

## 4.4 Oromo Community & Salaam Football Club

*“They helped us develop our community, our skills and our systems to make our lives easier. We have language barriers, and the Resource Centre has supported us to understand what we need to do from beginning to end.”*

**The group:** The Oromo Community is a Brighton & Hove based community group for Oromo people (from Ethiopia) that have been going since 2007. The group provides a focus for the development of the Oromo community. Elias Tuffa, the Chair of the Oromo Community set up Salaam Football Club two years ago in response to young people from the Oromo community finding it difficult to join clubs and make friends. They now have 40 young people from ten diverse communities that participate in the club that trains at Hove Park, and they now have a team in the local football league.

**The situation:** Because language is a barrier to understanding how things work and what is expected of groups, they needed the support to become stable and understand their responsibilities. Because the Oromo Community group received support with setting up and running the group, when Elias set up Salaam FC, he also went to the Resource Centre for help.

**Support received:** Both groups have received a package of ongoing integrated support that has included fundraising, management and finance, including bookkeeping and an independent examination. Salaam FC have also received support to do a health and safety risk assessment and a child protection policy.

**Benefits:** The fact that the groups have had one point of contact to access support has been really important to them. The support they have received has helped them to stabilise the groups so that they are able to grow and support more members of the community. The help with completing funding application forms has been invaluable for sustaining both groups' activities. Salaam FC is able to meet its legal obligations and keep young people safe. But much more importantly provide a focus for the integration of young people from diverse communities in Brighton & Hove.