd Davis
Fameeda Bibi
Vinay Saul
Aaron Hal

Work Experience Placement:

Lena Salem
Kamarl Grant
Simran Sergill

COMPANY/CHARITY DETAILS

Registered Charity Office:	120 Lodge Road West Bromwich West Midlands B70 8PL
Registered Charity Number:	1080599
Company Registration Number	373668
Solicitors:	Shakespeare Solicitors 10 Bennett's Hill Birmingham B2
Reporting Accountant	M T Manley & Co Limited 696 Yardley Wood Road Billesley Birmingham B13 0HY
Bankers	Unity Bank PLC Nine Brindleyplace Birmingham B1 2HB

INTRODUCTION

MISSION STATEMENT

Working together with service users, voluntary, statutory services and stakeholders to improve the quality of life for people affected by Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia in the Sandwell area.

OSCAR (Organisation for Sickle Cell Anaemia Research) is located in West Bromwich in the Borough of Sandwell. OSCAR Sandwell is a voluntary organisation with charity and company limited status and managed by a Board of Directors. The ethos of the organisation is to provide direct services that address the well – being and collective needs of people with Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia.

OSCAR as it stands was founded in 1975 by a ‘Sickler’ who through personal experiences, realised there was inadequate information available to people affected directly or indirectly by the blood disorders, the public and medical professionals. OSCAR is the pioneering Sickle Cell organisation in the United Kingdom.

OSCAR operates as both providers of services and as an advocate for sufferers and their families, articulating community needs and campaigning for the development of appropriate services. The activities of the organisation have progressively increased as the understanding of the particular needs of people affected and their families have intensified.

OSCAR Sandwell was established in March 1988 in response to a growing concern expressed by members of the community about the lack of information and support for people with Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia in the Borough of Sandwell.

In July 1998 the Centre at Lodge Road was formally opened by Derrick Heaven, His Excellency, The Jamaican High Commission.

The organisation for 28 years has developed and established a comprehensive service to meet the needs of Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia sufferers and their carers. In addition the organisation strives to work proactively with both statutory and voluntary agencies to educate schools, community groups, health professionals, churches and the general public in raising the awareness about the above blood disorders.

What is Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia?

Sickle Cell disorder is a condition that affects red blood cells in the body which contains the protein called haemoglobin (Hb). People with Sickle Cell Anaemia have Sickle haemoglobin (HbS) which is different from the normal haemoglobin (HbA). Normally, red blood cells last for about 120 days though for sicklers, the red blood cells die after between 30 to 60 days. As a result of the shorter life span of the red blood cells, with low production rates, anaemia occurs i.e. low iron content of the blood.

When sickle haemoglobin (HbS) gives up its oxygen to the tissues, it sticks together to form long rods inside the red blood cells making these cells rigid and sickle-shaped. Normal red blood cells bend easily but these rigid *sickled* red blood cells are unable to move easily through blood vessels, blocking them, which in turn restricts oxygen from getting through to where it is needed. This restriction of oxygen flow through the blood can cause severe pain and can possibly lead to the damaging of vital organs.

Sickle Cell disorder is a condition that normally affects people of African, Caribbean, Middle Eastern, Asian and Mediterranean origin, but not exclusively.

Thalassaemia, like Sickle Cell, is an inherited disorder of the haemoglobin. There are two main Thalassaemia types, Thalassaemia Major and Thalassaemia Minor (trait).

A normal haemoglobin molecule contains four protein (globin) chains (two alpha globin chains and two beta globin chains). Different genes are responsible for producing each chain. In Thalassaemia, there is an inherited defect in one of these genes. If the alpha chain is affected, this causes Alpha Thalassaemia. If the beta chain is affected then this causes Beta Thalassaemia. There are a number of different types of Thalassaemia within these groups, alpha thalassaemia being less diverse than beta thalassaemia.

Where a person has inherited haemoglobin A from both parents, they will have **two** usual beta genes (b^b), one from each parent, and four alpha genes (aa/aa), one pair from each parent.

They would, therefore, produce normal amounts of BETA and ALPHA to make healthy red blood cells. Some people inherit one usual and one unusual Beta gene, in which case they have a condition known as Beta Thalassaemia Major (Hb AbThal), sometimes referred to as a trait. Some people do not inherit the usual number of Alpha genes in which case they would have a condition known as Alpha Thalassaemia Minor (trait).

FOREWORD 2015-2016

This past year has again been one of change, utilising our centre to encourage wider usage, building on our status as an Open College Network West Midlands Accredited centre and developing courses for the local community.

Change has also been in the form of Reviews from one of our statutory funders and this has meant a big change in staffing levels (a reduction). OSCAR Sandwell has continued to work hard to keep a level of core services running and centre open as usual. This has meant we are looking at ways to sustain our work and services into the medium to long term future, so our own reviewing and action planning will have and will continue to take place.

Overall we have continued to rise to the challenge and have committed to keep the focus on our clients, carers and all of our stakeholders.

We would like to thank all members for their valued time and contribution and hope that they will be able to continue doing so in the future.

We take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank all of our partners and sponsors for their contribution throughout this year and look forward to even stronger partnership as we look forward to 2016-2017.

I would like to thank Board members, staff, volunteers and members at OSCAR Sandwell for all of your support during this time.

Sharon Wilson

Chairperson

SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE 2015-2016

The Personnel committee has been committed to working with the organisation's human resources issues. Once again there were changes to our contract from Sandwell and West Birmingham CCG but have ensured we have continued to provide staffing levels to cover the services being provided.

The Personnel committee has continued to work to ensure that work levels were maintained with a new core staff member who started in November 2015 to help support the clients.

A review from the CCG (Better Care Fund) has meant that we ended the year being informed (Jan/Feb 2016) of a great decrease in our funding from them and a change to the contracted services. This has meant a reduction for the core staff in the new financial year. This will have quite an impact on our staffing levels but we will endeavour to keep the service running.

Thank you to all members for their time, energy and patience.

Rachel McFee
Centre Manager/Secretary

CENTRE MANAGER'S REPORT

2015-2016

Project Development – We were able to recruit from the local community with 7 learners completing the Entry level Maths and English courses. Our courses have allowed those who have not been in education for a very long time to get back into education in a friendly, non-intimidating environment, improving their learning experience, training and employment prospects and benefitted from working within smaller class settings. In order for Learners to be able to access the courses Childcare was provided.

Governance – The board this year and have ensured the organisation has continued to work toward improving and strengthening our governance to enable us to demonstrate our accountability, transparency, effectiveness and efficient, equitable whilst working within the rule of the law. Our Committee Sub Groups continued to ensure the organisation is working in an efficient and effective financial basis. This is an ongoing priority for the organisation.

Community involvement - We continue to work in partnership to develop and deliver within the local Sandwell and surrounding areas including local schools and community centres. This partnership has helped to raise awareness of OSCAR Services. The centre continues to offer its room hire service for individuals, groups and organisations both Statutory and Voluntary. Our members and clients engaged in our community events, trips, Black History event and Christmas party.

White Space – Arts Exhibition Space. OSCAR Sandwell has created WHiTE SPACE, an exhibition space at the centre, where local artists can showcase their work. The aim of the exhibit is to allow an outlet for reflection and discussion for the clients and general public who visit the centre. We wish to use our building as a hub of cultural activity which will benefit health and well-being especially for people of the OSCAR community. We have had one exhibition this year from local worker Annette Gardiner.

Student placements - Places were allocated to 3 school/college work experience young people. We are happy that we have been able to contribute to the education and training of young people and offer placement to social worker students.

Labour Party Dinner - Centre Manager, staff and volunteers attended this event to meet and network with local Councillors and raise awareness about Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia and the organisation's services. We were able to give out our information cards to Labour Deputy Leader, Tom Watson and MEP Neena Gill and other councillors present.

Partnership working - Partnership continues within this financial year with a range of voluntary and statutory agencies/organisation. We continued to liaise and work in partnership which allowed organisations to support our events and activities, these were, Councillor Jackie Taylor, Sickle Cell Society, OCN, the NHS, Birmingham City University, All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia headed by Diane Abbott MP based in Westminster, SCAT Centre – City Hospital and Shiloh Community Centre.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

Volunteers

Volunteers have contributed to the delivery of our services ranging from project work, administration, health promotion activities and social events. Last year a total of 12 volunteers helped to accumulate an estimated 930 volunteer hours (including university student placements). Volunteering continues to be a two-way process. Not only do volunteers contribute to the work of OSCAR Sandwell, but they get something in return. Volunteering at OSCAR offers an excellent opportunity for personal and professional development, skills sharing, developing new areas of knowledge, building on your professional network and creating lasting personal relationships.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

The profile of OSCAR Sandwell Company Limited continues to steadily grow locally, regionally and nationally. Our key activities are the provision of advice and information, raising awareness, education and training, health promotion, user group, social activities, volunteers, student placement and work experience and social media.

Funding for OSCAR Sandwell is provided by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) and Sandwell and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group (SWBCCG – Better Care Fund) through service level agreement or grant which is measured through performances and outputs. This is reviewed annually.

FUTURE PLANS 2016/2017

- To bring together and inform all stakeholders about our work.
- To develop new projects that encompass the wider community
- To deliver courses through our Open College Network West Midlands registration
- Continue to strengthen our governance.
- Collaboration and partnership working with peer organisations.
- Continue to offer core services to our membership and wider community.
- Continue to develop children and young people activities.
- Work towards a quality mark such as ISO 9001 or PQASSO.
- To influence service provision for our clientele.

CORE SERVICES

2015-2016

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The main areas of OSCAR Sandwell's activity are the provision of advice and information, raising awareness, education and training, health promotion, counselling, user group, social activities, volunteers, student placement and work experience. These are all aimed to support and promote relief of persons who are living with the effects of Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia disorders and to promote public awareness and knowledge of these disorders within Sandwell Borough.

Significant activities

Our focus was on delivering our services for those affected by Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Blood disorders in Sandwell and surrounding area. We have worked in partnership and collaboration with statutory and voluntary organisations to continue to impact services to our client group.

Advice & information -The organisation continues to provide advice and information to members of the organisation, community groups and professionals. The majority of the requests made have been from schools, community organisations, groups, local people and users of the service. This year 381 accessed the project for advice and information on Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia.

Target 2015	Actual
120	381

Support & advocacy -OSCAR Sandwell continues to offer support and advocacy services to its client group. We support through hospital and home visits, tribunal representations, benefits applications, and other person centered support required.

Target 2015	Actual
100	110

Education & Training - We have continued to offer education and training to voluntary, community and statutory organisations this year, the number of people receiving a service was 90 individuals.

Target 2014	Actual
75	90

Children's Summer Project - The Summer Project was held for 5 days where children with Sickle Cell, Thalassaemia, family and friends and children from the community come together to take part in our annual event. This year included arts and crafts, a workshop on Music and Production with Charmaine Baines from IWYS Project, workshop with the West Bromwich Police and visit to a museum in West Bromwich. At the end of the Summer Project all 17 participants and volunteers were awarded a medal for taking part in our Summer Project. All children gave positive feedbacks and they all look forward to coming back next summer.

Accessing the Centre – This year many have accessed the Centre for meetings, training, events, parties, advice and information. This has increased awareness about our services and Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia. Regular roomhire from Mytime Active has also contributed to the increase in this figure.

Target 2015	Actual
330	871

International Women’s Day Event at OSCAR Sandwell

Report written by Sonia Ashfall – Support and Development Co-Ordinator

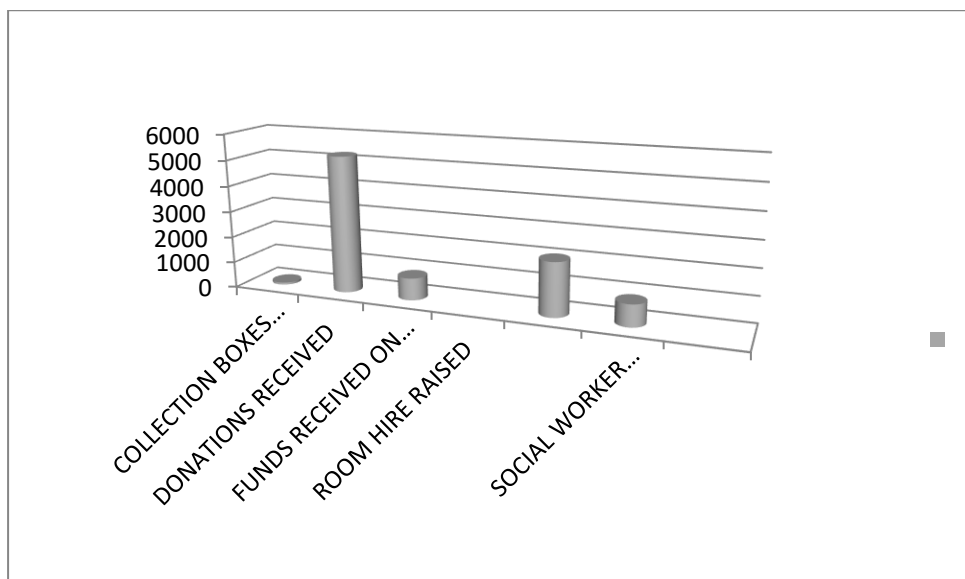
I have organised International Women’s Day, which was held on Tuesday 8th March 2016, Welcoming the whole community with an excellent turnout of over forty people in a limited space. The event consisted of various activities such as information stalls including activities such as; massage, psychic reading and meditation. The stalls and activities allowed different businesses to liaise with each other.

The event had been proven positive in relation to verbal feedback. One person shared with me that she had never experienced anything like it in her community. She added that events and cohesion was non- existent in her community while others mentioned that they were keen to hear of future events that Oscar Sandwell plan to implement as they felt welcomed and commented on the good hosting skills from myself and all staff.

From my perspective the event helped to promote the cohesion of the local community and other communities and also deemed as a good socialising strategy and allowed. The event highlighted the services that we offer, which led to two people showing interest of becoming members of our Level Advance user group. The event also helped the community to gain insight into the client group in which we support.



ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR APRIL 2015 TO MARCH 2016



COLLECTION BOXES RAISED	£79.36
DONATIONS RECEIVED	£5265.66
FUNDS RECEIVED ON BEHALF OF CLIENTS	£850.00
ROOM HIRE RAISED	£2057
SOCIAL WORKER STUDENT PLACEMENTS	£840
MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS	£10

WORK EXPERIENCE	3
VOLUNTEERS	9

A very generous donation came from **Patrick Rodgers** who passed away and left £4,608.96 in his will to be donated to OSCAR. **Rio Santos Old boys' Football Club** donated £500. We continue to have donations from **Stockland Green Methodist Church**.

We continue to have Social Work students from **Birmingham University**, pupils and students from George Saltzer and Oldbury Academy continue on placement and work experience.

Marcia Wilson Community Initiative Development Officer at the time for Sandwell Council raised £56.86p for Black History Event. The decision was made to donate this to Oscar.

Collections boxes and donations have been raised from **Ann Jenkins, Flower Pot, New Square Post Office, Fitz Jackson food stall**.

Room Hire and Donations received an increase for this year period from Mytime Active and Success Makers. Our Membership subscriptions are quite low.

**ORGANISATION FOR SICKLE CELL ANAEMIA RESEARCH (OSCAR)
SANDWELL COMPANY LIMITED**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2016 £	Total 2015 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	7,040	-	7,040	12,367
Charitable activities	4	106,743	964	107,707	86,002
Investments	5	66	-	66	86
Total income		113,849	964	114,813	98,455
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	56,781	34,293	91,074	77,069
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds		57,068	(33,329)	23,739	21,386
Fund balances at 1 April 2015					
As originally reported		28,109	261,713	289,822	268,437
Prior year adjustment		20,252	(90,048)	(69,796)	-
As restated		48,361	171,665	220,026	268,437
Fund balances at 31 March 2016		105,430	138,336	243,766	289,823

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

**ORGANISATION FOR SICKLE CELL ANAEMIA RESEARCH (OSCAR)
SANDWELL COMPANY LIMITED**

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2016

	Notes	2016 £	£	2015 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10		147,258		221,308
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand		101,324		70,576	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		(4,816)		(2,061)	
Net current assets			96,508		68,515
Total assets less current liabilities			243,766		289,823
Income funds					
Restricted funds	12		138,336		261,714
Unrestricted funds			105,430		28,109
			243,766		289,823

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2016. No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these accounts.

The trustees' responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

