

<b>Organisation Name</b>	<b>Reference</b>	2021-10-YO03
Al Hurraya		

<b>Visit Date</b>	<b>Visited By</b>
26/09/2023	David Loudon

**Grant Summary**

Al-Hurraya was awarded a grant of £59,042 commencing in April 2022 to support young offenders from the BAMER community in Nottingham and to assist them in achieving qualifications and finding employment through mentoring.

The End of Year 1 Report highlighted that they had not engaged positively with certain local organisations but as noted below this appears to have improved by working with other local organisations.

**Visit Details (People met, premises visited etc.)**

I met Asad Fazil, the Charity's CEO who founded Al-Hurraya in 2014 and the Operations manager, Waqas Kayani at their office in Nottingham.

They had prepared a short presentation which began with a list of the current case load, 13 young people aged between 16 and 28 all of whom had either gained employment, (chef, Evri delivery driver, ice cream sales) or were at local colleges studying a variety of subjects which were likely to lead to employment (business studies, midwifery, mechanics, art/design)

**Information about the Organisation**

Al-Hurraya which is Arabic for 'freedom' employs 8 staff and has a Board of 5 Trustees who have complimentary skill sets.

The charity has a Strategic plan for 5 years to 2027 which has 4 key goals,

- to improve quality and reach of support,
- to obtain a better knowledge of BAMER individuals' issues, particularly substance abuse, crime, poverty, gangs and importantly the increased mental health issues which have grown post COVID.
- to increase more opportunities for peer support and community involvement.
- to grow the Charity to increase support for the needs of local community.

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<b>Issues and Comments</b>
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Smoking cannabis is embedded in those the Charity aims to support and the target is to reduce this as continued use has a real impact on motivation, attendance and overall project engagement.

Mentors often have to be heavily involved with the youngsters to ensure engagement, eg, waking them up and taking them to courses. This effort is helping to turn the youngsters around and mentors have noticed that this also helps parents to become more motivated.

Al-Hurraya has formed good working relationships with both Nottingham Skills Academy and Volunteer it Yourself and in addition they have good contacts within the Probation service. Asad has joined the Violence Resolution Board which helps with networking for the charity's case load.

<b>Other Feedback</b>
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Asad was complimentary about his dealings with Cranfield which he found very helpful.

A good visit and both Asad and Waqas expressed their gratitude to the Trustees for their support.