

4.4 Sudanese & Arabic Speaking Elderly Association (SASEA)



“Dani and Kate have helped us so much. We feel a much stronger organisation and we now have the funding to make sure we continue our activities and our members can be supported.”

The group: SASEA provides essential support and social opportunities to Sudanese people and other Arabic speakers, mainly Egyptian, aged 50 years and over in Brighton & Hove. There is a committee who runs the group, with 45 registered members, of which 25-30 are active. Most became refugees in the early 1990s and arrived in the UK, choosing to settle in Brighton & Hove. SASEA was formed in 2003 and aims to help people integrate into the community, through fortnightly meetings, which alleviate social isolation, as well as offering support in dealing with bureaucracy and claiming benefits.

The situation: SASEA needed to raise funds to continue their activities as members are on low incomes and cannot contribute the full cost. The regular activities include fortnightly meetings for which transport is provided, and regular social outings to destinations in Sussex. Whilst SASEA had previously received some funding from various sources, as well as support from the Black & Minority Ethnic Partnership, the trustees felt they needed to improve their fundraising skills and approached the Resource Centre in 2012.

Support received: Money in Mind helped them look at how the organisation was run, set the group’s priorities, calculate the costs of meetings and outings, put together a comprehensive publicity leaflet, and supported them to make funding applications to a number of funders, including the City Council and charitable trusts. They helped the Treasurer set annual budgets and present financial information clearly, as well as advising on reports to funders. The Treasurer already had accountancy skills but needed to understand how to present figures in an acceptable format for funders; he chose not to use the web based accounting package, preferring to keep his accounts in books.

Benefits: SASEA has been helped to prioritise those activities which have the most positive impact for members. They now have an informative and attractive report that they can send to funders describing their aims and activities. They are able to produce clear budgets and accounts which reflect their key activities. In 2012-13 they were successful in receiving funding from the City Council, as well as three other charitable foundations. The trustees feel more confident in the future of the group and members feel supported by the activities.