

## **ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2021**

The Trustees at the start of the year were Rory MacLeod (chair), Paul James (treasurer) and Bridgette Nettleford. In November 2020, Sandra Ramsbotham was appointed as a trustee and treasurer with Paul James continuing as a trustee.

Peter Hall (co-ordinator) and Rosanna Edser (Family Education Project) were the only two employees, both on part-time contracts. Peter Hall retired at the end of May 2020 but continued in a voluntary capacity to help as he was able to do so.

At the outset, I wish to place on record the thanks of all the Trustees to the many volunteers who have given of their time so selflessly to meet the needs of the asylum seekers and refugees that have been helped by the Croydon Refugee Day Centre (CRDC).

The year April 2020 to March 2021 has been like no other year for the organisation. The Coronavirus pandemic that started early in 2020 resulted in the first national lockdown in March 2020. Hitherto, the CRDC had provided a safe place within a large church hall where those seeking asylum or granted refugee status could meet, chat and relax on Tuesday mornings with a supervised place for young children to play and a help desk for adults to be signposted to other services. A key element had always been provision of a free hot meal, usually for over 100 persons, from food donated to us or bought for this purpose.

All this had to stop with the lockdown. We could not operate from a crowded indoor environment and had to adapt our services. West Croydon Baptist Church where we are based were not currently using the hall for other purposes, so we were able to create an enlarged clothes store. As lockdown measures eased in the early summer we were able to provide clothing and food to asylum seekers and refugees outside the hall and then via a one-way system inside the hall, with appropriate covid-19 precautions, for a limited number of people at a time.

Over the summer of 2020 many migrants crossed the English Channel and several local hotels were used to provide temporary accommodation in addition to those regularly used for asylum seekers. Most had just the clothing in which they had arrived. It was still warm, but the winter months were coming. Suddenly we had long queues outside the hall, mainly of single men, needing clothing. We quickly ran out of stock for the most popular sizes and resorted to buying clothes, new underwear and footwear as we were able to. Then at short notice many single men were moved to the vacant Napier Army Barracks near to Folkestone. As we had the mobile phone numbers of some relocated, we were made aware of clothing needs not yet met and arranged for a full car load of clothing, much for named individuals, to be driven to Folkestone. The operation was then repeated.

We continued to serve locally based asylum seekers and refugees at the church hall during the autumn with clothing, toiletries and food products for those self-catering. However, over the winter months, during the second national lockdown, activity at the church hall had to be curtailed once again. We adapted our services to the distribution of food products and clothing to those known to be in need from the communities we served.

During these months we partnered with the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) based in East London as many of their clients were based in the Croydon area and it was easier for us to distribute food to them. As lockdown restrictions eased we were able to resume serving people outside the church hall.

Over the year 2020-2021 we have served people from over 30 countries. The largest numbers have come from Albania, Iraq, Kuwait, Sudan, Eritrea, Nigeria and Syria. In the period from September to October 2020 we responded to the needs of over 200 people. The largest cohort was single people, predominantly men, but we also served couples and many families with one or more children.

In January 2021, Peter Hall, our recently retired Co-ordinator and long-term stalwart of the CRDC sadly died from coronavirus. He is greatly missed but the work of the CRDC continued led by trustees and a loyal body of volunteers.

I wish to acknowledge with thanks the roles played by the many individuals, organisations, and companies whose support has been instrumental in the continued success of CRDC over the past 12 months:

- Coughlan's the Bakers who have supplied us with bread and cakes for many years.
- The Queen's Mothers Clothing Guild for their generous donation of new adult and baby clothes.
- London Churches Refugee Fund for the generous donation of a grant.
- Kevin McKenna from Croydon Council for advice and practical assistance with pursuing means of funding.
- Refugees at Home who host refugees in our borough
- The staff at Migrant Help for their ongoing support, and for accompanying clients to the centre.
- The owners of Hayesthorpe Hotel who together with their staff have facilitated our Family Education Project.
- LUSH in Croydon for donations of wonderful toiletries.
- The Mayor of Croydon, Councillor Humayun Kabir, for adopting us as one of his Charities of the year, and for fundraising for us.
- Croydon Reach for their positive attitude to helping our homeless clients.
- Bishop Jonathan for his outspoken support for all refugees.
- David Sayers for collecting excess clothing and taking it to Ukraine and other Eastern European countries.

- The Body Shop for kindly providing various toiletries.
  - Calvin Productions Ltd., for new clothing bought for filming but never worn.
  - Local schools and churches in the borough for taking an interest in our work and donating their Harvest Festival goods and other gifts in kind to us.
  - Refugee Action and Migrant Help for providing free of charge literature we have used to promote CRDC.
  - Joanna Doherty from the Happy Baby Community.
  - South West London Law Centre for accepting referrals from us for clients in need of qualified advice.
  - The British Red Cross for their continuous support.
- 
- Purley Food Hub, the Vine Foodbank and West Norwood Foodbank for kindly accepting referrals from us.
  - Croydon Voluntary Action for their ongoing help, support, and advice.
  - Rev Linda Fox and Cynthia Smith for running ESOL and computer lessons at St Augustine's Church.
  - And with apologies to those supporters whose names have been omitted – not because we do not value them – on the contrary, their roles cannot be overstated. And there are so many whose input has been integral to our success in providing high quality services to our many visitors over the past year.
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### **The Family Education Project (FEP) (Rosanna Edser)**

Prior to the pandemic, the FEP ran weekly on Wednesday mornings in Hayesthorpe Initial Accommodation Hotel with a small team of volunteers providing educational and play activities for the children of destitute asylum-seeking families and support for their parents. In the afternoons I provided individual support, help with form-filling and phone calls, integration, oyster cards and Tesco vouchers for food where needed for health reasons.

In March 2020, at the hotel managers' request and to protect our volunteers, we stopped running our usual weekly sessions as lockdown began and I distributed our stock of toys, games and educational resources to our client families who were isolated in their rooms. Thereafter, I continued visiting these families (taking due Covid-19 precautions), helping them connect to available online/phone support, such as the Happy Baby Community.

Because formal schooling had all moved online and couldn't be accessed by children without electronic devices I continued to support some recently dispersed families who were particularly vulnerable by appealing for used I-pads, tablets and lap tops. These were factory-reset and posted to them and some given to our Hayesthorpe current clients, some at the expense of Geoff Dumbreck, vicar of St Augustine's. Some of our families

were moved out into self-catering accommodation in Croydon High Street, Tulsi apart-hotel, from where I continued to support a family with acute health needs.

We started games for children in a park close to the hotel on Wednesday afternoons which was popular for those children unable to gain access to local schools, and also provided an opportunity and safe place for adults to meet outside the hotel. We promoted the Tuesday Drop-Ins and the local English Classes. A volunteer would regularly lead a group from the hotel by bus to the CRDC base at West Croydon Baptist Church for clothing needs to be met. Crèche and laptop access were provided by St Augustine's Church and Simon French on Thursday afternoons. To families we knew well I gave my work phone number and have continued to provide them with support remotely for educational matters, such as new school applications and access to local council services.

The numbers of children, teenagers and adults helped at the Hayesthorpe Hotel varied considerably with the fluctuation of the hotel's occupancy as some families were relocated and new asylum seekers took their places.

### **Other Activities**

The Croydon Refugee Day Centre has been represented at various venues. Both Rosie and Peter have had a number of speaking engagements at several schools, churches and other venues highlighting the work of the organisation.

Rory MacLeod  
Chair of Trustees



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Croydon Refugee Day Centre

No (if any)  
1064465

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

Period start date  
01/04/2020

31/03/2020

Period end date  
31/03/2020



### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Grants	30	850	-	880	1,150
Rags Collection	546	-	-	546	434
Sundry donations	£27,826.44	-	-	27,826	26,575
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	28,402	850	-	29,252	28,159
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	28,402	850	-	29,252	28,159
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Administrator Salaries	£6,756.55	-	-	6,757	21,194
Insurance	£336.02	-	-	336	358
Food and Sundries	£7,540.39	-	-	7,540	4,797
Refugee Travel Costs		850	-	850	1,839
Sundry expenditure	5,717	-	-	5,717	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	20,350	850	-	21,200	28,188
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
Cash in Bank	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	20,350	850	-	21,200	
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	8,052	-	-	8,052	18,127
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	-	18,127	-	18,127	
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	8,052	18,127	-	26,179	18,127

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		26,179	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	26,179	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Sandra Ramsbotham	2.9.22
	Roderick MacLeod	2.9.22





Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Croydon Refugee Day Centre

On accounts for the year  
ended

31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Charity no  
(if any)

1064465

Set out on pages

Two Pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/3/2021

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent  
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below \*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

2/9/22

Name:

Robert Maybin

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):

Retired Chartered Accountant

Address:

26A Morland Avenue

Croydon

CR0 6EA



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Croydon Refugee Day Centre

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			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
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			-	
			-	
			-	

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Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
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	Roderick MacLeod	2.9.22



Section A

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ended

31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

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Signed:

Date:

2/9/22

Name:

Robert Maybin

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):

Retired Chartered Accountant

Address:

26A Morland Avenue

Croydon

CR0 6EA