

# CIC 34

## Community Interest Company Report

For official use  
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*Please  
complete in  
typescript, or  
in bold black  
capitals.*

Company Name in  
full

The Black Sheep Collective CIC

Company Number

8769882

Year Ending

31 March 2021

*(The date format is required in full)*

**Please ensure the company name is consistent with the company name entered on the accounts.**

*This template illustrates what the Regulator of Community Interest Companies considers to be best practice for completing a simplified community interest company report. All such reports must be delivered in accordance with section 34 of the Companies (Audit, Investigations and Community Enterprise) Act 2004 and contain the information required by Part 7 of the Community Interest Company Regulations 2005. For further guidance see chapter 8 of the Regulator's guidance notes and the alternate example provided for a more complex company with more detailed notes.*

**(N.B. A Filing Fee of £15 is payable on this document. Please enclose a cheque or postal order payable to Companies House)**

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## **PART 1 - GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COMPANY'S ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT**

In the space provided below, please insert a general account of the company's activities in the financial year to which the report relates, including a description of how they have benefited the community.

The Black Sheep Collective CIC is an artistic and cultural education, development and activation company. Operating a social enterprise framework to trade with both public and private organisations as well as deliver services and provision via grant funding, and/or networks and partnerships, within the VCSE sector.

Bar Bar Black Sheep is Milton Keynes' only social enterprise coffee shop and arts space. This was established via successful crowd funding locally, and is the main hub/departure point for activity.

In response to the COVID Pandemic, our organisation needed to adapt and evolve in order to safeguard the company, its staff, artists and volunteers. Where possible, working from home was introduced and furlough was accessed for three employees who could not complete their roles remotely. Different sources of grant funding specific to this situation, were explored and applied for on a direct needs' basis. The coffee shop became the hub for a local volunteer unit, 'We Are Wolverton'. This project saw 200 volunteers sign up to an informal operation whereby vulnerable members of our community could reach out for a volunteer to run errands, collect medicines and shopping and deliver safely to those self-isolating etc. We invested significant resources in this project and continue to support the volunteers in the group, with a view to upscaling this into a full time, town wide initiative post-pandemic.

Support grant funds accessed. included UnLtd's Social Enterprise Support Fund, which supported the overheads of the organisation when landlords, energy companies and local authority were unwilling to reduce or freeze costs (rent, rates and utilities).

Until 4<sup>th</sup> July 2020, the nation was in lockdown restrictions as such Bar Bar Black Sheep remained closed, only operating as a volunteer hub for our local 'We Are Wolverton' project. Which was supported by funding from Power To Change. We used some of the funding to adapt the space making it Covid safe and more useable in anticipation of reopening. Many of the social groups and activities we host, shifted online and funding was also used to support the setup and overheads of delivering core services online and digitally. Once possible, the store reopened either as takeaway only or when possible, fully but with the necessary mandates of masks and physical distancing in place. The community continued to support the social enterprise, indeed growing it to a position whereby two new positions of employment were made available, and we recruited two young people who lost all previous employment and income due to the Pandemic. During the Government's 'Eat Out to Help Out' scheme we felt we needed to focus the 'help' still on our community that we serve. Thus, instead of accessing this government support, we reframed the offer and match funded (internally) our suspended coffee scheme. This provided those who were still isolating/vulnerable with support and items, which through generous and increased support by the public, actually; became more beneficial (socially and economically) than participation in the commercial hospitality campaign, mounted nationally.

During the period 2020-21, Bar Bar hosted 4 local artists' exhibitions, facilitated the donations of 977 suspended coffees and 149 free kids meals.

We established local partnerships with other VCSE organisations such as Milton Keynes Play Association. Together, we reframed our ongoing Suspended Coffee Scheme to include craft and arts kits for children as well as free meals for those who were affected by the loss of

access to free school meals, credit cuts and withdrawals of benefit support. This approach also provided much needed revenue for the charities we partnered with, creating a snapshot of what a social economy could potentially offer to the area.

The coffee shop was also able to continue and increase its community investment of surplus/profits. This included sponsorship of a girls under 8's football club, the replacement of damaged items in play areas and parks, the funding of 'Bear Bins' around the local parks, funding a school end of year trip to Drayton Manor Theme Park, and supporting local initiatives such as rubbish and litter collection.

We continued our programme of performance and busking with Centre:MK. This partnership has now grown and Black Sheep and CBRE are formalising a management framework which will also embed Social Value within CBRE's operation of Centre:MK. Black Sheep will lead on Social Value for Centre:MK, which would designate the site as the only shopping and retail destination globally, to actively pursue a social impact measurement of their activities, which can then be case studied and shared wider cross-sector (VCSE : Private), and is recognised through international accreditation(s).

We continued to deliver our CR8 Community (Lottery Funded) programme, but the Pandemic meant we needed to adapt these activities to meet regulations but insure continued outreach and positive impact. Many of the activities shifted to an online delivery which enabled wider recruitment and has had a positive impact on the organisation's reach.

Other notable projects from 2020-21 include:

- Online Youth Programme May 2020 – Sept 2020 weekly online sessions for young people (13-18yrs) created a short film, 'Corona Virus Time Capsule'.
- Greek Theatre Project July 2020 – Sept 2020 Weekly online rehearsals exploring the play, 'Alcestis'. Education workshops ran alongside this, supported by professional theatre and industry practitioners. The project supported 17 out of work (Due to pandemic) performers/actors all located in Milton Keynes, Northampton, Nottingham and London demonstrating a growth in our reach via digital adaptations of our services.
- Arts for Health Workshops January 2020 for 10 weeks we worked with 8 children particularly with Mental Health considerations (10-13yrs) in confidence building and skills based explorations.
- Creative Business Training Programme Started Nov 2020 – ongoing. We received funding from SEMLEP Community Grants to establish an education arm of the organisation. This provided NEET, and/or unemployed young people with professional, formal and accredited training and qualifications in Business Start up, Self Employed and Social Enterprise as well as Arts Industry standard learning opportunities. This programme became heavily over subscribed and will be considered for upscaling as a permanent part of the company's portfolio and offer to the wider community. Positive outcomes from this already include 5 employment outcomes (participants gained employment during the course) and this included learners working for international brands such as Christian Dior.

(If applicable, please just state "A social audit report covering these points is attached").

**(Please continue on separate continuation sheet if necessary.)**

**PART 2 – CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS** – Please indicate who the company’s stakeholders are; how the stakeholders have been consulted and what action, if any, has the company taken in response to feedback from its consultations? If there has been no consultation, this should be made clear.

Black Sheep Collective’s stakeholders include the Board of Directors, all employees, volunteers, freelance artists and facilitators, coffee shop guests, parents and guardians of young people participating in programs and representatives from private organization’s we work/partner with. We also engage any funders in our work, inviting them to participate, attend and/or remain in dialogue with us to ensure transparency, fairer representation and equality across the organization. We operate an ongoing 360 framework to ensure all stakeholders are included in the strategic and operational levels of the community interest company. We continually adapt, evolve and upscale approaches, services and offers so that they meet the needs of our participants, customers, audiences and learners/students.

Where possible, representation of the stakeholders above, has been included in the formation of this report and indeed, directly from those who delivered, worked on and/or engaged with our programmes.

(If applicable, please just state “A social audit report covering these points is attached”).

**PART 3 – DIRECTORS’ REMUNERATION** – if you have provided full details in your accounts you need not reproduce it here. Please clearly identify the information within the accounts and confirm that, “There were no other transactions or arrangements in connection with the remuneration of directors, or compensation for director’s loss of office, which require to be disclosed” (See example with full notes). If no remuneration was received, you must state that “no remuneration was received” below.

The aggregate amount of emoluments paid to or receivable by all directors in respect of qualifying services is listed on page 10. (£59,723)

There were no other transactions or arrangements in connection with the remuneration of directors, or compensation for director’s loss of office, which require to be disclosed.

**PART 4 – TRANSFERS OF ASSETS OTHER THAN FOR FULL CONSIDERATION** – Please insert full details of any transfers of assets other than for full consideration e.g. Donations to outside bodies. If this does not apply you must state that “no transfer of assets other than for full consideration has been made” below.

No transfer of assets other than for full consideration has been made.

*(Please continue on separate continuation sheet if necessary.)*

**(N.B. Please enclose a cheque for £15 payable to Companies House)**

**PART 5 – SIGNATORY (Please note this must be a live signature)**

(DD/MM/YY)

The original report must be signed by a director or secretary of the company

Signed

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Date

22/12/21
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Office held (delete as appropriate) ~~Director~~/Secretary

You do not have to give any contact information in the box opposite but if you do, it will help the Registrar of Companies to contact you if there is a query on the form. The contact information that you give will be visible to searchers of the public record.

Mr. D. W. Quinn	
Bar Bar Black Sheep, 16 The Square	
Wolverton	
Milton Keynes	Tel 01908 804257
DX Number	DX Exchange

**When you have completed and signed the form, please attach it to the accounts and send both forms by post to the Registrar of Companies at:**

*For companies registered in England and Wales:* Companies House, Crown Way, Cardiff, CF14 3UZ  
DX 33050 Cardiff

*For companies registered in Scotland:* Companies House, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Edinburgh Quay 2, 139  
Fountainbridge, Edinburgh, EH3 9FF DX 235 Edinburgh or LP – 4 Edinburgh 2

*For companies registered in Northern Ireland:* Companies House, 2nd Floor, The Linenhall, 32-38  
Linenhall Street, Belfast, BT2 8BG

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