

# **APNA GHAR**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

### **2023-2024**





## CHAIR

**As the Chair of Apna Ghar, I am pleased to present our annual report, reflecting on our achievements, challenges, and future goals. 2024 has been another pivotal year for our organization, and I am proud of what we have accomplished together.**

Reflecting on the past year's achievements, we have been successful in our fundraising target by obtaining ongoing national lottery support, building upon ongoing funding support from Ballinger Trust, Northumbria Police, Garfield Weston, South Tyneside Council, Community Foundation and our joint Food Fair project with WHIST. We are very grateful to each of our donors and supporters, without whom we would not be supporting and transforming the lives of girls and women daily. It is with sincere thanks to the dedication of our team and generous contributions from our donors that we are excelling in our aim to provide a multi-generational support service offer to our local community. Enabling, empowering and supporting all girls and women in our community.

2024 saw us launch our Youth Group initiative which has been immensely popular and has impacted positively on our younger service users. We have increased our community involvement through participating in local and regional events and workshops and aim to further fostering stronger community relationships and awareness of our mission. We continue to stride forward in establishing new partnerships with peer organisations and enhance our capacity to serve and reach more beneficiaries.

Despite our successes, we have faced challenges including funding fluctuations and retaining of staff. We are actively addressing these issues by recruiting a Centre Coordinator as well as continuing to develop initiatives for further funding to help and support our community users in all areas of health and social care.

Moving forward, we aim to expand our outreach programs to serve all active and potential service users in South Tyneside, increase our digital presence to attract all age supporters and operationalise a new older persons support program to further enhance our capacity to support service users of all ages. We aim to build upon developing plans to provide an all-age service offer to really support our service users holistically. Recently, we witnessed and/or experienced racist and Islamophobic behaviour throughout England. This was a difficult time for many of us and laid bare the importance of community and cultural integration as well as the need to come together and support one another. We must protect and provide a safe space for everyone, especially those who are most vulnerable as well as educate those who are unaware, to develop cultural competency and community cohesion. With our community events continuing and the Town coming together peacefully, it feels that locally we have been successful in community cohesion. But we must continue to retain, strengthen and build upon community links further consolidating our communities mutual respect and support.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated staff, volunteers, and Trustees for their unwavering commitment. Your hard work is the backbone of our charity.

Together, we have made significant strides, but there is much more to be done. Let us continue to work collaboratively to achieve our mission and continue making a difference in our community.

In the words of Margaret Maed "never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

**Thank you for your support.**

# Volunteer Project

Drupy Senanayake - Volunteer Coordinator



## Another Great Year

As a coordinator, I am continually impressed by how our volunteers have worked together as a cohesive team, demonstrating remarkable collaboration and dedication to support our local community. Through their efforts, they have not only developed new skills but have also grown both personally and professionally. Their commitment to learning and self-improvement through training has significantly enhanced their contributions to the local community, driving positive change and making a meaningful impact. Their teamwork and development are a testament to their passion and the collective strength of our organisation.

## Our Impact in the Community

Our volunteers collaborate with a diverse range of organizations, including The Salvation Army, Age Concern, Crest, and Cafe Westoe. They also support at St Jude's Church Toddler Group, Bright Futures, Whist, Hindu Narisang, Emmaus, and Your Voice Counts. This extensive network of partnerships enhances our ability to serve various communities and address a broad spectrum of needs, showcasing the dedication and versatility of our volunteers in fostering positive change across different sectors.

The APNAGAR Luncheon Club is solely run by our volunteers and the Youth Group has one of our volunteers helping out.

## Impact On Volunteers

Our annual report highlights the great impact our organisation has had on our dedicated volunteers. Engaging with our courses has hopefully not only enriched their lives but also fostered a deep sense of community and purpose. Volunteers have reported increased skills in leadership, teamwork, and cultural competency, while also benefiting from the personal fulfilment, that comes from making a tangible difference in the lives of others. Their commitment has been instrumental in advancing our mission, and the growth they experience reflects the strength and vitality of our collective efforts.

24 total Volunteers  
over the last year

12 in volunteering  
positions

4 Volunteers in  
Employment

## Courses and Training Attended by Our Volunteers

- Adult Social Care Services
- Food Hygiene, Health and Safety
- ESOL - South Tyneside College / WHIST
- English Language
- Back to Employment support with CV's/ interviews /confidence building (3 volunteers)
- Basic ICT
- Food allergy and Intolerance
- Child care safety
- Safeguarding and Prevention
- Children and Young Force
- Dementia
- Maths
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Early years Setting
- Volunteering course
- Customer care

The Volunteer Project was nominated for the King's Award 2024

## Plan for the Future

1. Complete volunteer passports.
2. Emphasis on English and Maths training and courses to support our volunteers with applying for jobs and gaining employment.
3. Encourage group activities such as introducing a 'buddy' system to help with sharing, learning skills and to support one another to build our volunteers confidence .
4. Continue in-house training with IT and administration skills.
5. One-to-one support with CV writing and interview skills





**South Tyneside Council**



**James Knott Trust**



**BALLINGER**  
CHARITABLE TRUST



WOMEN'S HEALTH IN SOUTH TYNESIDE

**RISE.**



**Garfield Weston**  
FOUNDATION

## **APNA GHAR MINORITY ETHNIC WOMEN'S CENTRE**

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