

# 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**

31/03/2022

*(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 performance activation company. Operating a social enterprise framework to trade with both public and private organisations as well as deliver cultural services, arts provision and facilitate networks and partnerships, within and between the VCSE, Arts and Private sectors.

### **Bar Bar Black Sheep – Social Enterprise Coffee Shop, Gallery and Community Hub**

Bar Bar Black Sheep is Milton Keynes' only social enterprise coffee shop, arts space and community/social organising hub. It was established via successful crowd funding (2016) and is a publicly designated 'safe space' for marginalised, minority and/or 'othered' individuals and communities.

From Autumn 2021, we were able to re-activate our community programme of engagement, arts and cultural activities. Utilising the town square outside our coffee shop and galleries, we mounted seasonal theatre performances for children, families and young people. Our regular community groups returned (post pandemic restrictions) including Milton Keynes Cannabis Social Club, Q:offee (LGBTQ+) Social Club, Bar Bar Book Club and our weekly Creativity Social.

New partnerships included working with Health Watch MK to launch a series of talks and engagement evenings, focused on Women's Health, open to the community.

In January 2022, we offered financial support to local volunteer group, 'Wolverton Litter Pickers' this provided the group of local residents with HS&E equipment, waste collection and disposal equipment as well as a base to meet, socialise and organise for each litter pick. We also maintained ongoing sponsorship of several local youth football teams and made donations towards repairs of the local scout hall and funded free entertainment for the Wolverton Winter Fair weekend.

Bar Bar continued to offer a Suspended Scheme and for the period this reports covers, 1561 suspended coffees and 78 suspended kids' meals, were donated by guests/customers.

We were also able to offer out new employment opportunities at the store, with two young people who had lost all income during the lockdowns, now in parttime roles enabling them to complete academic studies. We were also able to increase wages above the living wage, for employed staff, and promote an assistant manager.

### **Theatre & Outreach Department**

During this period, we wanted to reconnect with participants and stakeholders that were lost during the height of the pandemic. Thus, we provided a range of free creative opportunities via workshops, community performances and educational sessions and classes. This period we successfully engaged 984 children, young people and adults.

We evaluated our Black Sheep Theatre Programme to date and devised new development and growth pathways for current and future participants that are relevant to the new social contexts/contracts, bought about by the pandemic and the UK government's response.

We now have two new groups, offering affordable and accessible professional training and education opportunities for 5-12 and 13-18yr olds. This has also led to the organisation becoming an official Arts Award Centre and Provider.

In Winter 2021, we were offered funding (HAF) from MK City Council to provide 50 children with free places on our Winter Wonderland Performing Arts Camp including a free meal during their sessions. The success of this initiative has led to MK City Council approaching us to deliver future programmes.

### **Black Sheep Online Performance Workshops April 2021**

30 participants joined our free online sessions to develop performance literacy, theory and connections through lively debate, activity and collaboration. 2 participants went on to secure full time employment from this project.

### **What's the Drama? Team Ultra April-June 2021**

20 participants joined our free weekly online workshops designed to empower isolated/vulnerable people

### **Castle Square Summer Workshops July-August 2021**

Over 200 children and families took part in a range of free outdoor workshops, within the Elephant & Castle development zone.

### **Centre:MK Summer Workshops July-August 2021**

Over 150 children and families took part in a range of free creative workshops, mounted in the shopping centre's malls.

### **Grimm's Fairy tales May-June 2021**

21 students from University of Northampton's Performing Arts Faculty, created an outdoor theatre performance based on Grimm's works.

### **Tale of Milton Keynes July-August 2021**

50 participants from across community groups, schools and local theatre companies came together to produce and mount a fantasy narrative of living in a 'new' city.

### **When This Is Over August 2021**

Our in-house Youth Theatre company produced public performances based on their lived experiences of lockdown/pandemic restrictions with aspirations for a post-Covid world.

### **Creative Theatre Practitioner Training October 2021**

Delivering professional training for 22 teachers, theatre makers, facilitators and practitioners through a range of classroom seminars, online meetings and visits.

### **Madam Berzerkus Pumpkin Party October 2021**

75 children and young people took part in a seasonal immersive outdoor theatre production mounted in two public locations in Milton Keynes with 200 audience members.

### **Seasonal Creative Crafts Workshops October 2021**

75 children and young people took part in free open crafts workshops inspired by the Halloween season, mounted across Milton Keynes.

### **HAF Christmas Holiday Project December 2021**

50 children and young people took part in a Performing Arts Camp that included free lunch meals for those eligible for school meals.

### **Theatre for Social Change December 2021-January 2022**

Supporting theatre students at the University of Northampton in professional development of skills in direction, production and management of socially active theatre.

### **Artistic & Performance Portfolio**

We continued our successful management agreement with CBRE and Australian Super, to activate their asset, 'Centre:MK' with public performances of local artists and cultural engagement. Within this we continue to develop a Social Value framework to be adopted across Centre: MK's operations and strategic planning and enable them to effectively and accurately track and measure their social impact(s).

Our three-year CR8 Community programme, funded by the National Lottery Community Fund reached its end, and the connections, projects and collaborations established during this work, are now embedded within the organisation and inform new work(s).

Our guest lecture services expanded with new educational institutes requesting this service to complement their curriculums. Delivering these digitally meant that we could expand capacity easily to include new universities, schools and colleges.

One of our directors graduated from Birkbeck University of London, with a MA in Arts Management. The thesis research was informed directly by Peter Holbrook of Social Enterprise UK, a range of Queer Artists and Arts Managers and enabled us to establish

strong connections with new, emerging and existing arts organisations. This network will be maintained with a view to expanding our portfolio and creating more academic research for publication and for use within the wider arts sector.

During the summer of 2021, we were commissioned by Get Living to design and mount creative activation of the Elephant & Castle shopping centre re-development. This included bespoke and site-specific activity in line with the strategic Place-making paradigms of the area and offering a Social Return on Investment, to developers. Artists and practitioners were recruited from within the immediate London borough, providing opportunities for critical agency in future development plans.

### **Research, Development of CIC and Social Enterprise**

Towards the end of the period this report covers, the board of directors recognised the need to revisit our governing objectives. We undertook an extensive period of research, consultation and discussions with everybody in our spheres, to test whether new CIC objectives were now needed. Our original objects focused on the 'cultural development of Wolverton, Milton Keynes' but, as our portfolio expanded over the last decade, working across the world, it is clear a new set of objects is needed. This company resolution has been planned for publication in year 2022-23 and will be addressed in the CIC34 for 2022-23 to follow.

*(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.

The company's stakeholders include Participants, Artists, Freelancers, Practitioners, Customers, Partners and/or Clients. They are consulted via ongoing, 360-degree practices derived from a Theory of Change and measured against Social Progress Indicators and CIC Governing Articles and Objects.

*(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.

See attached accounts. 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.)*



**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

Date

**Please note that it is a legal requirement for the date format to be provided in full throughout the CIC34 report.**

**Applications will be rejected if this information is incorrect.**

*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.

|                                    |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Board of Directors                 |                  |
| Bar Bar Black Sheep, 16 The Square |                  |
| Wolverton, Milton Keynes           |                  |
| MK12 5DG                           | 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

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