

# BEACON (BRADFORD ECUMENICAL ASYLUM CONCERN)

England & Wales · Charity number 1119463

## Details

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|             |                                                                          |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Other names | BEACON (BRADFORD ECUMENICAL ASYLUM), BEACON (BRADFORD) ECUMENICAL ASYLUM |
| Status      | Registered                                                               |
| Legal form  | Other                                                                    |
| Registered  | 2007-06-01                                                               |
| Register    | <a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>                  |

## Contact

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|         |                                                                        |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Address | Touchstone<br>4 Easby Road<br>Bradford<br>BD7 1QX                      |
| Phone   | 07506211756                                                            |
| Email   | <a href="mailto:admin@beaconbradford.org">admin@beaconbradford.org</a> |
| Website | <a href="http://www.beaconbradford.org">www.beaconbradford.org</a>     |

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE RELIEF OF HARDSHIP AMONG THOSE SEEKING ASYLUM IN THE UK OR WHO ARE REFUGEES WHO RESIDE IN THE BRADFORD METROPOLITAN DISTRICT AND SURROUNDING AREAS.TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL ABOUT THE ISSUES RELATING TO REFUGEES AND THOSE SEEKING ASYLUM.

**Activities:** BEACON (Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern) was set up out of a shared concern to address the needs and concerns of the many people seeking asylum in Bradford Metropolitan District. We provide practical and moral support for people seeking asylum through the BEACON projects: Asylum Advice (Immigration Advice Authority registered legal support) and CHAT (English conversation class).

## Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** THE BRADFORD METROPOLITAN DISTRICT.
- Bradford City

## Finances

| Period end | Income  | Expenditure | Assets | Employees |
|------------|---------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| 2025-09-30 | £82,111 | £79,831     | -      | -         |
| 2024-09-30 | £84,331 | £63,733     | -      | -         |
| 2023-09-30 | £38,366 | £56,915     | -      | -         |
| 2022-09-30 | £38,402 | £60,667     | -      | -         |
| 2021-09-30 | £50,290 | £53,264     | -      | -         |

## Trustees

| Name                   | Role | Appointed  |
|------------------------|------|------------|
| Dafton Edward Sterling |      | 2021-01-27 |
| HEATHER GRINTER        |      | 2012-04-04 |
| Karen Deborah Thornton |      | 2024-01-09 |
| Lisa Ceesay            |      | 2023-09-12 |
| Martin Whitey Lewis    |      | 2023-01-24 |
| Mary Margaret Brooks   |      | 2019-12-10 |
| Rev SARAH ANN JEMISON  |      | 2014-11-11 |
| WILL SUTCLIFFE         |      | 2011-09-01 |

**BEACON (BRADFORD ECUMENICAL ASYLUM CONCERN)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1119463

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# Accounts

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# **BEACON (Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern)**

Charity number 1119463

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2025**



# **BEACON (Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern)**

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2025**

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**Prepared by West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO**

# **BEACON (Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern)**

## **Trustees' report for the year ended 30 September 2025**

### **Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors**

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

| <b>Name</b>       | <b>Position</b> |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Mary Brooks       | Chair           |
| Heather Grinter   | Vice Chair      |
| Martin Lewis      | Treasurer       |
| Sarah Jemison     |                 |
| William Sutcliffe |                 |
| Edward Sterling   |                 |
| Lisa Ceesay       |                 |
| Karen Thornton    |                 |

**Charity number** 1119463 Registered in England and Wales

|                                         |                      |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Registered and principal address</b> | <b>Bankers</b>       |
| c/o Touchstone                          | Unity Trust Bank plc |
| 4 Easby Road                            | Nine Brindleyplace   |
| Bradford                                | Birmingham           |
| BD7 1QX                                 | B1 2HB               |

#### **Independent examiner**

Alan Dodd FCCA

#### **West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO**

Stringer House  
34 Lupton Street  
Leeds  
LS10 2QW

#### **Structure, governance and management**

The charity is governed by a constitution adopted on 14 November 2006 as amended on 8 October 2019 and 28 January 2020.

#### **Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees**

The trustees of the charity are appointed by the members at the AGM.

# **BEACON (Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern)**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 30 September 2025**

### **Objectives and activities**

#### **The charity's objects**

The relief of hardship among those seeking asylum in the UK or who are refugees who reside in the Bradford Metropolitan District and surrounding areas.

To advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.

#### **The charity's main activities**

All of BEACON's activities are underpinned by our vision that the Bradford district becomes a hospitable community where people seeking asylum and refugees are welcome, enjoy access to justice and fair treatment and are supported on their journey to independence and integration. We have enacted this primarily through our McKenzie Friends and CHAT.

McKenzie Friends support people seeking asylum through the legal system towards gaining sanctuary and refugee status; volunteers provide legal support and advocacy to navigate the complexities of the asylum system, including facilitating access to legal advice and accompanying unrepresented asylum seekers to appeal hearings.

CHAT hold weekly English conversation classes and activities group open to non-English speakers in the local community, for all abilities. The group provides a friendly and welcoming environment in which to improve English, form social connections, enhance wellbeing and enjoy a variety of additional activities from gardening, to theatre trips and cooking classes.

#### **Public benefit statement**

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. In line with our charitable purposes:

1) Our work has been successful in relieving hardship among those seeking asylum and refugees who reside in the Bradford Metropolitan District and surrounding areas. Our two projects (McKenzie Friends, and CHAT) are dependent on a wide range of committed volunteers who enable us to deliver a high quality service. We have continued to recruit and train new volunteers thus increasing our capacity to support more people seeking asylum as they deal with the many challenges they face. This includes providing information, signposting, and support to access legal advice (McKenzie Friends), and the opportunity to improve English language skills, take part in volunteering activities and establish social networks leading to a reduction in isolation increased well-being and empowerment among those seeking asylum. (CHAT project).

In addition to the benefits to the people we have supported and the associated benefits gained by our volunteers, our work has a wider public benefit in enhancing social cohesion and opportunities for integration for people seeking asylum. Thus reducing the strain on other community services which are not as well placed to meet the unique needs of people seeking asylum.

2) We have furthered our objective to advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and people seeking asylum.

We have continued to build strong relationships with partner organisations for the benefit of people seeking asylum in Bradford. We have been a regular attendee at 'Your Space' – a weekly multi-agency drop-in service that offers advice and information for people seeking sanctuary. We have also continued to work closely with partner organisations, in particular 'Bradford Community - Learning Together'- a monthly programme of networking, training and information open to all staff and volunteers in the sector in Bradford. We have also maintained our positive relationship with Inclusive Volunteering Bradford and District, who have been able to support some of our service users into volunteering positions. Our annual sponsored walk during Refugee Week and presence at various local events, including the Saltaire Peace and Crafts Fair provide opportunities to increase information amongst the public.

# **BEACON (Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern)**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 30 September 2025**

### **Public benefit statement (continued)**

The public benefit arising from these activities is the increase in information given to the public which in turn enhances support for, and consideration of, the difficulties faced by the individuals we support, thus facilitating people to play a role in society as informed citizens, who are aware of humanitarian concerns affecting people seeking asylum.

The charity trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed and have a plan to manage identified risks.

### **Achievements and performance**

We are pleased to report that our achievements this year have continued to have significant impact on the lives of the people using our services, and on the asylum sector in Bradford. The services and support we have provided were thanks to hard work of our small staff team (Team Leader, CHAT Coordinator, McKenzie Friends Coordinator and Admin & Finance Officer) and our fantastic team of volunteers.

CHAT has become a well-established community conversation class that has been attended by 115 people from 29 different nations in the past twelve months. The growth in numbers attending our weekly sessions meant that we had outgrown the space available in our Touchstone offices so we successfully relocated our classes to the Global Café which is run by the Sherbourne Church Trust. Over the past year the class has also welcomed visitors from various groups aimed at helping them settle in to and understand life in the UK, in addition to which participants in the class have been provided with opportunities to explore the local community and to visit places that they may not have had chance to go to otherwise: for example they enjoyed a day out at Saltaire Village enjoying the village and the canal.

In the past twelve months our McKenzie Friends project has supported 73 people seeking asylum, and our McKenzie Friends volunteers are currently working with 46 of those people. Our clients have come from 28 different countries with the most coming from Pakistan, Nigeria, Iraq and Afghanistan. McKenzie Friends have had many positive outcomes over the past year - 10 people seeking asylum that we supported have been given Leave to Remain in the UK; we have helped find solicitors for 11 of our clients, three of whom have now lodged their further submissions; 12 clients have been supported to make an appeal so helping them access justice and stay in their accommodation.

### **Financial review**

The net receipts for the year were £9,708, including net receipts of £15,082 on unrestricted funds and net payments of £5,374 on restricted funds after transfers.

### **Reserves policy**

The charity's free reserves, at the year end were £67,731.

BEACON depends on grants and donations to sustain its activities. We run the risk of closure if funding difficulties were to happen, if there were a temporary shortfall in income, or an unforeseen rise in spending requirements and costs.

To prevent immediate closure in these instances, the trustees have agreed to keep a certain level of financial reserves to ensure that main operations can continue until alternative provision can be made.

The main concerns are to ensure:

- that service users are supported to move on to other services in a timely and sympathetic manner;
- an ability to develop new projects and grasp new opportunities should they arise;
- that staff can continue working to develop another funding stream to continue the work of BEACON;
- that staff will be provided with redundancy payments where applicable.

**BEACON (Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern)**  
**Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 30 September 2025**

**Reserves policy (continued)**

BEACON's reserves comprise restricted reserves – the amount of unspent restricted grants received – and free reserves – the amount of unrestricted funds available. The ideal amount of reserves has been set as the full amount of restricted reserves plus an amount equivalent to between 6 and 12 months of unrestricted running costs, as this is deemed an appropriate period of time to achieve the above Aims. Of the available free reserves, the Trustees may agree to use an amount equivalent to between 2 and 4 months to support the development of new projects.

Anticipated expenditure is kept under constant review throughout the year and cash flow projections are amended to reflect any changes. Target reserve levels are adjusted accordingly.

Approved by the board of trustees on .....

Signed: ..... (Trustee)

Name: .....

## **BEACON (Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern)**

### **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of BEACON (Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern)**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2025, which are set out on pages 7 to 11.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees 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 charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act;
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Signed: .....

Name: Alan Dodd FCCA

Date: .....

#### **West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO**

Stringer House  
34 Lupton Street  
Leeds  
LS10 2QW

# BEACON (Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern)

## Receipts and payments account

for the year ended 30 September 2025

|                                      | Notes | 2025<br>Unrestricted<br>funds<br>£ | 2025<br>Restricted<br>funds<br>£ | 2025<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ | 2024<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ |
|--------------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Receipts</b>                      |       |                                    |                                  |                             |                             |
| Grants                               | (2)   | 56,000                             | 12,100                           | 68,100                      | 71,400                      |
| Donations:                           |       |                                    |                                  |                             |                             |
| Faith Groups                         |       | 3,037                              | -                                | 3,037                       | 3,458                       |
| Individuals                          |       | 6,573                              | -                                | 6,573                       | 8,093                       |
| Gift aid                             |       | 1,956                              | -                                | 1,956                       | 249                         |
| Fundraising                          |       | 914                                | -                                | 914                         | 50                          |
| Other income                         |       | 275                                | -                                | 275                         | 226                         |
| Bank interest                        |       | 1,256                              | -                                | 1,256                       | 855                         |
| <b>Total receipts</b>                |       | <u>70,011</u>                      | <u>12,100</u>                    | <u>82,111</u>               | <u>84,331</u>               |
| <b>Payments</b>                      |       |                                    |                                  |                             |                             |
| Salaries NI and pensions             |       | 32,617                             | 14,353                           | 46,970                      | 43,598                      |
| Payroll charges                      |       | 671                                | 176                              | 847                         | 732                         |
| Rent                                 |       | 6,570                              | -                                | 6,570                       | 6,690                       |
| Insurance                            |       | 893                                | 102                              | 995                         | 600                         |
| Office costs                         |       | 856                                | 58                               | 914                         | 1,186                       |
| Publicity and fundraising            |       | 3,787                              | -                                | 3,787                       | 2,275                       |
| Training                             |       | 227                                | 231                              | 458                         | 331                         |
| Subscriptions                        |       | 613                                | 280                              | 893                         | 646                         |
| Project costs                        |       | 6,123                              | 1,754                            | 7,877                       | 5,354                       |
| IT costs                             |       | 743                                | -                                | 743                         | 544                         |
| Volunteer expenses                   |       | 76                                 | 62                               | 138                         | 232                         |
| Other expenses                       |       | 183                                | 8                                | 191                         | 115                         |
| Governance costs                     |       | 1,228                              | -                                | 1,228                       | 704                         |
| Independent examination              |       | 792                                | -                                | 792                         | 726                         |
| <b>Total payments</b>                |       | <u>55,379</u>                      | <u>17,024</u>                    | <u>72,403</u>               | <u>63,733</u>               |
| <b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>     |       | <u>14,632</u>                      | <u>(4,924)</u>                   | <u>9,708</u>                | <u>20,598</u>               |
| <b>Transfers between funds</b>       |       | <u>450</u>                         | <u>(450)</u>                     | <u>-</u>                    | <u>-</u>                    |
| <b>Net movement in funds</b>         |       | <u>15,082</u>                      | <u>(5,374)</u>                   | <u>9,708</u>                | <u>20,598</u>               |
| <b>Fund balances brought forward</b> |       | <u>52,649</u>                      | <u>17,474</u>                    | <u>70,123</u>               | <u>49,525</u>               |
| <b>Fund balances carried forward</b> | (3)   | <u>67,731</u>                      | <u>12,100</u>                    | <u>79,831</u>               | <u>70,123</u>               |

# BEACON (Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern)

## Statement of assets and liabilities

as at 30 September 2025

|                             | 2025          | 2025          | 2025          | 2024          |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|                             | Unrestricted  | Restricted    | Total         | Total         |
|                             | £             | £             | £             | £             |
| <b>Cash funds</b>           |               |               |               |               |
| Cash at bank                | 62,599        | 12,100        | 74,699        | 63,121        |
| Cash at bank - Bradford CPA | 5,112         | -             | 5,112         | 6,982         |
| Cash in hand                | 20            | -             | 20            | 20            |
| <b>Total cash funds</b>     | <u>67,731</u> | <u>12,100</u> | <u>79,831</u> | <u>70,123</u> |

### Debtors and prepayments

|             |            |
|-------------|------------|
|             | 2025       |
|             | £          |
| Prepayments | <u>670</u> |
|             | <u>670</u> |

### Liabilities

|          |            |
|----------|------------|
|          | 2025       |
|          | £          |
| Accruals | <u>924</u> |
|          | <u>924</u> |

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on .....

Signed: ..... (Trustee)

Name: .....

# **BEACON (Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern)**

## **Notes to the accounts**

### **for the year ended 30 September 2025**

#### **1 Accounting policies**

##### **Basis of accounting**

The trustees have taken advantage of section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and have prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year.

No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

##### **Taxation**

As a charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

##### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

# BEACON (Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern)

## Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 30 September 2025

### 2 Grants and donations

|                                                  | 2025          | 2025          | 2025          | 2024          |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|                                                  | Unrestricted  | Restricted    | Total         | Total         |
|                                                  | funds         | funds         | funds         | funds         |
|                                                  | £             | £             | £             | £             |
| Benefact Trust                                   | -             | 11,000        | 11,000        | -             |
| No Accommodation Network (NACCOM)                | -             | 1,100         | 1,100         | -             |
| Postcode Neighbourhood Trust                     | 25,000        | -             | 25,000        | -             |
| The Brelms Trust CIO                             | 5,000         | -             | 5,000         | 5,000         |
| The Garfield Weston Foundation                   | 10,000        | -             | 10,000        | -             |
| The Leigh Trust                                  | 3,000         | -             | 3,000         | -             |
| The Lyndal Tree Foundation                       | 3,000         | -             | 3,000         | 3,000         |
| The Methodist Church Yorkshire West District     | 10,000        | -             | 10,000        | 20,000        |
| Bradford Diocesan Council for Social Aid (BDCSA) | -             | -             | -             | 3,000         |
| Lush Limited                                     | -             | -             | -             | 1,000         |
| National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF)           | -             | -             | -             | 19,900        |
| The Allen Lane Foundation                        | -             | -             | -             | 4,000         |
| The Charles & Elsie Sykes Trust                  | -             | -             | -             | 3,000         |
| The Scurrah Wainwright Charity                   | -             | -             | -             | 5,000         |
| The Wharfedale Foundation                        | -             | -             | -             | 2,500         |
| Other grants                                     | -             | -             | -             | 5,000         |
|                                                  | <u>56,000</u> | <u>12,100</u> | <u>68,100</u> | <u>71,400</u> |

### 3 Restricted funds

|                             | Balance b/f   | Incoming      | Outgoing      | Transfers    | Balance c/f   |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
|                             | £             | £             | £             | £            | £             |
| Charles & Elsie Sykes Trust | 757           | -             | 757           | -            | -             |
| NLCF - CHAT and MF          | 11,763        | -             | 11,763        | -            | -             |
| BDCSA                       | 513           | -             | 513           | -            | -             |
| Scurrah Wainwright          | 3,543         | -             | 3,093         | (450)        | -             |
| Lush Retail Limited         | 898           | -             | 898           | -            | -             |
| Benefact Trust              | -             | 11,000        | -             | -            | 11,000        |
| NACCOM                      | -             | 1,100         | -             | -            | 1,100         |
|                             | <u>17,474</u> | <u>12,100</u> | <u>17,024</u> | <u>(450)</u> | <u>12,100</u> |

#### Fund name

Charles & Elsie Sykes Trust  
NLCF - CHAT and MF

BDCSA

Scurrah Wainwright

Lush Retail Limited

Benefact Trust

NACCOM

#### Purpose of restriction

To support the purchase of bus passes for people in the asylum process.

To support the salary costs of the CHAT and Mackenzie Friends coordinators.

To support legal and advice and friendship costs for the Mackenzie Friends project.

To support volunteer recruitment activities. The transfer is for a contribution towards management and overhead costs.

To support the Mackenzie Friends project.

For a new legal support project.

To support staff and volunteer wellbeing.

# **BEACON (Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern)**

## **Notes to the accounts continued**

### **for the year ended 30 September 2025**

#### **4 Related party transactions**

##### **Trustee expenses**

During the year no trustees were paid travel expenses (previous year: 1 trustee and £119).

##### **Trustee remuneration and benefits**

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.

**BEACON (BRADFORD ECUMENICAL ASYLUM CONCERN)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1119463

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# Accounts

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# **BEACON (Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern)**

Charity number 1119463

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2024**



**WYCAS**

COMMUNITY ACCOUNTING  
WEST YORKSHIRE

# **BEACON (Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern)**

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2024**

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## **Trustees' report for the year ended 30 September 2024**

### **Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors**

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

| <b>Name</b>       | <b>Position</b> | <b>Dates</b>             |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Sarah Jemison     | Chair           |                          |
| Heather Grinter   | Vice Chair      |                          |
| Martin Lewis      | Treasurer       |                          |
| William Sutcliffe |                 |                          |
| Mary Brooks       |                 |                          |
| Edward Sterling   |                 |                          |
| Lisa Ceesay       |                 |                          |
| Karen Thornton    |                 | Appointed 9 January 2024 |

**Charity number** 1119463 Registered in England and Wales

|                                         |                      |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Registered and principal address</b> | <b>Bankers</b>       |
| c/o Touchstone                          | Unity Trust Bank plc |
| 4 Easby Road                            | Nine Brindleyplace   |
| Bradford                                | Birmingham           |
| BD7 1QX                                 | B1 2HB               |

### **Independent examiner**

Rhys North ACA

### **West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO**

Stringer House  
34 Lupton Street  
Leeds  
LS10 2QW

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# **BEACON (Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern)**

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To advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.

#### **The charity's main activities**

All of BEACON's activities are underpinned by our vision that the Bradford district becomes a hospitable community where people seeking asylum and refugees are welcome, enjoy access to justice and fair treatment and are supported on their journey to independence and integration. We have enacted this primarily through our McKenzie Friends, CHAT and Hosting projects

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1) Our work has been successful in relieving hardship among those seeking asylum and refugees who reside in the Bradford Metropolitan District and surrounding areas. Our three projects (McKenzie Friends, Hosting and CHAT) are dependent on a wide range of committed volunteers who enable us to deliver a high quality service. We have continued to recruit and train new volunteers thus increasing our capacity to support more people seeking asylum as they deal with the many challenges they face. This includes providing information, signposting, and support to access legal advice (McKenzie Friends), the relief of destitution and meeting of basic needs including food and money (Hosting Project) and the opportunity to improve English language skills, take part in volunteering activities and establish social networks leading to a reduction in isolation increased well-being and empowerment among those seeking asylum. (CHAT project).

In addition to the benefits to the people we have supported and the associated benefits gained by our volunteers, our work has a wider public benefit in enhancing social cohesion and opportunities for integration for people seeking asylum. Thus reducing the strain on other community services which are not as well placed to meet the unique needs of people seeking asylum.

2) We have furthered our objective to advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and people seeking asylum.

We are members of the Together with Refugees and Hands Up for our Health coalitions, whose aims are to better educate the public and counter the effects of the 'hostile environment'. We have continued to support and spread awareness of the 'Lift the Ban' coalition on the right to work for those seeking asylum. Our annual sponsored walk during Refugee Week and presence at various local events, including the Saltaire Peace and Crafts Fair provide opportunities to increase information amongst the public. We have given presentations to local groups to help spread awareness of the increasingly challenging needs of people seeking asylum.

The public benefit arising from these activities is the increase in information given to the public which in turn enhances support for, and consideration of, the difficulties faced by the individuals we support, thus facilitating people to play a role in society as informed citizens, who are aware of humanitarian concerns affecting people seeking asylum.

The charity trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed and have a plan to manage identified risks.

# **BEACON (Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern)**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 30 September 2024**

### **Achievements and performance**

We are pleased to report that our achievements this year have continued to have significant impact on the lives of the people using our services, and on the asylum sector in Bradford.

CHAT has become a well-established community conversation class that has been attended by 105 people from 22 different nations in the past twelve months. In the past year our CHAT coordinator has made some new connections in the local community and strengthened some established ones – for example the class worked with the 'Together Café' project at the University of Bradford to help the University improve their connections with groups in the local community. Over the past year the class has also welcomed visitors from various groups aimed at helping them settle in to and understand life in the UK – for example a worker from UK Parliament led a session to help participants learn about how the UK is governed and ways that they can have their say in local politics. In addition, participants in the class have been provided with opportunities to explore the local community and to visit places that they may not have had chance to go to otherwise: for example they have visited the local library and obtained library cards, and enjoyed a day out in Skipton enjoying the woods and canal.

In the past twelve months our McKenzie Friends project received 51 referrals, and our McKenzie Friends volunteers are currently working with 40 people seeking asylum. The majority of the clients we have been working over the past year have been from Iraq (18%) with other nationalities reflecting the situation internationally with five people each from Ethiopia, Sudan, Eritrea and Afghanistan, and others from Nigeria and Pakistan. McKenzie friends have had many positive outcomes over the past year - 13 people seeking asylum that we supported have been given Leave to Remain in the UK; we have secured solicitors for 10 of our clients who are seeking asylum; and 6 people that we have found solicitors for have now lodged their further submissions.

In addition to the work of our CHAT and McKenzie Friends projects, over the last year BEACON has continued to build strong relationships with partner organisations for the benefit of people seeking asylum in Bradford. We have been instrumental in setting up and running 'Your Space' – a weekly multi-agency drop-in service that offers advice and information for people seeking sanctuary. We have also worked closely with partner organisations to launch 'Bradford Community - Learning Together' - a monthly programme of networking, training and information open to all staff and volunteers in the sector in Bradford. We have also maintained our positive relationship with Inclusive Volunteering Bradford and District, who have been able to support some of our service users into volunteering positions.

More detailed analysis and information can be found in our Annual Impact Report.

### **Financial review**

The net receipts for the year were £20,598, including net receipts of £10,654 on unrestricted funds and net receipts of £9,944 on restricted funds after transfers.

# **BEACON (Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern)**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 30 September 2024**

### **Reserves policy**

BEACON depends on grants and donations to sustain its activities. We run the risk of closure if funding difficulties were to happen, if there were a temporary shortfall in income, or an unforeseen rise in spending requirements and costs.

To prevent immediate closure in these instances, the trustees have agreed to keep a certain level of financial reserves to ensure that main operations can continue until alternative provision can be made.

The main concerns are to ensure:

- that service users (particularly our hosted guests) are supported to move on to other services in a timely and sympathetic manner
- an ability to develop new projects and grasp new opportunities should they arise
- that staff can continue working to develop another funding stream to continue the work of BEACON
- that staff will be provided with redundancy payments where applicable.

The ideal amount of reserves has been set as an amount equivalent to between 6 and 12 months budgeted running costs, as this is deemed an appropriate period of time to achieve the above aims.

Anticipated expenditure is kept under constant review throughout the year and cash flow projections are amended to reflect any changes. Target reserve levels are adjusted accordingly.

At the end of the year our budgeted future running costs for the 2024/2025 financial year are £93,700. The target reserves range is therefore between £46,850 and £93,700.

The charity's free reserves, excluding fixed assets, at the year end are £52,649. This level of reserves sits within our target range.

Approved by the board of trustees on 2/1/2025

Martin Lewis (Trustee)

# **BEACON (Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern)**

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of BEACON (Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern)**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2024, which are set out on pages 7 to 10.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees 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 charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act;
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Rhys North ACA

3/1/2025

### **West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO**

Stringer House  
34 Lupton Street  
Leeds  
LS10 2QW

**BEACON (Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern)**  
**Receipts and payments account**  
**for the year ended 30 September 2024**

|                                      | Notes | 2024          | 2024          | 2024          | 2023            |
|--------------------------------------|-------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
|                                      |       | Unrestricted  | Restricted    | Total         | Total           |
|                                      |       | funds         | funds         | funds         | funds           |
|                                      |       | £             | £             | £             | £               |
| <b>Receipts</b>                      |       |               |               |               |                 |
| Grants                               | (2)   | 37,000        | 34,400        | 71,400        | 25,000          |
| Donations:                           |       |               |               |               |                 |
| Faith Groups                         |       | 3,458         | -             | 3,458         | 4,505           |
| Individuals                          |       | 8,093         | -             | 8,093         | 5,638           |
| Other                                |       | 249           | -             | 249           | 2,084           |
| Fundraising                          |       | 50            | -             | 50            | 1,139           |
| Other income                         |       | 226           | -             | 226           |                 |
| Bank interest                        |       | 855           | -             | 855           |                 |
| <b>Total receipts</b>                |       | <u>49,931</u> | <u>34,400</u> | <u>84,331</u> | <u>38,366</u>   |
| <b>Payments</b>                      |       |               |               |               |                 |
| Salaries NI and pensions             |       | 24,973        | 18,625        | 43,598        | 42,387          |
| Payroll charges                      |       | 490           | 242           | 732           | 688             |
| Rent                                 |       | 6,690         | -             | 6,690         | 6,842           |
| Insurance                            |       | 600           | -             | 600           | 591             |
| Office costs                         |       | 904           | 282           | 1,186         | 985             |
| Publicity and fundraising            |       | 2,275         | -             | 2,275         | 216             |
| Training                             |       | 197           | 134           | 331           | 105             |
| Subscriptions                        |       | 454           | 192           | 646           | 456             |
| Project costs                        |       | 744           | 4,610         | 5,354         | 2,719           |
| IT costs                             |       | 544           | -             | 544           | 415             |
| Volunteer expenses                   |       | 20            | 212           | 232           | 199             |
| Other expenses                       |       | 106           | 9             | 115           | 165             |
| Governance costs                     |       | 704           | -             | 704           | 727             |
| Independent examination              |       | 726           | -             | 726           | 420             |
| <b>Total payments</b>                |       | <u>39,427</u> | <u>24,306</u> | <u>63,733</u> | <u>56,915</u>   |
| <b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>     |       | <u>10,504</u> | <u>10,094</u> | <u>20,598</u> | <u>(18,549)</u> |
| <b>Transfers between funds</b>       |       | <u>150</u>    | <u>(150)</u>  | <u>-</u>      | <u>-</u>        |
| <b>Net movement in funds</b>         |       | <u>10,654</u> | <u>9,944</u>  | <u>20,598</u> | <u>(18,549)</u> |
| <b>Fund balances brought forward</b> |       | <u>41,995</u> | <u>7,530</u>  | <u>49,525</u> | <u>68,074</u>   |
| <b>Fund balances carried forward</b> | (3)   | <u>52,649</u> | <u>17,474</u> | <u>70,123</u> | <u>49,525</u>   |

**BEACON (Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern)**  
**Statement of assets and liabilities**  
**as at 30 September 2024**

|                             | 2024          | 2024          | 2024          | 2023          |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|                             | Unrestricted  | Restricted    | Total         | Total         |
|                             | £             | £             | £             | £             |
| <b>Cash funds</b>           |               |               |               |               |
| Cash at bank                | 45,647        | 17,474        | 63,121        | 39,244        |
| Cash at bank - Bradford CPA | 6,982         |               | 6,982         | 10,081        |
| Cash in hand                | 20            | -             | 20            | 200           |
| <b>Total cash funds</b>     | <u>52,649</u> | <u>17,474</u> | <u>70,123</u> | <u>49,525</u> |

**Debtors and prepayments**

|               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
|               | 2024         |
|               | £            |
| Prepayments   | 450          |
| Other debtors | <u>1,029</u> |
|               | <u>1,479</u> |

**Liabilities**

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
|                 | 2024         |
|                 | £            |
| Accruals        | 792          |
| Other creditors | <u>985</u>   |
|                 | <u>1,777</u> |

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 2/1/2025

Martin Lewis (Trustee)

# **BEACON (Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern)**

## **Notes to the accounts**

### **for the year ended 30 September 2024**

#### **1 Accounting policies**

##### **Basis of accounting**

The trustees have taken advantage of section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and have prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year.

No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

##### **Taxation**

As a charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

##### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

**BEACON (Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern)**  
**Notes to the accounts continued**  
**for the year ended 30 September 2024**

| 2 Grants                                         | 2024<br>Unrestricted<br>funds<br>£ | 2024<br>Restricted<br>funds<br>£ | 2024<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ | 2023<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Bradford Diocesan Council for Social Aid (BDCSA) | -                                  | 3,000                            | 3,000                       | -                           |
| Lush Limited                                     | -                                  | 1,000                            | 1,000                       | -                           |
| National Lottery Community Fund                  | -                                  | 19,900                           | 19,900                      | -                           |
| The Allen Lane Foundation                        | 4,000                              | -                                | 4,000                       | -                           |
| The Brelms Trust CIO                             | 5,000                              | -                                | 5,000                       | -                           |
| The Charles & Elsie Sykes Trust                  | -                                  | 3,000                            | 3,000                       | -                           |
| The Lyndal Tree Foundation                       | 3,000                              | -                                | 3,000                       | 5,000                       |
| The Methodist Church Yorkshire West District     | 20,000                             | -                                | 20,000                      | 10,000                      |
| The Scurrah Wainwright Charity                   | -                                  | 5,000                            | 5,000                       | -                           |
| The Wharfedale Foundation                        | -                                  | 2,500                            | 2,500                       | -                           |
| Society of the Holy Child Jesus (SHCJ)           | -                                  | -                                | -                           | 10,000                      |
| Other grants                                     | 5,000                              | -                                | 5,000                       | -                           |
|                                                  | <u>37,000</u>                      | <u>34,400</u>                    | <u>71,400</u>               | <u>25,000</u>               |

| 3 Restricted funds              | Balance b/f<br>£ | Incoming<br>£ | Outgoing<br>£ | Transfers<br>£ | Balance c/f<br>£ |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| Society of the Holy Child Jesus | 7,530            | -             | 7,530         | -              | -                |
| Charles & Elsie Sykes Trust     | -                | 3,000         | 2,243         | -              | 757              |
| NLCF - CHAT and MF              | -                | 19,900        | 8,137         | -              | 11,763           |
| The Wharfedale Foundation       | -                | 2,500         | 2,500         | -              | -                |
| BDCSA                           | -                | 3,000         | 2,487         | -              | 513              |
| Scurrah Wainwright              | -                | 5,000         | 1,307         | (150)          | 3,543            |
| Lush Retail Limited             | -                | 1,000         | 102           | -              | 898              |
|                                 | <u>7,530</u>     | <u>34,400</u> | <u>24,306</u> | <u>(150)</u>   | <u>17,474</u>    |

| Fund name                       | Purpose of restriction                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Society of the Holy Child Jesus | To support the salary costs of the Team Leader and Finance & Administration Assistant.                                 |
| Charles & Elsie Sykes Trust     | To support the purchase of bus passes for people in the asylum process.                                                |
| NLCF - CHAT and MF              | To support the salary costs of the CHAT and Mackenzie Friends coordinators.                                            |
| The Wharfedale Foundation       | To support the salary costs of the Mackenzie Friends coordinator.                                                      |
| BDCSA                           | To support legal and advice and friendship costs for the Mackenzie Friends project.                                    |
| Scurrah Wainwright              | To support volunteer recruitment activities. The transfer is for a contribution towards management and overhead costs. |
| Lush Retail Limited             | To support the Mackenzie Friends project.                                                                              |

**4 Related party transactions**

**Donations from trustees and related parties**

The total aggregate value of unconditional donations to the charity from the trustees or related parties was £315 (2023: £180).

**Trustee expenses**

During the year one trustees were paid a total of £119 in respect of travel (previous year: no expenses paid).

**Trustee remuneration and benefits**

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.

**BEACON (BRADFORD ECUMENICAL ASYLUM CONCERN)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1119463

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# Accounts

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# **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

Charity number 1119463

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2023**



WYCAS

COMMUNITY ACCOUNTING  
WEST YORKSHIRE

# **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2023**

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**Prepared by West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO**

# **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

## **Trustees' report for the year ended 30 September 2023**

### **Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors**

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

| <b>Name</b>           | <b>Position</b> | <b>Dates</b>                    |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Sarah Jemison         | Chair           |                                 |
| Heather Grinter       | Vice Chair      |                                 |
| Martin Lewis          | Treasurer       | Appointed 24 January 2023       |
| Barbara Clarke        | Secretary       | Resigned 24 January 2023        |
| William Sutcliffe     |                 |                                 |
| Mary Brooks           |                 |                                 |
| Edward Sterling       |                 |                                 |
| Lisa Ceesay           |                 | Appointed 12 September 2023     |
| <b>Charity number</b> | 1119463         | Registered in England and Wales |

|                                         |                      |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Registered and principal address</b> | <b>Bankers</b>       |
| c/o Touchstone                          | Unity Trust Bank plc |
| 4 Easby Road                            | Nine Brindleyplace   |
| Bradford                                | Birmingham           |
| BD7 1QX                                 | B1 2HB               |

### **Independent examiner**

Rhys North ACA

### **West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO**

Stringer House  
34 Lupton Street  
Leeds  
LS10 2QW

### **Structure, governance and management**

The charity is governed by a constitution adopted on 14 November 2006 as amended on 8 October 2019 and 28 January 2020.

### **Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees**

The trustees of the charity are appointed by the members at the AGM.

### **The charity's objects**

The relief of hardship among those seeking asylum in the UK or who are refugees who reside in the Bradford Metropolitan District and surrounding areas.

To advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.

# **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 30 September 2023**

### **The charity's main activities**

All of BEACON's activities are underpinned by our vision that the Bradford district becomes a hospitable community where people seeking asylum and refugees are welcome, enjoy access to justice and fair treatment and are supported on their journey to independence and integration. We have enacted this primarily through our McKenzie Friends, CHAT and Hosting projects

McKenzie Friends support people seeking asylum through the legal system towards gaining sanctuary and refugee status; volunteers provide legal support and advocacy to navigate the complexities of the asylum system, including facilitating access to legal advice and accompanying unrepresented asylum seekers to appeal hearings.

CHAT hold weekly English conversation classes and activities group open to non-English speakers in the local community, for all abilities. The group provides a friendly and welcoming environment in which to improve English, form social connections, enhance wellbeing and enjoy a variety of additional activities from gardening, to theatre trips and cooking classes.

The Hosting project, which was suspended in July 2023, provided people who were seeking asylum accommodation in volunteer households; a weekly allowance to meet basic needs; and a travel pass to access local services and activities in order to prevent destitution.

### **Public benefit statement**

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. In line with our charitable purposes:

1) Our work has been successful in relieving hardship among those seeking asylum and refugees who reside in the Bradford Metropolitan District and surrounding areas. Our three projects (McKenzie Friends, Hosting and CHAT) are dependent on a wide range of committed volunteers who enable us to deliver a high quality service. We have continued to recruit and train new volunteers thus increasing our capacity to support more people seeking asylum as they deal with the many challenges they face. This includes providing information, signposting, and support to access legal advice (McKenzie Friends), the relief of destitution and meeting of basic needs including food and money (Hosting Project) and the opportunity to improve English language skills, take part in volunteering activities and establish social networks leading to a reduction in isolation increased well-being and empowerment among those seeking asylum. (CHAT project).

In addition to the benefits to the people we have supported and the associated benefits gained by our volunteers, our work has a wider public benefit in enhancing social cohesion and opportunities for integration for people seeking asylum. Thus reducing the strain on other community services which are not as well placed to meet the unique needs of people seeking asylum.

2) We have furthered our objective to advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and people seeking asylum.

We are members of the Together with Refugees and Hands Up for our Health coalitions, whose aims are to better educate the public and counter the effects of the 'hostile environment'. We have continued to support and spread awareness of the 'Lift the Ban' coalition on the right to work for those seeking asylum. Our annual sponsored walk during Refugee Week and presence at various local events, including the Saltaire Peace and Crafts Fair provide opportunities to increase information amongst the public. We have given presentations to local groups to help spread awareness of the increasingly challenging needs of people seeking asylum.

The public benefit arising from these activities is the increase in information given to the public which in turn enhances support for, and consideration of, the difficulties faced by the individuals we support, thus facilitating people to play a role in society as informed citizens, who are aware of humanitarian concerns affecting people seeking asylum.

The charity trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed and have a plan to manage identified risks.

# **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 30 September 2023**

### **Achievements and performance**

BEACON has continued to make a crucial difference to the lives of people seeking asylum and refugees in the Bradford district this year. In total, during the year ending 30th September 2023, we supported 169 people. The support we provided was thanks to the hard work of our small staff team (Team Leader, Finance and Administration Assistant, McKenzie Friends Coordinator, Volunteer Hosting Coordinator [until July 2023] and CHAT Coordinator) and our faithful team of trustees and volunteers. Our main achievements this year are summarised below.

During the year, our McKenzie Friends volunteers have supported 82 people whose countries of origin have mainly been from Iraq, Iran, Ethiopia, Sudan and Pakistan. In many instances the support given by McKenzie Friends involved signposting to other organisations to help with their issues or responding to one-off ad hoc enquiries. However, during the year, 17 people were supported to find legal representation of whom eight have made fresh application submissions and nine were granted Leave to Remain. At the year-end (September 30th 2023) we have 47 open cases being supported by 11 volunteers.

The CHAT project grew from strength to strength during the year. In addition to the weekly conversation classes held at our Bradford offices, we undertook a number of visits to local municipal facilities and landmarks including museums and galleries, a library, a community farm, and to Cartwright Hall, Cliffe Castle Museum and the Saltaire Mills. Eighty-five people from 22 different nations benefitted from the CHAT group activities during the year.

Over the 15 years that the Hosting project was running, 75 asylum seekers were hosted by our volunteer households. However, due to the record backlog in Home Office decision making on asylum applications and the closure of the key local destitution drop-in for people seeking asylum, from which we received the majority of our referrals over the years, the number of referrals we received reduced considerably. Sadly, our long standing volunteer Hosting project co-ordinator resigned and we had insufficient funding to appoint a part-time paid co-ordinator. At the start of the year, we were hosting two people, and the decision was taken to suspend the project when the last of these two no longer needed hosting support. That occurred in July 2023.

Our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion was progressed. We have continued to diversify our volunteer base. We have continued to involve people with lived experience in the recruitment and selection of new staff members. Following a full review of skills and diversity within our board of trustees, we have successfully recruited a new trustee with lived experience of the asylum system and treasurer. A potential trustee is well advanced through the recruitment process. All will strengthen our trustee board, helping us to better meet the needs of those seeking asylum in the UK.

Our relationships with partner agencies in Bradford remain strong and have enabled us to work together to support those who need our help. We have played an active role in the Destitution Concern Bradford network as it seeks ways to better meet the needs of the increasing numbers of people seeking sanctuary arriving in Bradford. A key current focus is the creation of a multi-agency drop in to replace the one run by Red Cross that closed during the Covid lockdowns.

With Right to Remain, we co-hosted a celebratory event marking the 10th Anniversary of 'The Tool Kit'. BEACON contributed to the formation of this resource providing people seeking sanctuary with knowledge and understanding of the process.

# **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 30 September 2023**

### **Financial review**

The net payments for the year were £18,549, including net payments of £19,733 on unrestricted funds and net receipts of £1,184 on restricted funds.

### **Reserves policy**

BEACON depends on grants and donations to sustain its activities. We run the risk of closure if funding difficulties were to happen, if there were a temporary shortfall in income, or an unforeseen rise in spending requirements and costs.

To prevent immediate closure in these instances, the trustees have agreed to keep a certain level of financial reserves to ensure that main operations can continue until alternative provision can be made.

The main concerns are to ensure:

- that service users (particularly our hosted guests) are supported to move on to other services in a timely and sympathetic manner
- an ability to develop new projects and grasp new opportunities should they arise
- that staff can continue working to develop another funding stream to continue the work of BEACON

The ideal amount of reserves has been set as an amount equivalent to between 6 and 12 months budgeted running costs, as this is deemed an appropriate period of time to achieve the above aims.

Anticipated expenditure is kept under constant review throughout the year and cash flow projections are amended to reflect any changes. Target reserve levels are adjusted accordingly.

At the end of the year our budgeted future running costs for the 2023/2024 financial year are £83,102. The target reserves range is therefore between £41,551 and £83,102.

The charity's free reserves, excluding fixed assets, at the year end are £41,895. This level of reserves sits within our target range.

Approved by the board of trustees on 9/1/2024

Martin Lewis (Trustee)

## **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

### **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2023, which are set out on pages 7 to 10.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees 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 charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act;
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Rhys North ACA

22/1/2024

#### **West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO**

Stringer House  
34 Lupton Street  
Leeds  
LS10 2QW

**Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**  
**Receipts and payments account**  
**for the year ended 30 September 2023**

|                                      | Notes | 2023<br>Unrestricted<br>funds<br>£ | 2023<br>Restricted<br>funds<br>£ | 2023<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ | 2022<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ |
|--------------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Receipts</b>                      |       |                                    |                                  |                             |                             |
| Grants                               | (2)   | 15,000                             | 10,000                           | 25,000                      | 20,000                      |
| Donations - Faith Groups             |       | 4,505                              | -                                | 4,505                       | 4,887                       |
| Donations - Individuals              |       | 4,933                              | 705                              | 5,638                       | 10,541                      |
| Donations - Other                    |       | 2,084                              | -                                | 2,084                       | 2,098                       |
| Sponsored walk                       |       | 1,139                              | -                                | 1,139                       | 876                         |
| <b>Total receipts</b>                |       | <b>27,661</b>                      | <b>10,705</b>                    | <b>38,366</b>               | <b>38,402</b>               |
| <b>Payments</b>                      |       |                                    |                                  |                             |                             |
| Salaries NI and pensions             |       | 34,128                             | 8,259                            | 42,387                      | 39,651                      |
| Payroll charges                      |       | 688                                | -                                | 688                         | 763                         |
| Rent                                 |       | 6,842                              | -                                | 6,842                       | 6,603                       |
| Insurance                            |       | 591                                | -                                | 591                         | 793                         |
| Office costs                         |       | 985                                | -                                | 985                         | 796                         |
| Publicity and fundraising            |       | 216                                | -                                | 216                         | 24                          |
| Training                             |       | 105                                | -                                | 105                         | 655                         |
| Subscriptions                        |       | 456                                | -                                | 456                         | 397                         |
| Project costs                        |       | 1,457                              | 1,262                            | 2,719                       | 9,389                       |
| IT costs                             |       | 415                                | -                                | 415                         | 586                         |
| Volunteer expenses                   |       | 199                                | -                                | 199                         | 298                         |
| Other expenses                       |       | 165                                | -                                | 165                         | 5                           |
| Governance costs                     |       | 727                                | -                                | 727                         | 317                         |
| Independent examination              |       | 420                                | -                                | 420                         | 390                         |
| <b>Total payments</b>                |       | <b>47,394</b>                      | <b>9,521</b>                     | <b>56,915</b>               | <b>60,667</b>               |
| <b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>     |       | <b>(19,733)</b>                    | <b>1,184</b>                     | <b>(18,549)</b>             | <b>(22,265)</b>             |
| <b>Fund balances brought forward</b> |       | <b>61,728</b>                      | <b>6,346</b>                     | <b>68,074</b>               | <b>90,339</b>               |
| <b>Fund balances carried forward</b> | (3)   | <b>41,995</b>                      | <b>7,530</b>                     | <b>49,525</b>               | <b>68,074</b>               |

**Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**  
**Statement of assets and liabilities**  
**as at 30 September 2023**

|                             | 2023          | 2023         | 2023          | 2022          |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
|                             | Unrestricted  | Restricted   | Total         | Total         |
|                             | £             | £            | £             | £             |
| <b>Cash funds</b>           |               |              |               |               |
| Cash at bank                | 31,714        | 7,530        | 39,244        | 56,879        |
| Cash at bank - Bradford CPA | 10,081        | -            | 10,081        | 11,058        |
| Cash in hand                | 200           | -            | 200           | 137           |
| <b>Total cash funds</b>     | <u>41,995</u> | <u>7,530</u> | <u>49,525</u> | <u>68,074</u> |

**Debtors and prepayments**

|                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
|                          | 2023       |
|                          | £          |
| Other debtors - Gift Aid | <u>250</u> |
|                          | <u>250</u> |

**Liabilities**

|                                  |            |
|----------------------------------|------------|
|                                  | 2023       |
|                                  | £          |
| Accruals Independent examination | <u>726</u> |
|                                  | <u>726</u> |

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 9/1/2024

Martin Lewis (Trustee)

# **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

## **Notes to the accounts**

### **for the year ended 30 September 2023**

#### **1 Accounting policies**

##### **Basis of accounting**

The trustees have taken advantage of section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and have prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year.

No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

##### **Taxation**

As a charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

##### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

**Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**  
**Notes to the accounts continued**  
**for the year ended 30 September 2023**

| 2 Grants                                     | 2023<br>Unrestricted<br>funds<br>£ | 2023<br>Restricted<br>funds<br>£ | 2023<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ | 2022<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Society of the Holy Child Jesus (SHCJ)       | -                                  | 10,000                           | 10,000                      | 10,000                      |
| The Methodist Church Yorkshire West District | 10,000                             | -                                | 10,000                      | 10,000                      |
| The Lyndal Tree Foundation                   | 5,000                              | -                                | 5,000                       |                             |
|                                              | <u>15,000</u>                      | <u>10,000</u>                    | <u>25,000</u>               | <u>20,000</u>               |

| 3 Restricted funds              | Balance b/f<br>£ | Incoming<br>£ | Outgoing<br>£ | Transfers<br>£ | Balance c/f<br>£ |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| Society of the Holy Child Jesus | 5,789            | 10,000        | 8,259         | -              | 7,530            |
| Hosting                         | 557              | 705           | 1,262         | -              | -                |
|                                 | <u>6,346</u>     | <u>10,705</u> | <u>9,521</u>  | <u>-</u>       | <u>7,530</u>     |

| Fund name                       | Purpose of restriction                                                                 |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Society of the Holy Child Jesus | To support the salary costs of the Team Leader and Finance & Administration Assistant. |
| Hosting                         | To host people seeking asylum who are destitute.                                       |

**4 Related party transactions**

**Donations from trustees and related parties**

The total aggregate value of unconditional donations to the charity from the trustees or related parties was £180 (2022: £180).

**Trustee expenses**

No trustee received any expenses during this year or the previous year.

**Trustee remuneration and benefits**

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.

**BEACON (BRADFORD ECUMENICAL ASYLUM CONCERN)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1119463

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# Accounts

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# ANNUAL REVIEW

2021-2022



# CONTENTS

- 1** Introduction from BEACON's Chair of Trustees
- 2** Reflections from BEACON's Team Leader
- 3** Hosting - preventing destitution
- 4** CHAT – conversation and connection
- 6** McKenzie Friends – access to justice
- 10** Income and Expenditure
- 11** How you can help

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# INTRODUCTION

from BEACON's Chair of Trustees

*'In a world where you can be anything, be kind.'*

BEACON strives to be kind, offering welcome and support to people seeking sanctuary in our district. Kindness is also expressed through raising awareness of the difficult situation refugees find themselves in. The need for kindness and hospitality, in an increasingly hostile environment, is greater than ever. I hope that as you read the BEACON annual review, you will be inspired by the way kindness has been expressed.

## Present context!

This year has seen the introduction of the Nationality & Borders Act which allows for the "differential treatment of refugees" depending on their mode of arrival, including limiting length of leave, family reunion rights and conditions for settlement.

Yet desperate people continue to risk their lives, with many crossing the English Channel in small boats. According to Home Office figures published in September 2022, over half of the top 10 nationalities applying for asylum have a grant rate above 80% (Iran 82%, Afghanistan 98%, Syria 98%, Eritrea 98%, and Sudan 87%). These figures speak for themselves!

At September 2022, Bradford had some 1,342 individuals living in Home Office accommodation (hotels and housing) (source: Migration Yorkshire). These are people living with not only the trauma of fleeing violence and persecution but also an uncertain future and now, for some, the fear of being flown to Rwanda.

## Inspiration

Through the **Together with Refugees** coalition of which BEACON is a member, I came across the comments of Sabir Zazai OBE, who came

to the UK in search of asylum. He says, *'the community welcomed me and the society invested in me for which I am grateful and today I am proud to lead Scottish Refugee Council, Scotland's national refugee agency. I used my own lived experience to help shape the sectors response to the Nationality and Borders Bill. I am privileged to chair the 'Asylum Reform Initiative' and the over 400 members strong 'Together with Refugees', working with people from a cross section of society to ask for a more humane, effective and efficient asylum system. Sabir, on receiving his OBE, goes on, 'every person arriving here also has so much to contribute. We must truly welcome them, celebrate them as equal citizens and invest in their potential. Every refugee has a powerful story of courage, resilience and hope; and every refugee and the people that welcome them deserve an OBE!'*

## Goodbyes and thank yous

Sadly, we have said several goodbyes during the year. We thank Roland Clark, for his careful and conscientious oversight of BEACON's finances over the past seven years and wish him well in his new ventures. Thank you also to Andrew Howorth and Aimee Nyembo for their dedicated commitment as BEACON trustees. Thank you to Alice Sizeland our CHAT Coordinator; we wish her every success in her new post.

And as always, I would like to say 'thank you' to our many volunteers, board of trustees, staff team, funders and all who support BEACON with their commitment and prayers. You all deserve an OBE!

**Sarah Jemison**

Chair of Trustees



**TOGETHER WITH REFUGEES**

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# REFLECTIONS

from BEACON's Team Leader

***Our vision is that the Bradford district becomes a hospitable community where people seeking asylum and refugees are welcome, enjoy access to justice and fair treatment and are supported on their journey to independence and integration.***

It has been another challenging year for many reasons. No sooner did it seem like the pandemic was largely behind us and a level of stability could ensue, than we witnessed the devastation of the war in Ukraine, and the resulting wave of refugees. Politically, we saw the passing of the Nationality and Borders Act, with the threat of deportation to Rwanda weighing heavy on the minds of many. Numbers arriving in the UK soared this year, and we have seen numbers accommodated in Bradford rise considerably. Whilst there was great public sympathy towards refugees when the Ukraine crisis took hold, the media continues to devalue the plight of people seeking asylum and hostility remains high.

Despite the turmoil playing out on the international stage, BEACON has continued to offer welcome and support to those who have fled their countries seeking safety and sanctuary, thanks to our dedicated team of staff and volunteers: opening homes to offer shelter and warmth, providing access to legal support to navigate an increasingly complex system, and offering opportunities to learn English & enjoy social activities.

We were granted additional support from the Lloyds Bank Foundation to work with a fundraising consultant to refine our financial monitoring procedures and develop a fundraising strategy, which we hope will enable us to secure funding to realise our future development plans.

Our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion was progressed, with anti-racism training for our staff and volunteers delivered by 'brap', an organisation specialising in equality and diversity training, which we commissioned

and co-hosted in partnership with Abigail Housing, to ensure this approach is embedded in our work. We also hosted training on working with people who identify as LGBTQI+ which was delivered by Rainbow Migration and attended by professionals from across the UK. We have diversified our volunteer base and undertaken a full review of skills and diversity within our board of trustees, in order to shape our future recruitment plans to ensure we are inclusive and representative as an organisation. Similarly, we took steps to set up a user involvement group, carried out consultations with users in relation to future strategy & planning and recruited people with lived experience to our employment recruitment & selection panels.

Our relationships with partner agencies in Bradford remain strong and have enabled us to work together to support those who need our help. We end the year with plans for a local sector review & planning day to ensure we are able to meet the needs of the increasing numbers arriving in Bradford, both in the immediate term, as well as creating the infrastructure to respond quickly and with agility as a sector to future changes in the longer term.

We find ourselves in unpredictable times at the end of the year, with exponential numbers of people stuck in a broken system and ongoing uncertainty in relation to the government's future plans. Despite this context of apprehension and a rapidly changing political arena, the BEACON team will continue to stand in solidarity and hope with those who need us as we move into the coming year.

**Katy Armitstead**

Team Leader

# HOSTING

## Preventing destitution



Once again this year, we have received wonderful news from past guests who have at last been granted Leave to Remain in the UK. Of the 74 who have been hosted since the project began 14 years ago, we know that over half have now achieved this – and suspect that more with whom we have sadly lost touch, will have done also. It's worth remembering that, without the kindness and generosity of our amazing hosts, some of these people would have been forced to return to the warzones from which they fled, or endured years of destitution and exploitation in the UK.

This has, however, been another difficult and unusual year for the project. At the time of writing there are currently 117,400 outstanding applications relating to 143,377 people awaiting an initial decision from the Home Office on their asylum claim, almost 3 times more than the number of applications awaiting an initial decision at the end of 2019 (source: Home Office, September 2022). This, combined with difficulties related to the closure of the key local destitution drop-in for people seeking asylum from which we have received the majority of our referrals over the years, means that, along with other local and national frontline services, referrals to the project have been very low. Understandably, two host households have opted to host Ukrainians via the government's scheme.

The Home Office has however recently appointed over 800 new asylum case workers to address both this backlog, and the very high number of new applications. Along with other members of the Destitution Concern Bradford network, we are seeking ways to re-establish a local drop-in for people seeking asylum and

refugees.

Despite the above, we recruited a new household who welcomed their first guest this year, and our hosts collectively facilitated over 500 safe nights of accommodation during the year. This is far more than just 'B&B'; as the project works to ensure that progress is made on guests' legal cases, facilitates access to healthcare, provides bus passes, encourages and supports people into volunteering placements, English and other classes, and so much more.

We have also been able to share our hosting expertise and experience with potential new hosts looking to host Ukrainians through the Leeds diocese parish network and we continue to be active members of the NACCOM network, receiving and providing mutual support as part of a national community of organisations preventing destitution amongst refugees, people seeking asylum and migrants with no recourse to public funds (NRPF).

**531**

safe and  
secure  
nights of  
sleep  
provided!

---

# CHAT

## Conversation and connection

This has been a really positive year as we have finally been able to fully transition back into meeting regularly in person and benefit from much-needed real-life interaction!

After opening the CHAT class back up towards the end of last year after the pandemic had forced many of our activities online, great efforts have been made to take full advantage of our rediscovered freedoms, with several trips taking place throughout the year. The fantastic People and the DALES facilitated 2 trips to the Yorkshire Dales – one to Keasden Head Farm where students got chance to see the farm animals & learn about farming practices, and a beautiful walk in Oxenber Woods above Austwick to see the bluebells in full bloom in the Springtime. Other local trips included an evening at the theatre courtesy of Leeds Playhouse, a visit to the National Science and Media Museum, local parks, and the villages of Saltaire and Thornton, often with a café pit stop for coffee and cake thrown in for good measure.

We've also been able to offer additional activities including online cooking classes with professional chef Sonia Sandhu at the beginning of the year, as well as gardening sessions courtesy of the fantastic Horton Community Farm. Some students also took the opportunity to show off their dance skills, appearing in a locally produced film aiming to promote unity and reconciliation entitled 'Dishta Gina Bradford style'.

Refugee Week saw opportunities for students to see the globally renowned 'Little Amal' visit Bradford, with some students also taking on the challenge of our 10+ mile sponsored walk, whilst others opted for a gentler walk round the Bradford Refugee Week exhibition trail.

Thanks to a partnership run by Bradford Volunteer Centre and Bradford City of Sanctuary, we were pleased to host a useful workshop for students on how to access volunteering opportunities, a much-needed resource to help give purpose and meaning when life can be so challenging.

Lesson themes throughout the year were shaped using student feedback and have been far ranging, from practical activities such as a trip to join the local library and learn about resources available, to cultural topics including Bradford's successful bid for City of Culture 2025, and much more besides.

Above all, we have been able to continue to provide a safe and welcoming space for people of all abilities to practise English and socialise with others. Not only is this an opportunity to improve English making navigating life in the UK that much easier, but crucially, it has a major impact on wellbeing & self-esteem through the laughter and connection that is very much part and parcel of the CHAT group.



56

people  
benefited from  
CHAT group  
activities  
this year!

*"I will never forget this moment spent together laughing, eating and seeing this beautiful, wonderful green place."*

**CHAT student,  
following trip to Saltaire**



*"Today was an amazing day, an amazing place and an extraordinary group!"*

*"Thank you so much for planning this trip, we had a lovely day"*

**CHAT students, following a trip to  
Austwick, Yorkshire Dales**

## **Feedback from students**

100% of students said they enjoyed coming to the class

80% of students said they were satisfied with the learning material

*"Thank you so much. I am so happy when I come to this class!"*

*"I like this class because there are many people, activities and trips."*

*"I like the amount of fun we have in CHAT class!"*

*"I like going on the trips because it makes me happy and I enjoy seeing new places."*

---

# MCKENZIE FRIENDS

## Access to justice

McKenzie Friends supported 60 people this year. In the first half of the year referrals were high but then dropped off significantly in summer, as we saw Home Office decision making slow down, before levelling off at the year end. Many of our referrals this year were complex cases and we increasingly saw people coming to us who were experiencing multiple disadvantage including problems with mental health and substance misuse. We can only imagine the traumas they have faced.

As a result of a reduction in larger face-to-face drop-in services in Bradford, we experienced an increase in self-referrals, with people contacting us with a wider range of needs. As the backlog of people in the system continues to grow, we find people are coming to us for assistance with finding solicitors for their initial asylum claim. There has also been a rise in the number of people seeking help with Article 8 humanitarian protection claims (right to private and family life) which are not funded by Legal Aid. We have completed several Exceptional Case Funding applications and as a result of our interventions, cases are being taken on by local solicitors.

Our partnership with Fisher Stone Solicitors continued throughout the year, with the provision of 16 legal advice sessions. At the year end, we had supported 27 people to find legal representation and heard that 12 people we supported had been granted Leave to Remain – fantastic news! Many of these have been from the Afghan community who have faced long waits and appalling treatment since their arrival in the UK.

Earlier in the year we trained and recruited 7 new volunteers to respond to increased demand. Our new recruits are doing well and are already making a great contribution to the

team. As part of the training, we incorporated a visit to Phoenix House tribunal centre, where the number of appeals being heard each day has been cut to half. The impact on those waiting for an appeal is obvious – even longer waiting times.

Very sadly, we lost a longstanding McKenzie Friend volunteer Jackie Coutts, who passed away in March. Jackie helped countless people over the years and her infectious laugh, passion for justice and candid approach to supporting people seeking asylum will be greatly missed. She will be remembered fondly by all at BEACON. As post-pandemic life brought changes for many this year, we also said goodbye and thank you to Les Goldman and Mac Price, who both stood down as volunteers and are missed for their care and patience.

As we move into very uncertain times and the impact of the Nationality and Borders Act becomes clearer, we are already noticing changes in the way new claims are being dealt with. Changes to rights of appeal for some fresh claims and the application of the ‘inadmissible’ category will certainly impact the work of our project. Together with a massive reduction in Legal Aid solicitors, it is becoming a perfect storm.

The national and local sector of asylum and refugee agencies is working well to support each other and the people we work with. We are paying close attention to changes ‘on the ground’ and seeking advice & guidance to ensure that we focus our energies where we can have the greatest impact in the coming year.

**60**

people  
supported  
by  
McKenzie  
Friends

**27**

supported to  
find legal  
representation

**12**

currently awaiting  
decisions  
on fresh  
asylum  
claims

**16**

legal advice  
sessions  
provided

**12**

granted Leave  
to Remain  
in the UK



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## Our work is highly valued by legal professionals

*"It has been a pleasure to work with all of you over the years, the service provided through your volunteering is hugely important and from our perspective has a tangible effect on outcomes and client wellbeing. Thank you all for your hard work".*

**Jack Dingley, Solicitor,  
Ison Harrison**

## Volunteer voices

*"I value the work I do at BEACON as it gives me some sense of agency in what seems to be an increasingly alienated and dysfunctional system. I appreciate the contact I have with people seeking asylum and recognise the hardships and difficulties they face that BEACON can go some way to ameliorating".*

**Richard Tassell,  
McKenzie Friends volunteer**

*"Fisher Stone Solicitors continues to value our relationship with the staff and volunteers at BEACON. In a climate where legal aid provision is so stretched and many people are left without any legal representation at all, it is reassuring to see the team at BEACON step in and support those seeking sanctuary where they can. For us as a legal firm, the support of the McKenzie Friends project has enabled us to take on fresh claim work that we otherwise would not have capacity for, as the volunteers have done the leg work in terms of gathering paperwork, and new evidence where possible. BEACON staff and volunteers have also helped to facilitate appointments with particularly vulnerable clients, by offering a space to meet, a lift to our offices in Halifax, or mutual support, so that appointments can go ahead as smoothly as possible. We look forward to working again with BEACON in the new year".*

**Alice Garrod, Senior Legal Caseworker,  
Fisher Stone Solicitors**

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## Wahid's story\*

Wahid arrived in the UK in 2008 at the age of fifteen. His age was 'assessed' as 17 so he only enjoyed a year of being treated as a child. Youth services looked after him and he told us he was happier than at any time in his life.

Then, once he officially became 18, his asylum claim was refused, and he was sent back to Afghanistan in 2010. He went to his sister's, the only place he knew, and was not well received as she knew his presence would put her family at risk. Almost immediately they were attacked by the Taliban and Wahid was shot while fleeing. He began the arduous and lengthy journey back to the UK. Neither the Home Office nor the courts believed he was in danger in Afghanistan, in spite of the visible gunshot wound.

He was rescued by a British Pakistani landlord who let him live rent-free in a tiny room for years. Wahid was too anxious and depressed to leave the room except when taken out by his friend, who took him to the Red Cross and from there to McKenzie Friends.

After much initial work and support from McKenzie Friends volunteers, together with caseworkers at Manuel Bravo charity in Leeds, we eventually found him an excellent solicitor and Wahid was referred to a specialist psychiatrist in London. McKenzie Friends volunteers arranged the journey and accompanied him to London, door to door. Professor Katona's report, combined with new case law, enabled Wahid's grant of refugee status in May 2022. This was a great relief as another young Afghan man with a similar history, the same solicitor and psychiatrist, whose fresh claim was submitted at the same time, received his grant of status over a year earlier. But that's the way the Home Office rolls...

Given that for years, extreme anxiety had brought his life to a standstill, we were astonished to find that only a few weeks after Bradford Council helped him negotiate the job centre, Wahid was working, and pushing the job centre to help him find a better job, confident as anything! He is now applying for a travel document. We don't think he would have got there without McKenzie Friends.

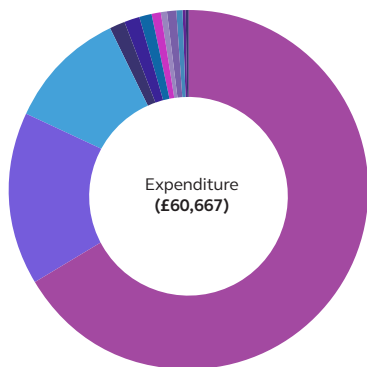
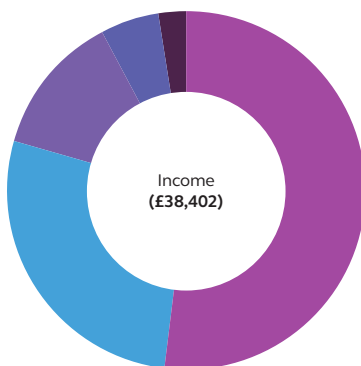
\* Name has been changed

*"We got stuck in pursuing our case. We approached BEACON who are so wonderful – they are the ones who came to our aid. They sorted things out for us. We had support from the McKenzie Friends volunteers who were so fantastic. They managed to find us legal representation, and not only that, we finally got our status because of BEACON, after many long years in limbo. We are finally free!"*

**Couple supported by  
McKenzie Friends**

# INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

- £20,000 Grants
- £10,541 Individual donations
- £4,887 Faith group donations
- £2,098 Other donations
- £876 Sponsored walk



- £40,414 Staffing costs
- £9,389 Project costs
- £6,603 Rent
- £796 Office costs
- £793 Insurance
- £655 Training
- £586 IT costs
- £397 Subscriptions
- £390 Independent examination
- £317 Governance costs
- £298 Volunteer expenses
- £24 Publicity and fundraising
- £5 Other expenses

Thank you to everyone who supported us financially over the past year.  
It's thanks to your help that we have been able to help so many  
people seeking asylum in Bradford in 2021/2022.

# HOW YOU CAN HELP

## **Become a volunteer**

Make a direct difference to the life of someone seeking asylum - get in touch to find out more about what roles are available

## **Make a donation**

Every little helps and can go a long way to helping people seeking asylum – contact us about making a one-off donation or set up a regular donation to help us on an ongoing basis

## **Fundraise - and have fun!**

From a personal challenge such as running a race or giving up chocolate, to holding a coffee morning or a quiz night, we'd love to hear from you!

## **Help us raise awareness**

We can always use help to spread the word about the challenges faced by people seeking asylum – get in touch if you're interested in awareness raising

## **Join our mailing list**

Sign up to receive our newsletter and keep up to date with our work and activities

## **Become a member of BEACON**

As a BEACON member, you can show your support for our vision and objectives and vote at our Annual General Meeting

**For further information, please see our web site [www.beaconbradford.org](http://www.beaconbradford.org) or contact us at [beacon@beaconbradford.org](mailto:beacon@beaconbradford.org) or on 07419 990578. We look forward to hearing from you!**







***“Charities like BEACON are the lifeblood of society. They are there for the long haul, and never give up, despite circumstances. Without them the UK would be a much poorer place. They are well worth your support!”***

**Dave Smith, founder of the Boaz Trust and the NACCOM network**

**BEACON**  
**(Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern)**

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[beacon@beaconbradford.org](mailto:beacon@beaconbradford.org)

**Hosting**  
[hosting@beaconbradford.org](mailto:hosting@beaconbradford.org)  
07505 053149

**McKenzie Friends**  
[mckenziefriends@beaconbradford.org](mailto:mckenziefriends@beaconbradford.org)  
07531 576330

**CHAT**  
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@BEACON\_Bradford



@Beacon32

Registered charity number 1119463

# **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

Charity number 1119463

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2022**



West Yorkshire Community Accounting Service

# **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2022**

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**Prepared by West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO**

# **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

## **Trustees' report for the year ended 30 September 2022**

### **Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors**

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

| <b>Name</b>           | <b>Position</b> | <b>Dates</b>                    |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Sarah Jemison         | Chair           |                                 |
| Heather Grinter       | Vice Chair      |                                 |
| Roland Clark          | Treasurer       | Resigned 19 September 2022      |
| Barbara Clarke        | Secretary       |                                 |
| William Sutcliffe     |                 |                                 |
| Andrew Howorth        |                 | Resigned 11 January 2022        |
| Mary Brooks           |                 |                                 |
| Edward Sterling       |                 |                                 |
| Aimee Nyembo          |                 | Resigned 14 December 2021       |
| <b>Charity number</b> | 1119463         | Registered in England and Wales |

### **Registered and principal address**

c/o Touchstone  
4 Easby Road  
Bradford  
BD7 1QX

### **Bankers**

Unity Trust Bank plc  
Nine Brindleyplace  
Birmingham  
B1 2HB

### **Independent examiner**

Rhys North ACA

### **West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO**

Stringer House  
34 Lupton Street  
Leeds  
LS10 2QW

### **Structure, governance and management**

The charity is governed by a constitution adopted on 14 November 2006 as amended on 8 October 2019 and 28 January 2020.

### **Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees**

The trustees of the charity are appointed by the members at the AGM.

### **The charity's objects**

The relief of hardship among those seeking asylum in the UK or who are refugees who reside in the Bradford Metropolitan District and surrounding areas.

To advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.

# **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 30 September 2022**

### **The charity's main activities**

All of BEACON's activities are underpinned by our vision that the Bradford district becomes a hospitable community where people seeking asylum and refugees are welcome, enjoy access to justice and fair treatment and are supported on their journey to independence and integration.

Our key activities are:

Hosting – the prevention of destitution for people seeking asylum through the provision of accommodation in volunteer host households, a weekly allowance to meet basic needs and a travel pass to access local services and activities. Guests are provided with support to link them in with a variety of services and activities, from volunteering to healthcare and legal advice to ensure their needs are met holistically.

CHAT – a weekly English conversation and activities group open to non-English speakers in the local community, for all abilities. The group provides a friendly and welcoming environment in which to improve English, form social connections, enhance wellbeing and enjoy a variety of additional activities from gardening to museum and theatre trips.

McKenzie Friends – volunteers provide legal support to people seeking asylum to navigate the complexities of the asylum system, including giving information, sorting paperwork, collecting evidence, facilitating access to legal advice & representation and accompanying those without representation to appeal hearings.

### **Public benefit statement**

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. In line with our charitable purposes:

1) Our work has been successful in relieving hardship among those seeking asylum in the UK or who are refugees who reside in the Bradford Metropolitan District and surrounding areas.

Our three projects (McKenzie Friends, Hosting and CHAT) are dependent on a wide range of committed volunteers who enable us to deliver a high-quality service to our clients and guests. During the year we have recruited and trained new volunteers, thus increasing our capacity to support more people seeking asylum as they navigate the challenges of life in the UK. This includes providing information, signposting and support to access legal advice (McKenzie Friends project), the relief of destitution & meeting of basic needs including food and money (Hosting project) and opportunity to improve English language skills & establish social networks leading to a reduction in isolation, increased wellbeing and empowerment amongst those seeking asylum (CHAT project).

Further to the benefit to the individuals we have supported and the associated benefits gained by volunteers, our work has wider public benefit in enhancing social cohesion and opportunities for integration for people seeking asylum whilst reducing strain on other community services who are not well-placed to meet the unique needs of people seeking asylum.

2) We have also furthered our objective to advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.

We have continued to support and raise awareness of the campaign to 'Lift the Ban' on the right to work for those seeking asylum. We are also members of the Together with Refugees and Hands Up for Our Health coalitions whose aims are to better educate the public and counter the effects of the 'hostile environment'. Furthermore, our annual sponsored walk during Refugee Week, and presence at local events including the University of Bradford's Unify festival and the Saltaire Peace & Crafts Fair provided opportunities to increase information amongst the general public. We have also given presentations to local groups to further spread awareness of the increasingly challenging needs of people seeking asylum during the past year and have maintained a strong social media presence, growing our number of followers and increasing numbers signed up to our mailing list.

The public benefit arising from these activities is the increase in information given to the public which in turn enhances support for, and consideration of, the difficulties faced by the individuals we support, thus facilitating people to play a role in society as informed citizens, who are aware of humanitarian concerns affecting people seeking asylum.

The charity trustees have given consideration to the major risks to which the charity is exposed and have a plan to manage identified risks.

# **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 30 September 2022**

### **Achievements and performance**

BEACON has continued to make a crucial difference to the lives of people seeking asylum and refugees in the Bradford district this year. In total, during the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022, we supported 118 people. The support we provided was thanks to the hard work of our small staff team (Team Leader, Administration Assistant, McKenzie Friends Coordinator, Hosting Coordinator and CHAT Coordinator) and our wonderful team of volunteers. Our main achievements this year are summarised below.

### **Hosting**

Once again this year, we have received news from past guests who have at last been granted Leave to Remain in the UK. Of the 74 who have been hosted since the project began 14 years ago, we know that over half have now achieved this – and suspect that more with whom we have sadly lost touch, will have done also. It's worth remembering that, without the kindness and generosity of our amazing hosts, some of these people would have been forced to return to the warzones from which they fled, or endured years of destitution and exploitation in the UK.

This has, however, been another difficult and unusual year for the project. At the time of writing there are currently 117,400 outstanding applications relating to 143,377 people awaiting an initial decision from the Home Office on their asylum claim, almost three times more than the number of applications awaiting an initial decision at the end of 2019 (source: Home Office, September 2022). This, combined with difficulties related to the closure of the key local destitution drop-in for people seeking asylum from which we have received the majority of our referrals over the years, means that, along with other local and national frontline services, referrals to the project have been very low. Understandably, two host households have opted to host Ukrainians via the government's scheme.

The Home Office has however recently appointed over 800 new asylum case workers to address both this backlog, and the very high number of new applications. Along with other members of the Destitution Concern Bradford network, we are seeking ways to re-establish a local drop-in for people seeking asylum and refugees.

Despite the above, we recruited a new household who welcomed their first guest this year, and our hosts collectively facilitated 531 safe nights of accommodation for 2 individuals during the year. This is far more than just 'B&B', as the project works to ensure that progress is made on guests' legal cases, facilitates access to healthcare, provides bus passes, encourages and supports people into volunteering placements, English and other classes, and so much more.

We have also been able to share our hosting expertise and experience with potential new hosts looking to host Ukrainians through the Leeds diocese parish network and we continue to be active members of the NACCOM network, receiving and providing mutual support as part of a national community of organisations preventing destitution amongst refugees, people seeking asylum and migrants with no recourse to public funds (NRPF).

### **CHAT**

This has been a really positive year as we have finally been able to fully transition back into meeting regularly in person and benefit from much-needed real-life interaction!

After opening the CHAT class back up towards the end of last year after the pandemic had forced many of our activities online, great efforts have been made to take full advantage of our rediscovered freedoms, with several trips taking place throughout the year. The fantastic People and the DALES facilitated two trips to the Yorkshire Dales – one to Keasden Head Farm where students got chance to see the farm animals & learn about farming practices, and a beautiful walk in Oxenber Woods above Austwick to see the bluebells in full bloom in the Springtime. Other local trips included an evening at the theatre courtesy of Leeds Playhouse, a visit to the National Science and Media Museum, local parks, and the villages of Saltaire and Thornton, often with a café pit stop for coffee and cake thrown in for good measure.

We've also been able to offer additional activities including online cooking classes with professional chef Sonia Sandhu at the beginning of the year, as well as gardening sessions courtesy of the fantastic Horton Community Farm. Some students also took the opportunity to show off their dance skills, appearing in a locally produced film aiming to promote unity and reconciliation entitled 'Dishta Gina Bradford style'.

# **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 30 September 2022**

### **Achievements and performance continued**

#### **CHAT continued**

Refugee Week saw opportunities for students to see the globally renowned 'Little Amal' visit Bradford, with some students also taking on the challenge of our 10+ mile sponsored walk, with others opting for a gentler walk round the Bradford Refugee Week exhibition trail.

Thanks to a partnership run by Bradford Volunteer Centre and Bradford City of Sanctuary, we were pleased to host a useful workshop for students on how to access volunteering opportunities, a much-needed resource to help give purpose and meaning when life can be so challenging.

Lesson themes throughout the year were shaped using student feedback and have been far ranging, from practical activities such as a trip to join the local library and learn about resources available, to cultural topics including Bradford's successful bid for City of Culture 2025, and much more besides.

Above all, we have been able to continue to provide a safe and welcoming space for people of all abilities to practise English and socialise with others. Not only is this an opportunity to improve English making navigating life in the UK that much easier, but crucially, it has a major impact on wellbeing & self-esteem through the laughter and connection that is very much part and parcel of the CHAT group. 56 different individuals benefited from CHAT group activities this year.

#### **Feedback from students**

100% of students said they enjoyed coming to the class

80% of students said they were satisfied with the learning material

#### **McKenzie Friends**

McKenzie Friends supported 60 people this year. In the first half of the year referrals were high but then dropped off significantly in summer, as we saw Home Office decision making slow down, before levelling off at the year end. Many of our referrals this year were complex cases and we increasingly saw people coming to us who were experiencing multiple disadvantage including problems with mental health and substance misuse. We can only imagine the traumas they have faced.

As a result of a reduction in larger face-to-face drop-in services in Bradford, we experienced an increase in self-referrals, with people contacting us with a wider range of needs. As the backlog of people in the system continues to grow, we find people are coming to us for assistance with finding solicitors for their initial asylum claim. There has also been a rise in the number of people seeking help with Article 8 humanitarian protection claims (right to private and family life) which are not funded by Legal Aid. We have completed several Exceptional Case Funding applications and as a result of our interventions, cases are being taken on by local solicitors.

Our partnership with Fisher Stone Solicitors continued throughout the year, with the provision of 16 legal advice sessions. At the year end, we had supported 27 people to find legal representation and heard that 12 people we supported had been granted Leave to Remain – fantastic news! Many of these have been from the Afghan community who have faced long waits and appalling treatment since their arrival in the UK.

Earlier in the year we trained and recruited 7 new volunteers to respond to increased demand. Our new recruits are doing well and are already making a great contribution to the team. As part of the training, we incorporated a visit to Phoenix House tribunal centre, where the number of appeals being heard each day has been cut to half. The impact on those waiting for an appeal is obvious - even longer waiting times.

As we move into very uncertain times and the impact of the Nationality and Borders Act becomes clearer, we are already noticing changes in the way new claims are being dealt with. Changes to rights of appeal for some fresh claims and the application of the 'inadmissible' category will certainly impact the work of our project. Together with a massive reduction in Legal Aid solicitors, it is becoming a perfect storm.

# **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 30 September 2022**

### **Achievements and performance continued**

#### **McKenzie Friends continued**

The national and local sector of asylum and refugee agencies is working well to support each other and the people we work with. We are paying close attention to changes 'on the ground' and seeking advice & guidance to ensure that we focus our energies where we can have the greatest impact in the coming year.

**60** people supported by McKenzie Friends

**16** legal advice sessions provided

**27** supported to find legal representation

**12** currently awaiting decisions on fresh asylum claims

**12** granted Leave to Remain in the UK

This year, we were granted additional support from the Lloyds Bank Foundation to work with a fundraising consultant to refine our financial monitoring procedures and develop a fundraising strategy, which we hope will enable us to secure funding to realise our future development plans.

Our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion was progressed, with anti-racism training for our staff and volunteers delivered by '*brap*', an organisation specialising in equality and diversity training, which we commissioned and co-hosted in partnership with Abigail Housing, to ensure this approach is embedded in our work. We also hosted training on working with people who identify as LGBTQI+ which was delivered by Rainbow Migration and attended by professionals from across the UK. We have diversified our volunteer base and undertaken a full review of skills and diversity within our board of trustees, in order to shape our future recruitment plans to ensure we are inclusive and representative as an organisation.

Similarly, we took steps to set up a user involvement group, carried out consultations with users in relation to future strategy & planning and recruited people with lived experience to our employment recruitment & selection panels.

Our relationships with partner agencies in Bradford remain strong and have enabled us to work together to support those who need our help. We end the year with plans for a local sector review & planning day to ensure we are able to meet the needs of the increasing numbers arriving in Bradford, both in the immediate term, as well as creating the infrastructure to respond quickly and with agility as a sector to future changes in the longer term.

### **Financial review**

The net payments for the year were £22,265, including net payments of £15,444 on unrestricted funds and net payments of £6,821 on restricted funds.

This reflects the healthy financial position of the charity at the start of the financial year with a fund balance brought forward of £90,339 thanks to the generosity of funders and donors during the pandemic, meaning there was less pressure to source like-for-like income to cover our expenditure over the year.

Our income was therefore slightly lower than the previous year (£38,402 compared with £50,290 last year), however expenditure was greater (£60,667 compared with £53,264 last year), largely as a result of increased project costs as a result of the cost of living crisis.

The main financial risk to the charity is loss of income from our main income streams including grants, donations and fundraising activities both due to rising costs as a result of the cost-of-living crisis combined with increasing competition for smaller pots of funding. However, thanks to Lloyds Bank Foundation, we have received a package of support from the FSI in the form of guidance from a consultant to implement a fundraising strategy and restructure our monitoring and reporting systems to provide clearer information for effective financial oversight and planning.

Whilst there are increasing financial pressures ahead, the trustees have reassessed the charity's ability to continue for at least 12 months from the date that the accounts are approved and conclude that no material uncertainties exist that cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to meet its liabilities as they fall due.

We are thankful to all our funders, donors and supporters for their ongoing support for our work this year.

# **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 30 September 2022**

### **Reserves policy**

BEACON depends on grants and donations to sustain its activities. We run the risk of closure if funding difficulties were to happen, if there were a temporary shortfall in income, or an unforeseen rise in spending requirements and costs.

To prevent immediate closure in these instances, the trustees have agreed to keep a certain level of financial reserves to ensure that main operations can continue until alternative provision can be made.

The main concerns are to ensure:

- that service users (particularly our hosted guests) are supported to move on to other services in a timely and sympathetic manner
- an ability to develop new projects and grasp new opportunities should they arise
- that staff can continue working to develop another funding stream to continue the work of BEACON

The ideal amount of reserves has been set as an amount equivalent to between 6 and 12 months budgeted running costs, as this is deemed an appropriate period of time to achieve the above aims.

Anticipated expenditure is kept under constant review throughout the year and cash flow projections are amended to reflect any changes. Target reserve levels are adjusted accordingly.

At the end of the year our budgeted future running costs for the 2022/2023 financial year are £85,592 (which includes a planned increase in staffing). The target reserves range is therefore between £42,796 and £85,592.

The charity's free reserves, excluding fixed assets, at the year end are £61,728. This level of reserves sits comfortably within our target range.

Approved by the board of trustees on 17/1/2023

Sarah Jemison (Trustee)

## **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

### **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2022, which are set out on pages 9 to 13.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees 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 charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Rhys North ACA

19/1/2023

#### **West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO**

Stringer House  
34 Lupton Street  
Leeds  
LS10 2QW

# Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)

## Receipts and payments account

for the year ended 30 September 2022

|                                      | Notes | 2022<br>Unrestricted<br>funds<br>£ | 2022<br>Restricted<br>funds<br>£ | 2022<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ | 2021<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ |
|--------------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Receipts</b>                      |       |                                    |                                  |                             |                             |
| Grants                               | (2)   | 10,000                             | 10,000                           | 20,000                      | 25,570                      |
| Donations - Faith Groups             |       | 4,887                              | -                                | 4,887                       | 4,208                       |
| Donations - Individuals              |       | 6,796                              | 3,745                            | 10,541                      | 18,107                      |
| Donations - Other                    |       | 2,098                              | -                                | 2,098                       | 1,435                       |
| Sponsored walk                       |       | 876                                | -                                | 876                         | 970                         |
| <b>Total receipts</b>                |       | <b>24,657</b>                      | <b>13,745</b>                    | <b>38,402</b>               | <b>50,290</b>               |
| <b>Payments</b>                      |       |                                    |                                  |                             |                             |
| Staffing costs                       | (3)   | 27,949                             | 12,465                           | 40,414                      | 37,591                      |
| Rent                                 |       | 6,483                              | 120                              | 6,603                       | 6,240                       |
| Insurance                            |       | 793                                | -                                | 793                         | 1,048                       |
| Office costs                         |       | 720                                | 76                               | 796                         | 845                         |
| Publicity and fundraising            |       | 24                                 | -                                | 24                          | 34                          |
| Training                             |       | 655                                | -                                | 655                         | 80                          |
| Subscriptions                        |       | 397                                | -                                | 397                         | 749                         |
| Project costs                        |       | 1,656                              | 7,733                            | 9,389                       | 4,863                       |
| IT costs                             |       | 586                                | -                                | 586                         | 888                         |
| Volunteer expenses                   |       | 126                                | 172                              | 298                         | 181                         |
| Other expenses                       |       | 5                                  | -                                | 5                           | 63                          |
| Governance costs                     |       | 317                                | -                                | 317                         | 328                         |
| Independent examination              |       | 390                                | -                                | 390                         | 354                         |
| <b>Total payments</b>                |       | <b>40,101</b>                      | <b>20,566</b>                    | <b>60,667</b>               | <b>53,264</b>               |
| <b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>    |       | <b>(15,444)</b>                    | <b>(6,821)</b>                   | <b>(22,265)</b>             | <b>(2,974)</b>              |
| <b>Fund balances brought forward</b> |       | <b>77,172</b>                      | <b>13,167</b>                    | <b>90,339</b>               | <b>93,313</b>               |
| <b>Fund balances carried forward</b> | (4)   | <b>61,728</b>                      | <b>6,346</b>                     | <b>68,074</b>               | <b>90,339</b>               |

# Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)

## Statement of assets and liabilities

as at 30 September 2022

|                             | 2022          | 2022         | 2022          | 2021          |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
|                             | Unrestricted  | Restricted   | Total         | Total         |
|                             | £             | £            | £             | £             |
| <b>Cash funds</b>           |               |              |               |               |
| Cash at bank                | 50,533        | 6,346        | 56,879        | 81,027        |
| Cash at bank - Bradford CPA | 11,058        | -            | 11,058        | 9,212         |
| Cash in hand                | 137           | -            | 137           | 100           |
| <b>Total cash funds</b>     | <u>61,728</u> | <u>6,346</u> | <u>68,074</u> | <u>90,339</u> |

|                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| <b>Liabilities</b>      | £          |
| Independent examination | <u>480</u> |
|                         | <u>480</u> |

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 17/1/2023

Sarah Jemison (Trustee)

# **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

## **Notes to the accounts**

### **for the year ended 30 September 2022**

#### **1 Accounting policies**

##### **Basis of accounting**

The trustees have taken advantage of section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and have prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year.

No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

##### **Taxation**

As a charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

##### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

# Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)

## Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 30 September 2022

| 2 Grants and donations                        | 2022<br>Unrestricted<br>funds<br>£ | 2022<br>Restricted<br>funds<br>£ | 2022<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ | 2021<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Society of the Holy Child Jesus (SHCJ)        | -                                  | 10,000                           | 10,000                      | -                           |
| The Methodist Church Yorkshire West District  | 10,000                             | -                                | 10,000                      | 10,000                      |
| Bradford Metropolitan District Council (BMDC) | -                                  | -                                | -                           | 6,000                       |
| HMRC Job Retention Scheme                     | -                                  | -                                | -                           | 180                         |
| Lyndal Tree Foundation                        | -                                  | -                                | -                           | 8,000                       |
| Refugee Action                                | -                                  | -                                | -                           | 1,390                       |
|                                               | <u>10,000</u>                      | <u>10,000</u>                    | <u>20,000</u>               | <u>25,570</u>               |

| 3 Staff costs and numbers                          | 2022<br>£     | 2021<br>£     |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Gross salaries                                     | 38,993        | 36,491        |
| Social security costs                              | 1,899         | 1,637         |
| Employment allowance                               | (1,899)       | (1,637)       |
| Pensions                                           | 557           | 495           |
| Add/(Less): Pension Liability at 30 September 2021 | 101           | (101)         |
| Payroll fees                                       | 763           | 707           |
|                                                    | <u>40,414</u> | <u>37,591</u> |

The average number of employees during the year was 4, being an average of 1.6 full time equivalent (2021: 4, 1.6 FTE). There were no employees with emoluments above £60,000.

| Defined contribution pension scheme             | 2022<br>£ | 2021<br>£ |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Costs of the scheme to the charity for the year | 557       | 495       |

# Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)

## Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 30 September 2022

| <b>4 Restricted funds</b> | Balance b/f   | Receipts      | Payments      | Transfers | Balance c/f  |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|--------------|
|                           | £             | £             | £             | £         | £            |
| Hosting                   | 3,497         | 1,245         | 4,185         | -         | 557          |
| McKenzie Friends          | 9,269         | 2,500         | 11,769        | -         | -            |
| BMDC Next Steps           | 401           | -             | 401           | -         | -            |
| SHCJ                      | -             | 10,000        | 4,211         | -         | 5,789        |
|                           | <u>13,167</u> | <u>13,745</u> | <u>20,566</u> | <u>-</u>  | <u>6,346</u> |

### Fund name

### Purpose of restriction

Hosting

To host people seeking asylum who are destitute.

McKenzie Friends

To provide legal support to people seeking asylum.

BMDC Next Steps

To offer support and assistance to asylum seekers who have been provided with emergency accommodation under the rough sleeper Everyone In programme.

SHCJ

To support the salary costs of the Team Leader and Finance & Administration Assistant.

## 5 Related party transactions

### Trustee expenses

No trustee received any expenses during this year or the previous year.

### Trustee remuneration and benefits

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.

## **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

### **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

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#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

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- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Signed:  .....

Name: Rhys North ACA

19/1/2023

#### **West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO**

Stringer House  
34 Lupton Street  
Leeds  
LS10 2QW

**BEACON (BRADFORD ECUMENICAL ASYLUM CONCERN)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1119463

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# Accounts

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*Welcome the Stranger*

# Annual Review

For the year ending 30th September 2021

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***The vision of BEACON is that the Bradford district becomes a hospitable community where people seeking asylum and refugees are welcome, enjoy access to justice and fair treatment and are supported on their journey to independence and integration***

# INTRODUCTION FROM BEACON'S CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

***“Problems are not resolved and coexistence improved by building walls higher, but by joining forces to care for others.”***

Pope Francis

Over the last twelve months, the challenges faced by people seeking asylum in the UK have increased. The tragic drownings in the Channel seek to emphasise the risks desperate people seeking asylum must take. With so few legal routes to safety, they have no alternative. The situation in Afghanistan has forced thousands of people to flee persecution, reminding us of so many others, out of the public gaze, yet in a similar position. The proposals in the Nationality and Borders Bill, should they become law, will have devastating consequences for people seeking sanctuary here.

It is within this context that BEACON has continued to fulfil its charitable objectives.

## **Relieving Hardship**

BEACON's McKenzie Friends, Hosting and CHAT projects have continued. Our committed volunteers are the backbone of BEACON, so despite Covid restrictions, we're proud to have recruited and trained new volunteers. The CHAT English Club has expanded to include various social activities. We have received funding from the Local Authority for the first time, to undertake a piece of work as part of the Next Steps Accommodation Project. This ensured that those people seeking asylum within the Covid 19 'Everyone In' scheme were able to access move on accommodation when the scheme ended.

## **Raising Awareness**

BEACON hears many heart-breaking stories. Life threatening journeys to safety are made by desperate people, in fear of their lives, with no other option. So, we've sought to counter

the 'hostile environment' by continuing to support the Lift the Ban campaign and joining the Together with Refugees, Families Together and Hands Up for Our Health coalitions. We've featured in a short film commissioned by the University of Bradford as part of their 'Unify Festival' and contributed to the consultation process for the Nationality and Borders Bill by making a submission, as a relevant organisation, in the process. Our experience is that a wide range of people and organisations do want to join forces to care for people seeking asylum who arrive in the UK and here in Bradford.

## **Increasing Capacity**

As you read our Annual Report, you will see what BEACON, with a small staff team and committed band of volunteers, has achieved. However, we are conscious that many needs have gone unmet. With increased capacity, we could do even more! We're grateful for the support of the Enhance programme which has enabled us to work with an external consultant to create an organisational strategy and business plan. We're excited to be working on our fundraising strategy to ensure that the necessary financial resources are available for the changes we seek to make. We hope to be able to achieve even more!

I would like to say 'thank you' to our many volunteers, board of trustees, staff team, funders and all who support us with their commitment and prayers. You all play a part as we seek to 'Welcome the Stranger' here at BEACON.

**Sarah Jemison**  
**Chair of Trustees**



# REFLECTIONS FROM BEACON'S TEAM LEADER

**Another year has passed, and it has once again been a challenging one for us all. Our work this year has demanded much from us all in the way of resilience and yet we recognise how much more challenging life has been for those we work with.**

We were deeply concerned at the situation which unfolded in Afghanistan this year and reminded of the importance of our work for all who seek safety and protection. In the same vein, the proposals we see outlined in the Nationality and Borders Bill are of grave concern for the future of people seeking asylum. Nevertheless, despite these concerns and the ongoing pandemic, we are pleased to report that our activities this year have continued to have significant impact on the lives of the people using our services, during a year of ongoing uncertainty.

Whilst our Hosting project was paused for much of the year due to delayed Home Office evictions and the 'Everyone In' scheme offering provision that would not ordinarily be available, other areas of work grew and developed. We were selected by the local authority to receive a grant to support people within the Everyone In programme, we set up a digital legal advice surgery which has greatly enhanced the outcomes of the McKenzie Friends project, and our CHAT project expanded to offer a wider range of activities, including yoga, cooking and wellbeing walks, to keep people socially connected.

The year started on a high with the launch of the digital legal advice surgery in partnership with Fisher Stone solicitors – an initiative which has revitalised the McKenzie Friends project in a context of scarcity of quality legal advice available in our area. We are immensely grateful for a Respond and Adapt grant received from a network of funders

known as Migration Exchange which enabled us to set this project up and run it efficiently and safely throughout the year. This funding also opened up a host of opportunities to access support and training in other areas, including wellbeing, anti-racism, governance and fundraising which have proved essential in our organisational development during the past year.

We were pleased that our sponsored walk was able to go ahead during Refugee Week this summer, a longstanding tradition and opportunity to raise awareness of and funds towards our work, not to mention a social opportunity for BEACON staff, trustees, volunteers, supporters and users to come together after months of social isolation and lockdown.

Our work on diversity and inclusion has developed as we continue to understand more about how we can learn and change. Comprehensive anti-racism training for charity leaders delivered by brap, a leading charity in the area of equality and diversity, was a fundamental foundation for us to build on and together with Abigail Housing we plan to co-host additional training for people within our respective organisations in the coming year. We acknowledge that there is much more work to be done and that this is an ongoing process, however we have started the journey and are fully committed to staying on the path.

Another area of development for us this year has been taking more time to listen to and involve the people we work with in shaping the work we do and working towards ensuring people with lived experience of seeking asylum are fully involved in all aspects of BEACON. We are working to improve mechanisms for feedback from people who use our services and in March we

were selected to be part of a national pilot programme facilitated by Refugee Action along with 7 other organisations across the UK to work on setting up Experts by Experience groups. This was an invaluable experience, and we plan to grow and consolidate this work in the coming year.

We have also been instrumental in setting up an online Single Point of Access system for people seeking asylum and refugees in Bradford as part of a steering group made up of local organisations. The new BRASH system (Bradford Refugee Asylum Services Hub) enables a streamlined and efficient pathway for people to access relevant services in a timely manner.

An additional key development for us this year came in the form of support secured through the Enhance programme funded by Lloyds Bank Foundation to work with an external consultant to undertake a strategic review of BEACON. This was followed by the development of a comprehensive future strategy to consolidate and enhance our work to cater for increased demand to meet the evolving needs of people seeking asylum. We hope to implement our plans in the coming year. Exciting times!

As we look to the year ahead, we see both challenge and hope. Despite the increasingly hostile legislative changes, increased numbers of people needing support and ever competitive challenges of funding our work, we will continue to stand together with people seeking asylum, whatever the year brings. Thank you to everyone who supported us this year – we couldn't do our work without you!

**Katy Armitstead**  
Team Leader



# HOSTING

## PREVENTING DESTITUTION

### What a year!

For a large part of it, no hosting took place, as the situation for those we seek to help was significantly helped by two factors: the first was that the Home Office were forced to suspend evictions of asylum seekers whose cases had been refused; the second was Bradford Council's decision to wholeheartedly participate in the government's 'Everyone In' scheme, whereby all rough sleepers, including those with No Recourse to Public Funds, were offered accommodation and support. BEACON played a key role in offering support to people in the scheme who were seeking asylum (see page 10 for more on this).

We continued to stay abreast of the situation as it developed, meeting frequently with members of the NACCOM network to stay connected with other organisations doing similar work, and worked with other local organisations to coordinate a system for providing information to people who would at some point be facing eviction, to let them know of our support as early as possible.

Evictions were inevitably restarted, and the project reopened with additional safety measures in place, as our amazing hosts became available again and referrals begin to trickle through.

We were reminded on several occasions during the year of the value of the project, as we received the fantastic news that four people supported by us in previous years had at last been granted Leave to Remain in the UK. Without the kindness, compassion and generosity of our hosts when their guests were battling to prepare and submit fresh asylum claims, they would very likely remain destitute – or worse.



**4** former guests granted  
Leave to Remain in the UK!



**Former host Jackie at the finish line of the London marathon raising funds for BEACON**

# MCKENZIE FRIENDS

## ACCESS TO JUSTICE

**The McKenzie Friends project continued to offer legal advocacy and support to people seeking protection who were without hope and without legal representation. As expected, this year has been quite different from last year. Whilst we were able to return to some level of in-person support, we have retained some remote operations. This has unexpectedly brought many advantages and enabled us to develop new skills as a team.**

Referrals have increased substantially from 29 last year to 46 this year. This is in part due to the Home Office recommencing its decision-making process as well as due to improved pathways between organisations supporting destitute people who need help with asylum issues.

One of the major successes has been the introduction of a fully funded digital legal advice service in partnership with Fisher Stone solicitors based in Halifax. This means we now have a simple pathway for all referrals to access high-quality, expert and honest legal advice (with an interpreter if needed), with 35 legal advice sessions facilitated over the year, and 19 people being taken on by one of the legal advisors to submit a fresh claim with Legal Aid, which is almost double the amount of people we were able to support to find a solicitor last year. Despite their huge workloads, we're eternally grateful to the wonderful team at Fisher Stone (Karin, Ruth and Alice) for the time afforded to our clients.

The grant we received to set up the service also enabled us to purchase a laptop which has proved invaluable in enabling us to respond to ad-hoc requests, for example facilitating remote appeal hearings and interviews with experts involved in drafting specialist reports in support of fresh claims. We adapted our comprehensive training package and took on 4 new volunteers and have expanded our knowledge in areas such as human trafficking, with volunteers making referrals into the National Referral Mechanism and putting their training to good use to make a number of successful applications for Exceptional Case Funding for cases outside of the scope of legal aid. We connected with other local organisations to increase awareness of local services to meet the ever more complex needs of our clients, particularly in the areas of crisis and mental health support. We also accessed ongoing training from TACTIC Immigration and Asylum Training Consultancy, in the areas of credibility in asylum claims and a refresher course on approaches to fresh claims.

The hard work of the team paid off as we heard that 5 individuals we had supported to access legal representation went on to be granted Leave to Remain. This was a direct result of the perseverance of our volunteers and the high standard of Fresh Submissions. Thanks to the work of the McKenzie Friends volunteers, we are able to provide a flexible and supportive service developing expertise and evolving to adapt to the needs of some very vulnerable people.



59

People seeking asylum  
supported by McKenzie Friends



35

Legal advice sessions provided



3

Supported to attend  
appeal hearings



24

Supported to find legal  
representation



5

Granted Leave to Remain in the UK



*Working with BEACON is an enjoyable and beneficial project which has enabled us to increase our capacity to take on preparing further submissions for asylum seekers who have had a refusal on their claim, an essential part of our work that we can find it difficult to commit resources to. We look forward to continuing working with BEACON in the coming year*

Karin Oliver, Director of Fisher  
Stone solicitors

*"The McKenzie Friends have played such a crucial role. It's a critical time when you need support, and they actually take time to understand your case and to help you find the best way forward. I think this is a really good service. It comes very highly praised by me."*

***“McKenzie Friends provides a unique service both to our service users and to the solicitors who take on their cases. Solicitors do not get legal aid for any pastoral work, or to accompany clients to the Home Office or courts for instance.***

***As we are not qualified to give legal advice, the partnership with Fisher Stone is incredibly useful to us and our clients, many of whom have been taken on by them either straight away or after work we have done to help provide further evidence.***

***What most refused asylum seekers need more than anything is a successful fresh claim and we have helped achieve quite a few of these. This is job satisfaction!”***

Ann Sargent, McKenzie Friends volunteer

### **Khaled's story\***

Khaled was a traumatised and vulnerable young man from Afghanistan. He had witnessed extreme violence; his family had been killed by the Taliban and he was now at risk himself so had fled the country. He had arrived in the UK as an unaccompanied minor aged 15. By the time he was referred to us his mental health was markedly poor, he suffered with PTSD, and was experiencing night terrors & suicidal thoughts as a result of his traumatic life experiences.

Khaled was referred to McKenzie Friends for legal support and to the Hosting project for accommodation. He was swiftly moved into a volunteer host household close to the city and subsequently linked in with the CHAT club, supported to access a bike, laptop, clothes & footwear, and a volunteer placement to learn construction skills. Although clearly still traumatised, his mental health & wellbeing improved markedly during this time. He was allocated two McKenzie Friends volunteers who provided support to access legal advice, arranged travel and accompanied him to London to meet with a psychiatrist who

produced a report for a new asylum claim. Along with further evidence obtained with support from the volunteers, the solicitor was able to access Legal Aid to submit a fresh asylum claim and Khaled was supported to apply for Section 4 accommodation.

A few months later in March 2021, we had a phone call from an ecstatic Khaled to tell us the amazing news that the wait was over, and he had been granted Leave to Remain to start his new life free from fear here in the UK.

\* Name has been changed

***“I am so very grateful for this opportunity. Since I came to BEACON, my luck has really changed”***

**CHAT continued online for most of the year, providing a weekly safe space for volunteers and students to grow their already trusted and friendly relationships. A massive thank you to the volunteers who continued to support students week in week out during another difficult year – the online classes wouldn't have been able to function without their fantastic support!**

The greatest highlight has been being able to develop and grow the CHAT club throughout the year, despite the setbacks caused by the pandemic. The class developed to offer monthly online cooking classes, a 6-week beginner yoga course and short walks around some of Bradford's beautiful parks, Bradford Cathedral and Little Germany. In a time where social isolation was very significant, this brought everyone closer together and helped with supporting physical and mental wellbeing.

The online CHAT Club provided a sense of routine and stability for a core group of students during the difficult winter lockdown. It allowed for one-to-one English practice and the opportunity to get to know students on a deeper level. Online classes enabled people to introduce some of their family members, and to show photographs and artwork they had created at home. Furthermore, it was an opportunity to connect with and reach a wider community of people seeking asylum and refugees from places such as Halifax, Manchester and Sheffield. Topics discussed throughout the year included family, mental health, fitness and providing translations for government restrictions and lockdown information. We also created a WhatsApp group for all students, a super way to keep in touch, share photos, information and provide a couple of laughs through the week.

Our monthly online cooking classes started in February 2021 following a very successful pilot in November 2020. Bradford chef, Sonia Sandhu creates delicious recipes for people to sign up and cook along together online. The class is free, and ingredients are delivered to participants' homes beforehand – a great way to engage new students and chat to them face-to-face from a safe distance. The class has proved to be a real hit, with recipes including a spicy bean chilli, okra curry, chocolate and hazelnut brownies, and vegan spaghetti bolognese. Delicious! To celebrate coming out of lockdown and enjoy a little of the British summer we held a picnic in Lister Park for all the cooking class participants – the rain stayed away, and we managed a couple of games of cricket and frisbee with the homemade treat of Sonia's cherry chocolate cake.

We also had the delight of congratulating a longstanding student on finally receiving his British Citizenship – a joyous day! Another student was reunited with his family, and they have been granted Leave to Remain, as have a couple of other students in the class. Great news to hear!

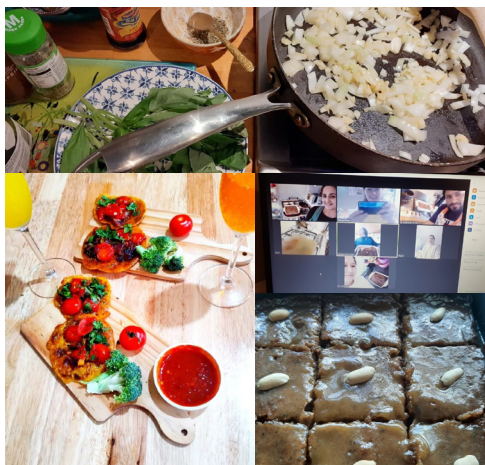
Despite a difficult year for many reasons, the students, and volunteers remained positive and are continuing into the new year with success. The class reopened in person in August 2021 with additional safety precautions in place. Numbers have swelled and it has been so lovely to see old and new students return. It is also comforting to know we are prepared for any future changes should we need to return to online classes depending on whatever this year brings.

A total of **61** different individuals benefited from the various CHAT activities available this year. Participants came from a variety of countries as far-reaching as **China, South Sudan, El Salvador, Kuwait, and Iran.**

*"Thank you for this cooking class because with lockdown I feel alone at home and with this class I have new friends. I really enjoyed it. I learnt a new and delicious food and I want to participate in this class again. The quality and training on Zoom were excellent. Thank you all."*

*Running monthly virtual cooking classes with BEACON has been fantastic! As well as contributing to a more varied diet of healthy and seasonal dishes, the social aspect of the class has been important throughout periods of social restrictions during the pandemic - the class is relaxed and allows time for everyone to chat and catch up, practising their English language skills all whilst cooking dinner for themselves or with their family. We have all got to know each other quite well and really enjoyed a picnic in Lister Park over the summer where I met participants for the first time in person after many months of Zooming! The classes are a real highlight in my work, as they are such fun with enthusiastic participants who I look forward to seeing each month.*

Sonia Sandhu, Bradford-based chef



A selection of the delights created at the monthly cooking class!



Some creative feedback from a grateful cooking class participant

# NEXT STEPS

## SUPPORT TO MOVE ON

**We were pleased that the government provided additional accommodation at the height of the pandemic to people at risk of rough sleeping including those without recourse to public funds as part of the 'Everyone In' initiative. We were delighted to receive some funding from the local authority as part of the Next Steps Accommodation Programme to work with those in the scheme who were seeking asylum.**

Audrey Smith who also occupies the role of McKenzie Friends Coordinator at BEACON, was appointed to the role as Project Coordinator. The work we undertook involved offering holistic support and assistance to ensure the needs of these individuals were met and ultimately to secure options for moving on into other accommodation once the scheme sadly yet inevitably came to an end.

The individuals we supported were experiencing extremely challenging situations and had multiple & complex needs including complicated asylum cases. Ensuring people had all the help they needed involved the provision of intensive support and working together with a range of services. Regular meetings were held between agencies offering support and collaborative relationships with mainstream homelessness and specialist support services were forged. Key partners we worked with included the Salvation Army who offer much-needed support to people experiencing homelessness, the British Red Cross who provided destitution payments and support with asylum support applications, CGL who offered valuable support to people who were tragically suffering with substance misuse,

and charities committed to preventing destitution including Hope Housing, Abigail Housing and Humankind, who were able to ensure a roof was kept over the heads of the people we were working with once the scheme ended.

A key aspect of support was securing access to legal advice in order to determine subsequent options open to those in the scheme. Building on expertise, knowledge and connections gained through her role as McKenzie Friends Coordinator, Audrey was able to secure a solicitor to take on the cases of 8 people in the scheme.

At the start of the project, each person in the scheme was facing destitution and life on the streets. Thanks to Audrey's hard work, patience, persistence, all 10 individuals in the scheme were supported to access accommodation and so were prevented from experiencing destitution when the programme closed.

***"I cannot express how profound my gratitude is towards you. You have changed my life. Before, I had no future, and I didn't know that there were people that cared about anything other than their own affairs. Because of you, I now know there are people in the world who have compassion, understanding, passion and kindness. I feel like a tree that has finally been able to blossom."***

# COMMENT FROM BEACON'S TREASURER

**This year has been a challenging one, but as our figures show, we have come through and are able to plan ahead and continue the work of which we are so proud.**

In particular, the generosity of our funders has ensured that cash flow has been maintained during the course of the pandemic. Funders have been understanding about the need for the charity to have flexibility in the use of its funds coupled with certainty of income. Many thanks are due to all our donors.

The Financial Statements contained within the examined accounts show the year in numbers, but I feel it is important to recognise that they are also a reflection of the hard work of those at BEACON who show all due diligence in our financial management, careful monitoring and control of costs, and in income generation.

**Roland Clark**  
Treasurer



Bradford walking tour

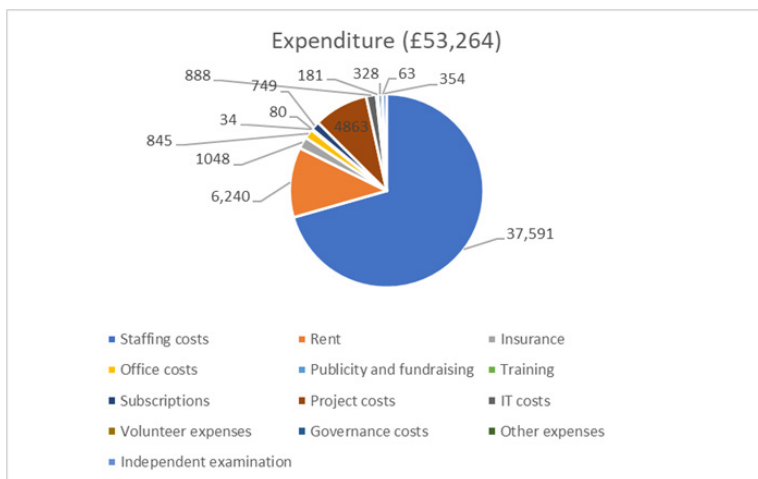
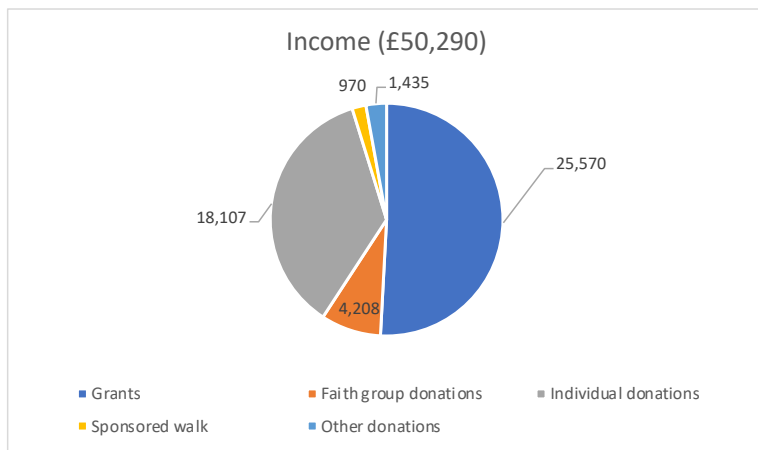


Picnic in the park



Pre-lockdown walk

# INCOME AND EXPENDITURE



Thank you to everyone who supported us financially over the past year. It's thanks to your help that we have been able to help so many people seeking asylum in Bradford in 2020/2021.

# HOW YOU CAN HELP



## **Become a volunteer**

Make a direct difference to the life of someone seeking asylum - get in touch to find out more about what roles we have available



## **Make a donation**

Every little helps and can go a long way to help people seeking asylum – contact us about making a one-off donation or setting up a regular donation to help us on an ongoing basis



## **Fundraise - and have fun!**

From a personal challenge such as running a marathon or giving up chocolate, to holding a coffee morning or a quiz night, we'd love to hear from you!



## **Help us raise awareness**

We can always use help to spread the word about the challenges faced by people seeking asylum – get in touch if you're interested in awareness raising



## **Join our mailing list**

Sign up to receive our newsletter and keep up to date with our work and activities



## **Become a member of BEACON**

As a BEACON member, you can show your support for our vision and objectives and vote at our Annual General Meeting

**For further information, please see our web site  
[www.beaconbradford.org](http://www.beaconbradford.org) or contact us at [beacon@beaconbradford.org](mailto:beacon@beaconbradford.org)  
or on 07419 990578. We look forward to hearing from you!**

***“Those who have desperation as the  
only way – they will find some help at  
BEACON”***



*Welcome the Stranger*

## Contact us:

### **BEACON Office**

c/o Touchstone, 4 Easby Road,  
Bradford, BD7 1QX

E: [beacon@beaconbradford.org](mailto:beacon@beaconbradford.org)

T: 07419 990578

### **Hosting**

E: [hosting@beaconbradford.org](mailto:hosting@beaconbradford.org)

T: 07505 053149

### **McKenzie Friends**

E: [mckenziefriends@beaconbradford.org](mailto:mckenziefriends@beaconbradford.org)

T: 07531 576330

### **CHAT**

E: [chat@beaconbradford.org](mailto:chat@beaconbradford.org)

T: 07754 228569

Twitter: @BEACON\_Bradford

Facebook: Beacon32

[www.beaconbradford.org](http://www.beaconbradford.org)

# **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

Charity number 1119463

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2021**



# **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2021**

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**Prepared by West Yorkshire Community Accounting Service**

# **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

## **Trustees' report for the year ended 30 September 2021**

### **Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors**

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

| <b>Name</b>       | <b>Position</b> | <b>Dates</b>              |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Sarah Jemison     | Chair           |                           |
| Heather Grinter   | Vice Chair      |                           |
| Roland Clark      | Treasurer       |                           |
| Barbara Clarke    | Secretary       |                           |
| William Sutcliffe |                 |                           |
| Andrew Howorth    |                 |                           |
| Mary Brooks       |                 |                           |
| Edward Sterling   |                 | Appointed 27 January 2021 |
| Aimee Nyembo      |                 | Appointed 27 January 2021 |

### **Charity number**

The charity was registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, number 1119463, on 1 June 2007.

### **Principal address**

c/o Touchstone  
4 Easby Road  
Bradford  
BD7 1QX

### **Bankers**

Unity Trust Bank plc  
Nine Brindleyplace  
Birmingham  
B1 2HB

### **Independent examiner**

Rhys North ACA

### **West Yorkshire Community Accounting Service**

Stringer House  
34 Lupton Street  
Leeds  
LS10 2QW

### **Structure, governance and management**

The charity is governed by a constitution adopted on 14 November 2006 as amended on 8 October 2019 and 28 January 2020.

### **Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees**

The trustees of the charity are appointed by the members at the AGM.

### **The charity's objects**

The relief of hardship among those seeking asylum in the UK or who are refugees who reside in the Bradford Metropolitan District and surrounding areas.

To advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.

# **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 30 September 2021**

### **The charity's main activities**

All of BEACON's activities are underpinned by our vision that the Bradford district becomes a hospitable community where people seeking asylum and refugees are welcome, enjoy access to justice and fair treatment and are supported on their journey to independence and integration.

Our key activities are:

Hosting – the prevention of destitution for people seeking asylum through the provision of accommodation in volunteer host households, a weekly allowance to meet basic needs and a travel pass to access local services and activities. Guests are provided with support to link them in with a variety of services and activities, from volunteering to healthcare and legal advice to ensure their needs are met holistically.

CHAT – a weekly English conversation and activities group open to non-English speakers in the local community, for all abilities. The group provides a friendly and welcoming environment in which to improve English, form social connections, enhance wellbeing and enjoy a variety of additional activities from gardening, to theatre trips and cooking classes.

McKenzie Friends – volunteers provide legal support and advocacy to people seeking asylum to navigate the complexities of the asylum system, including facilitating access to legal advice and accompanying unrepresented asylum seekers to appeal hearings.

### **Public benefit statement**

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. In line with our charitable purposes:

1) We have helped to relieve hardship among those seeking asylum in the UK or who are refugees who reside in the Bradford Metropolitan District and surrounding areas, through our McKenzie Friends, Hosting, CHAT and Next Steps projects. The projects continued, in safely adapted forms, throughout the year and when restrictions permitted, we returned to in-person activities. The projects are dependent on a wide range of committed volunteers who enable us to deliver a high-quality service to our clients and guests. During the year we have recruited and trained new volunteers, thus increasing the public benefit delivered through these projects in supporting people seeking asylum through the asylum process. This includes support to access legal advice and the relief of destitution & lack of basic needs such as food and money. The CHAT English club has expanded to include various social activities; in addition to improving English language skills, social networks have been established, leading to a reduction in isolation, increased wellbeing and empowerment amongst those seeking asylum. Additionally, we were commissioned by the Local Authority to deliver support as part of the Next Steps Accommodation Project, relieving hardship of those seeking asylum within the Everyone In scheme and ensuring they were able to access accommodation to move to when they were required to leave the accommodation provided through the Covid19 pandemic.

2) We have also furthered our objective to advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum. We have continued to support and raise awareness of the campaign to 'Lift the Ban' on the right to work for those seeking asylum. We have also joined the Together with Refugees and Hands Up for Our Health coalitions in order to better educate the public and counter the effects of the 'hostile environment'. We made the public aware of the consultation process for the government's Nationality and Borders Bill as well as making a submission, as a relevant organisation, in the process. Furthermore, we were featured in a short film commissioned by the University of Bradford as part of their 'Unify Festival'. The film was promoted widely and was an opportunity to raise awareness about the need for our work with people seeking asylum in Bradford. We were able to adapt our offer to provide online talks to local groups to further spread awareness of the increasingly challenging needs of people seeking asylum during the pandemic. We have also been featured in the local press this year – offering comment on the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and coverage of our sponsored event during Refugee Week. We have also maintained a strong social media presence throughout the year and grown our number of followers as well as increasing numbers signed up to our mailing list.

The public benefit arising from these activities is the increase in information given to the public which has enhanced support for, and consideration of, the difficulties faced by the individuals we support.

The charity trustees have given consideration to the major risks to which the charity is exposed and have a plan to manage identified risks.

# **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 30 September 2021**

### **Achievements and performance**

We are pleased to report that our activities this year have continued to have significant impact on the lives of the people using our services, during a year of continued uncertainty and challenge.

Our CHAT project continued to provide a weekly safe space for English conversation practice, continuing online for most of the year until the class was reopened with additional safety precautions in place in August, when numbers grew and the in-person provision has now been firmly re-established. During the difficult winter months back in lockdown, we developed an additional offer of social activities to address reduced wellbeing and social isolation. A free monthly online cooking class in partnership with local professional chef Sonia Sandhu was established, as well as the provision of online yoga sessions delivered by professional yoga teacher Annie Golding streamed live from Kathmandu, Nepal. We also arranged a number of walks in local parks throughout the year and a summer picnic to provide opportunities for social contact as well as access to nature and exercise. 61 individuals in total benefited from the CHAT activities this year.

The Hosting project was paused for much of the year due to both the UK government's Everyone In scheme which provided accommodation to anyone sleeping rough during the pandemic including those without Recourse to Public Funds, and the Home Office pause on evictions from asylum accommodation. This meant that those who would normally be referred to us were able to access other options for accommodation during this time. However, evictions were inevitably restarted and the Hosting project reopened in August, with revised precautions in place to ensure the safety of both guest and host.

During the time when the Everyone In scheme was operational, we were awarded funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government as part of the Next Steps Accommodation Programme to work with those in the scheme who were seeking asylum. We were funded to offer holistic support and assistance to ensure needs were met and ultimately to secure options for moving on into other accommodation once the scheme came to an end. The individuals we supported were experiencing extremely challenging situations and had multiple and complex needs, however we were able to work intensively with each person and ensure that all 10 people secured accommodation once the scheme came to an end. The work provided an opportunity for us to build on our network of partnerships and work collaboratively with mainstream homelessness and specialist support services in Bradford.

The McKenzie Friends project continued to offer legal advocacy and support to some of the most vulnerable people seeking asylum who were without hope and without legal representation. We secured a Respond and Adapt grant through Migration Exchange (a network of independent funders) which has been invaluable in furthering the work of the project and enabled us to set up a digital legal advice surgery in partnership with Fisher Stone solicitors in Halifax. This means we now have a simple pathway for all referrals to access high-quality, expert and honest legal advice, with 35 legal advice sessions facilitated over the year, and 19 people being taken on by one of the legal advisors to submit a fresh claim with Legal Aid. The grant enabled us to purchase a laptop which has also been invaluable in enabling us to respond to ad-hoc requests, for example facilitating remote appeal hearings and interviews with experts involved in drafting specialist reports in support of fresh claims. We adapted our comprehensive training package and took on 4 new volunteers, and have expanded our knowledge in areas such as human trafficking, with volunteers making referrals into the National Referral Mechanism and making successful applications for Exceptional Case Funding for cases outside of the scope of legal aid, for example, Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (the right to respect for private and family life). We also heard that 5 individuals we previously supported to access legal representation went on to be granted Leave to Remain.

In addition to the work of our projects outlined above, we have also been instrumental in setting up an online Single Point of Access system for people seeking asylum and refugees in Bradford as part of a steering group made up of local organisations supporting this client group. The new BRASH system (Bradford Refugee Asylum Services Hub) enables a streamlined and efficient pathway for people to access relevant services in a timely manner.

# **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 30 September 2021**

### **Achievements and performance continued**

The Respond and Adapt funding we secured via Migration Exchange led to further opportunities and we were subsequently selected to be part of a national pilot run by Refugee Action to support organisations to set up 'Experts by Experience' groups within their organisation. This was an invaluable experience and forms part of our strategy to ensure people with lived experience are involved at all levels of BEACON. We plan to grow and consolidate this work further in the coming year. We also secured support under the Enhance programme funded by Lloyds Bank Foundation to work with an external consultant to undertake a strategic review of our work. This was followed by the development of a comprehensive future strategy to consolidate and enhance our work to cater for increased demand to meet the evolving needs of people seeking asylum which we hope to implement in the coming year. As Respond and Adapt grantees, we have also benefited immensely from free training opportunities in the areas of wellbeing, anti-racism, fundraising and governance which have all been crucial in our professional and organisational development this year.

### **Financial review**

The net payments for the year were £2,974, including net receipts of £12,636 on unrestricted funds and net payments of £15,610 on restricted funds.

The generosity of our funders has ensured that cash flow has been maintained during the course of the pandemic. Funders have been particularly understanding about the need for the charity to have flexibility in the use of its funds coupled with certainty of income. Many thanks are due to all our donors.

At the time of signing these accounts the charity has been impacted by the global Covid-19 virus. However, the trustees have reassessed the charity's ability to continue for at least 12 months from the date that the accounts are approved and conclude that no material uncertainties exist that cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to meet its liabilities as they fall due.

### **Reserves policy**

The charity's free reserves, excluding fixed assets, at the year end were £77,172.

BEACON depends on grants and donations to sustain its activities. We run the risk of closure if funding difficulties were to happen, if there were a temporary shortfall in income, or an unforeseen rise in spending requirements and costs.

The main concerns are to ensure:

- that service users (particularly our hosted guests) are supported to move on to other services in a timely and sympathetic manner
- an ability to develop new projects and grasp new opportunities should they arise
- that staff can continue working to develop another funding stream to continue the work of BEACON
- that staff will be provided with redundancy payments where applicable.

The reserves should be built up from the unrestricted income.

The ideal amount of reserves has been set as an amount equivalent to 12 months running costs, as this is deemed an appropriate period of time to achieve the above aims. The annual budget will show the appropriate amount.

The level of reserves is calculated and monitored every 3 months by the Treasurer and the Finance Administrator and presented to the board of trustees.

This policy is reviewed yearly and whenever there are significant changes in staff hours or numbers.

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees on 11/1/2022

Sarah Jemison (Trustee)

## **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

### **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 30 September 2021, which are set out on pages 7 to 11.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees 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 as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Rhys North ACA

20/1/2022

#### **West Yorkshire Community Accounting Service**

Stringer House  
34 Lupton Street  
Leeds  
LS10 2QW

# Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)

## Receipts and payments account

for the year ended 30 September 2021

|                                                | Notes | 2021<br>Unrestricted<br>funds<br>£ | 2021<br>Restricted<br>funds<br>£ | 2021<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ | 2020<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ |
|------------------------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Receipts</b>                                |       |                                    |                                  |                             |                             |
| Grants                                         | (2)   | 19,390                             | 6,180                            | 25,570                      | 68,227                      |
| Donations - Churches                           |       | 3,808                              | 400                              | 4,208                       | 2,613                       |
| Donations - Individuals                        |       | 7,432                              | 10,675                           | 18,107                      | 5,899                       |
| Donations - Other                              |       | 1,435                              | -                                | 1,435                       | 1,662                       |
| Sponsored walk                                 |       | 970                                | -                                | 970                         | -                           |
| <b>Total receipts</b>                          |       | <b>33,035</b>                      | <b>17,255</b>                    | <b>50,290</b>               | <b>78,401</b>               |
| <b>Payments</b>                                |       |                                    |                                  |                             |                             |
| Staffing costs                                 | (3)   | 8,860                              | 28,731                           | 37,591                      | 36,397                      |
| Rent                                           |       | 4,288                              | 1,952                            | 6,240                       | 5,965                       |
| Insurance                                      |       | -                                  | 1,048                            | 1,048                       | 705                         |
| Office costs (including phone and postage)     |       | 480                                | 365                              | 845                         | 724                         |
| Publicity and fundraising (including printing) |       | 34                                 | -                                | 34                          | 373                         |
| Training                                       |       | 80                                 | -                                | 80                          | 137                         |
| Subscriptions                                  |       | 689                                | 60                               | 749                         | 874                         |
| Project costs                                  |       | 4,252                              | 611                              | 4,863                       | 3,483                       |
| IT costs                                       |       | 888                                | -                                | 888                         | 2,235                       |
| Volunteer expenses                             |       | 83                                 | 98                               | 181                         | 46                          |
| Other expenses                                 |       | 63                                 | -                                | 63                          | 899                         |
| Governance costs                               |       | 328                                | -                                | 328                         | -                           |
| Independent examination                        |       | 354                                | -                                | 354                         | 354                         |
| <b>Total payments</b>                          |       | <b>20,399</b>                      | <b>32,865</b>                    | <b>53,264</b>               | <b>52,192</b>               |
| <b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>               |       | <b>12,636</b>                      | <b>(15,610)</b>                  | <b>(2,974)</b>              | <b>26,209</b>               |
| <b>Fund balances brought forward</b>           |       | <b>64,536</b>                      | <b>28,777</b>                    | <b>93,313</b>               | <b>67,104</b>               |
| <b>Fund balances carried forward</b>           | (4)   | <b>77,172</b>                      | <b>13,167</b>                    | <b>90,339</b>               | <b>93,313</b>               |

## **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

### **Statement of assets and liabilities**

**as at 30 September 2021**

|                             | 2021          | 2021          | 2021          | 2020          |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|                             | Unrestricted  | Restricted    | Total         | Total         |
|                             | £             | £             | £             | £             |
| <b>Cash funds</b>           |               |               |               |               |
| Cash at bank                | 67,860        | 13,167        | 81,027        | 92,543        |
| Cash at bank - Bradford CPA | 9,212         | -             | 9,212         | 705           |
| Cash in hand                | 100           | -             | 100           | 65            |
| <b>Total cash funds</b>     | <u>77,172</u> | <u>13,167</u> | <u>90,339</u> | <u>93,313</u> |

|                                      |            |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Liabilities</b>                   | £          |
| Independent examination              | 390        |
| September 2021 Pension contributions | <u>101</u> |
|                                      | <u>491</u> |

### **Approval of the accounts**

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 11/1/2022

Sarah Jemison (Trustee)

# **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

## **Notes to the accounts**

### **for the year ended 30 September 2021**

#### **1 Accounting policies**

##### **Basis of accounting**

The trustees have taken advantage of section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and have prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year.

No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

##### **Taxation**

As a charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

##### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

# Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)

## Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 30 September 2021

| 2 Grants                                      | 2021<br>Unrestricted<br>funds<br>£ | 2021<br>Restricted<br>funds<br>£ | 2021<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ | 2020<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Bradford Metropolitan District Council (BMDC) | -                                  | 6000                             | 6000                        | -                           |
| HMRC Job Retention Scheme                     | -                                  | 180                              | 180                         | 727                         |
| Lyndal Tree Foundation                        | 8,000                              | -                                | 8,000                       | 8,000                       |
| Refugee Action                                | 1,390                              | -                                | 1,390                       | 7,000                       |
| The Methodist Church Yorkshire West District  | 10,000                             | -                                | 10,000                      | -                           |
| Society of the Holy Child Jesus (SHCJ)        | -                                  | -                                | -                           | 20,000                      |
| Joseph Rank Trust                             | -                                  | -                                | -                           | 15,000                      |
| Evan Cornish Foundation                       | -                                  | -                                | -                           | 10,000                      |
| Sisters of the Cross and Passion              | -                                  | -                                | -                           | 5,000                       |
| Sharegift - Orr Mack Foundation               | -                                  | -                                | -                           | 2,500                       |
|                                               | <u>19,390</u>                      | <u>6,180</u>                     | <u>25,570</u>               | <u>68,227</u>               |

| 3 Staff costs and numbers                    | 2021<br>£     | 2020<br>£     |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Gross salaries                               | 36,491        | 35,192        |
| Social security costs                        | 1,637         | 1,372         |
| Employment allowance                         | (1,637)       | (1,302)       |
| Pensions                                     | 495           | 359           |
| Less: Pension Liability at 30 September 2021 | (101)         | -             |
| Payroll fees                                 | <u>707</u>    | <u>776</u>    |
|                                              | <u>37,591</u> | <u>36,397</u> |

The average number employees during the year was 4, being an average of 1.6 full time equivalent (2020: 4.1, 1.6 FTE). There were no employees with emoluments above £60,000.

| Defined contribution pension scheme             | 2021<br>£ | 2020<br>£ |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Costs of the scheme to the charity for the year | 495       | 359       |

# Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)

## Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 30 September 2021

| 4 Restricted funds        | Balance b/f<br>£ | Incoming<br>£ | Outgoing<br>£ | Transfers<br>£ | Balance c/f<br>£ |
|---------------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| SHCJ                      | 20,000           | -             | 20,000        | -              | -                |
| Hosting                   | 5,032            | 675           | 2,210         | -              | 3,497            |
| Joseph Rank Trust         | 3,745            | -             | 3,745         | -              | -                |
| HMRC Job Retention Scheme | -                | 180           | 180           | -              | -                |
| McKenzie Friends          | -                | 10,400        | 1,131         | -              | 9,269            |
| BMDC Next Steps           | -                | 6,000         | 5,599         | -              | 401              |
|                           | <u>28,777</u>    | <u>17,255</u> | <u>32,865</u> | <u>-</u>       | <u>13,167</u>    |

### Fund name

### Purpose of restriction

|                           |                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SHCJ                      | To support the salary costs of the Team Leader and McKenzie Friends project leader.                                                                  |
| Hosting                   | To host people seeking asylum who are destitute.                                                                                                     |
| Joseph Rank Trust         | For running costs of the charity.                                                                                                                    |
| HMRC Job Retention Scheme | To contribute to furlough staffing costs.                                                                                                            |
| McKenzie Friends          | To provide legal advocacy and support to people seeking asylum.                                                                                      |
| BMDC Next Steps           | To offer support and assistance to asylum seekers who have been provided with emergency accommodation under the rough sleeper Everyone In programme. |

## 5 Related party transactions

### Trustee expenses

No trustee received any expenses during this year or the previous year.

### Trustee remuneration and benefits

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.

# **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

Charity number 1119463

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2021**



# **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2021**

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| Examiner's report                   | 6           |
| Receipts and payments account       | 7           |
| Statement of assets and liabilities | 8           |
| Notes to the accounts               | 9 to 11     |

**Prepared by West Yorkshire Community Accounting Service**

# **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

## **Trustees' report for the year ended 30 September 2021**

### **Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors**

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

| <b>Name</b>       | <b>Position</b> | <b>Dates</b>              |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Sarah Jemison     | Chair           |                           |
| Heather Grinter   | Vice Chair      |                           |
| Roland Clark      | Treasurer       |                           |
| Barbara Clarke    | Secretary       |                           |
| William Sutcliffe |                 |                           |
| Andrew Howorth    |                 |                           |
| Mary Brooks       |                 |                           |
| Edward Sterling   |                 | Appointed 27 January 2021 |
| Aimee Nyembo      |                 | Appointed 27 January 2021 |

### **Charity number**

The charity was registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, number 1119463, on 1 June 2007.

### **Principal address**

c/o Touchstone  
4 Easby Road  
Bradford  
BD7 1QX

### **Bankers**

Unity Trust Bank plc  
Nine Brindleyplace  
Birmingham  
B1 2HB

### **Independent examiner**

Rhys North ACA

### **West Yorkshire Community Accounting Service**

Stringer House  
34 Lupton Street  
Leeds  
LS10 2QW

### **Structure, governance and management**

The charity is governed by a constitution adopted on 14 November 2006 as amended on 8 October 2019 and 28 January 2020.

### **Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees**

The trustees of the charity are appointed by the members at the AGM.

### **The charity's objects**

The relief of hardship among those seeking asylum in the UK or who are refugees who reside in the Bradford Metropolitan District and surrounding areas.

To advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.

# **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 30 September 2021**

### **The charity's main activities**

All of BEACON's activities are underpinned by our vision that the Bradford district becomes a hospitable community where people seeking asylum and refugees are welcome, enjoy access to justice and fair treatment and are supported on their journey to independence and integration.

Our key activities are:

Hosting – the prevention of destitution for people seeking asylum through the provision of accommodation in volunteer host households, a weekly allowance to meet basic needs and a travel pass to access local services and activities. Guests are provided with support to link them in with a variety of services and activities, from volunteering to healthcare and legal advice to ensure their needs are met holistically.

CHAT – a weekly English conversation and activities group open to non-English speakers in the local community, for all abilities. The group provides a friendly and welcoming environment in which to improve English, form social connections, enhance wellbeing and enjoy a variety of additional activities from gardening, to theatre trips and cooking classes.

McKenzie Friends – volunteers provide legal support and advocacy to people seeking asylum to navigate the complexities of the asylum system, including facilitating access to legal advice and accompanying unrepresented asylum seekers to appeal hearings.

### **Public benefit statement**

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. In line with our charitable purposes:

1) We have helped to relieve hardship among those seeking asylum in the UK or who are refugees who reside in the Bradford Metropolitan District and surrounding areas, through our McKenzie Friends, Hosting, CHAT and Next Steps projects. The projects continued, in safely adapted forms, throughout the year and when restrictions permitted, we returned to in-person activities. The projects are dependent on a wide range of committed volunteers who enable us to deliver a high-quality service to our clients and guests. During the year we have recruited and trained new volunteers, thus increasing the public benefit delivered through these projects in supporting people seeking asylum through the asylum process. This includes support to access legal advice and the relief of destitution & lack of basic needs such as food and money. The CHAT English club has expanded to include various social activities; in addition to improving English language skills, social networks have been established, leading to a reduction in isolation, increased wellbeing and empowerment amongst those seeking asylum. Additionally, we were commissioned by the Local Authority to deliver support as part of the Next Steps Accommodation Project, relieving hardship of those seeking asylum within the Everyone In scheme and ensuring they were able to access accommodation to move to when they were required to leave the accommodation provided through the Covid19 pandemic.

2) We have also furthered our objective to advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum. We have continued to support and raise awareness of the campaign to 'Lift the Ban' on the right to work for those seeking asylum. We have also joined the Together with Refugees and Hands Up for Our Health coalitions in order to better educate the public and counter the effects of the 'hostile environment'. We made the public aware of the consultation process for the government's Nationality and Borders Bill as well as making a submission, as a relevant organisation, in the process. Furthermore, we were featured in a short film commissioned by the University of Bradford as part of their 'Unify Festival'. The film was promoted widely and was an opportunity to raise awareness about the need for our work with people seeking asylum in Bradford. We were able to adapt our offer to provide online talks to local groups to further spread awareness of the increasingly challenging needs of people seeking asylum during the pandemic. We have also been featured in the local press this year – offering comment on the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and coverage of our sponsored event during Refugee Week. We have also maintained a strong social media presence throughout the year and grown our number of followers as well as increasing numbers signed up to our mailing list.

The public benefit arising from these activities is the increase in information given to the public which has enhanced support for, and consideration of, the difficulties faced by the individuals we support.

The charity trustees have given consideration to the major risks to which the charity is exposed and have a plan to manage identified risks.

# **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 30 September 2021**

### **Achievements and performance**

We are pleased to report that our activities this year have continued to have significant impact on the lives of the people using our services, during a year of continued uncertainty and challenge.

Our CHAT project continued to provide a weekly safe space for English conversation practice, continuing online for most of the year until the class was reopened with additional safety precautions in place in August, when numbers grew and the in-person provision has now been firmly re-established. During the difficult winter months back in lockdown, we developed an additional offer of social activities to address reduced wellbeing and social isolation. A free monthly online cooking class in partnership with local professional chef Sonia Sandhu was established, as well as the provision of online yoga sessions delivered by professional yoga teacher Annie Golding streamed live from Kathmandu, Nepal. We also arranged a number of walks in local parks throughout the year and a summer picnic to provide opportunities for social contact as well as access to nature and exercise. 61 individuals in total benefited from the CHAT activities this year.

The Hosting project was paused for much of the year due to both the UK government's Everyone In scheme which provided accommodation to anyone sleeping rough during the pandemic including those without Recourse to Public Funds, and the Home Office pause on evictions from asylum accommodation. This meant that those who would normally be referred to us were able to access other options for accommodation during this time. However, evictions were inevitably restarted and the Hosting project reopened in August, with revised precautions in place to ensure the safety of both guest and host.

During the time when the Everyone In scheme was operational, we were awarded funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government as part of the Next Steps Accommodation Programme to work with those in the scheme who were seeking asylum. We were funded to offer holistic support and assistance to ensure needs were met and ultimately to secure options for moving on into other accommodation once the scheme came to an end. The individuals we supported were experiencing extremely challenging situations and had multiple and complex needs, however we were able to work intensively with each person and ensure that all 10 people secured accommodation once the scheme came to an end. The work provided an opportunity for us to build on our network of partnerships and work collaboratively with mainstream homelessness and specialist support services in Bradford.

The McKenzie Friends project continued to offer legal advocacy and support to some of the most vulnerable people seeking asylum who were without hope and without legal representation. We secured a Respond and Adapt grant through Migration Exchange (a network of independent funders) which has been invaluable in furthering the work of the project and enabled us to set up a digital legal advice surgery in partnership with Fisher Stone solicitors in Halifax. This means we now have a simple pathway for all referrals to access high-quality, expert and honest legal advice, with 35 legal advice sessions facilitated over the year, and 19 people being taken on by one of the legal advisors to submit a fresh claim with Legal Aid. The grant enabled us to purchase a laptop which has also been invaluable in enabling us to respond to ad-hoc requests, for example facilitating remote appeal hearings and interviews with experts involved in drafting specialist reports in support of fresh claims. We adapted our comprehensive training package and took on 4 new volunteers, and have expanded our knowledge in areas such as human trafficking, with volunteers making referrals into the National Referral Mechanism and making successful applications for Exceptional Case Funding for cases outside of the scope of legal aid, for example, Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (the right to respect for private and family life). We also heard that 5 individuals we previously supported to access legal representation went on to be granted Leave to Remain.

In addition to the work of our projects outlined above, we have also been instrumental in setting up an online Single Point of Access system for people seeking asylum and refugees in Bradford as part of a steering group made up of local organisations supporting this client group. The new BRASH system (Bradford Refugee Asylum Services Hub) enables a streamlined and efficient pathway for people to access relevant services in a timely manner.

# **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

## **Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 30 September 2021**

### **Achievements and performance continued**

The Respond and Adapt funding we secured via Migration Exchange led to further opportunities and we were subsequently selected to be part of a national pilot run by Refugee Action to support organisations to set up 'Experts by Experience' groups within their organisation. This was an invaluable experience and forms part of our strategy to ensure people with lived experience are involved at all levels of BEACON. We plan to grow and consolidate this work further in the coming year. We also secured support under the Enhance programme funded by Lloyds Bank Foundation to work with an external consultant to undertake a strategic review of our work. This was followed by the development of a comprehensive future strategy to consolidate and enhance our work to cater for increased demand to meet the evolving needs of people seeking asylum which we hope to implement in the coming year. As Respond and Adapt grantees, we have also benefited immensely from free training opportunities in the areas of wellbeing, anti-racism, fundraising and governance which have all been crucial in our professional and organisational development this year.

### **Financial review**

The net payments for the year were £2,974, including net receipts of £12,636 on unrestricted funds and net payments of £15,610 on restricted funds.

The generosity of our funders has ensured that cash flow has been maintained during the course of the pandemic. Funders have been particularly understanding about the need for the charity to have flexibility in the use of its funds coupled with certainty of income. Many thanks are due to all our donors.

At the time of signing these accounts the charity has been impacted by the global Covid-19 virus. However, the trustees have reassessed the charity's ability to continue for at least 12 months from the date that the accounts are approved and conclude that no material uncertainties exist that cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to meet its liabilities as they fall due.

### **Reserves policy**

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BEACON depends on grants and donations to sustain its activities. We run the risk of closure if funding difficulties were to happen, if there were a temporary shortfall in income, or an unforeseen rise in spending requirements and costs.

The main concerns are to ensure:

- that service users (particularly our hosted guests) are supported to move on to other services in a timely and sympathetic manner
- an ability to develop new projects and grasp new opportunities should they arise
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The reserves should be built up from the unrestricted income.

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The level of reserves is calculated and monitored every 3 months by the Treasurer and the Finance Administrator and presented to the board of trustees.

This policy is reviewed yearly and whenever there are significant changes in staff hours or numbers.

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees on 11/1/2022

Sarah Jemison (Trustee)

## **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

### **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

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#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

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#### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Rhys North ACA

20/1/2022

#### **West Yorkshire Community Accounting Service**

Stringer House  
34 Lupton Street  
Leeds  
LS10 2QW

# Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)

## Receipts and payments account

for the year ended 30 September 2021

|                                                | Notes | 2021<br>Unrestricted<br>funds<br>£ | 2021<br>Restricted<br>funds<br>£ | 2021<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ | 2020<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ |
|------------------------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Receipts</b>                                |       |                                    |                                  |                             |                             |
| Grants                                         | (2)   | 19,390                             | 6,180                            | 25,570                      | 68,227                      |
| Donations - Churches                           |       | 3,808                              | 400                              | 4,208                       | 2,613                       |
| Donations - Individuals                        |       | 7,432                              | 10,675                           | 18,107                      | 5,899                       |
| Donations - Other                              |       | 1,435                              | -                                | 1,435                       | 1,662                       |
| Sponsored walk                                 |       | 970                                | -                                | 970                         | -                           |
| <b>Total receipts</b>                          |       | <b>33,035</b>                      | <b>17,255</b>                    | <b>50,290</b>               | <b>78,401</b>               |
| <b>Payments</b>                                |       |                                    |                                  |                             |                             |
| Staffing costs                                 | (3)   | 8,860                              | 28,731                           | 37,591                      | 36,397                      |
| Rent                                           |       | 4,288                              | 1,952                            | 6,240                       | 5,965                       |
| Insurance                                      |       | -                                  | 1,048                            | 1,048                       | 705                         |
| Office costs (including phone and postage)     |       | 480                                | 365                              | 845                         | 724                         |
| Publicity and fundraising (including printing) |       | 34                                 | -                                | 34                          | 373                         |
| Training                                       |       | 80                                 | -                                | 80                          | 137                         |
| Subscriptions                                  |       | 689                                | 60                               | 749                         | 874                         |
| Project costs                                  |       | 4,252                              | 611                              | 4,863                       | 3,483                       |
| IT costs                                       |       | 888                                | -                                | 888                         | 2,235                       |
| Volunteer expenses                             |       | 83                                 | 98                               | 181                         | 46                          |
| Other expenses                                 |       | 63                                 | -                                | 63                          | 899                         |
| Governance costs                               |       | 328                                | -                                | 328                         | -                           |
| Independent examination                        |       | 354                                | -                                | 354                         | 354                         |
| <b>Total payments</b>                          |       | <b>20,399</b>                      | <b>32,865</b>                    | <b>53,264</b>               | <b>52,192</b>               |
| <b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>               |       | <b>12,636</b>                      | <b>(15,610)</b>                  | <b>(2,974)</b>              | <b>26,209</b>               |
| <b>Fund balances brought forward</b>           |       | <b>64,536</b>                      | <b>28,777</b>                    | <b>93,313</b>               | <b>67,104</b>               |
| <b>Fund balances carried forward</b>           | (4)   | <b>77,172</b>                      | <b>13,167</b>                    | <b>90,339</b>               | <b>93,313</b>               |

# Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)

## Statement of assets and liabilities

as at 30 September 2021

|                             | 2021          | 2021          | 2021          | 2020          |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|                             | Unrestricted  | Restricted    | Total         | Total         |
|                             | £             | £             | £             | £             |
| <b>Cash funds</b>           |               |               |               |               |
| Cash at bank                | 67,860        | 13,167        | 81,027        | 92,543        |
| Cash at bank - Bradford CPA | 9,212         | -             | 9,212         | 705           |
| Cash in hand                | 100           | -             | 100           | 65            |
| <b>Total cash funds</b>     | <u>77,172</u> | <u>13,167</u> | <u>90,339</u> | <u>93,313</u> |

|                                      |            |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Liabilities</b>                   | £          |
| Independent examination              | 390        |
| September 2021 Pension contributions | <u>101</u> |
|                                      | <u>491</u> |

### Approval of the accounts

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 11/1/2022

Sarah Jemison (Trustee)

# **Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)**

## **Notes to the accounts**

### **for the year ended 30 September 2021**

#### **1 Accounting policies**

##### **Basis of accounting**

The trustees have taken advantage of section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and have prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year.

No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

##### **Taxation**

As a charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

##### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

# Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)

## Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 30 September 2021

| 2 Grants                                      | 2021<br>Unrestricted<br>funds<br>£ | 2021<br>Restricted<br>funds<br>£ | 2021<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ | 2020<br>Total<br>funds<br>£ |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Bradford Metropolitan District Council (BMDC) | -                                  | 6000                             | 6000                        | -                           |
| HMRC Job Retention Scheme                     | -                                  | 180                              | 180                         | 727                         |
| Lyndal Tree Foundation                        | 8,000                              | -                                | 8,000                       | 8,000                       |
| Refugee Action                                | 1,390                              | -                                | 1,390                       | 7,000                       |
| The Methodist Church Yorkshire West District  | 10,000                             | -                                | 10,000                      | -                           |
| Society of the Holy Child Jesus (SHCJ)        | -                                  | -                                | -                           | 20,000                      |
| Joseph Rank Trust                             | -                                  | -                                | -                           | 15,000                      |
| Evan Cornish Foundation                       | -                                  | -                                | -                           | 10,000                      |
| Sisters of the Cross and Passion              | -                                  | -                                | -                           | 5,000                       |
| Sharegift - Orr Mack Foundation               | -                                  | -                                | -                           | 2,500                       |
|                                               | <u>19,390</u>                      | <u>6,180</u>                     | <u>25,570</u>               | <u>68,227</u>               |

| 3 Staff costs and numbers                    | 2021<br>£     | 2020<br>£     |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Gross salaries                               | 36,491        | 35,192        |
| Social security costs                        | 1,637         | 1,372         |
| Employment allowance                         | (1,637)       | (1,302)       |
| Pensions                                     | 495           | 359           |
| Less: Pension Liability at 30 September 2021 | (101)         | -             |
| Payroll fees                                 | <u>707</u>    | <u>776</u>    |
|                                              | <u>37,591</u> | <u>36,397</u> |

The average number employees during the year was 4, being an average of 1.6 full time equivalent (2020: 4.1, 1.6 FTE). There were no employees with emoluments above £60,000.

| Defined contribution pension scheme             | 2021<br>£ | 2020<br>£ |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Costs of the scheme to the charity for the year | 495       | 359       |

# Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern (BEACON)

## Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 30 September 2021

| 4 Restricted funds        | Balance b/f<br>£ | Incoming<br>£ | Outgoing<br>£ | Transfers<br>£ | Balance c/f<br>£ |
|---------------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| SHCJ                      | 20,000           | -             | 20,000        | -              | -                |
| Hosting                   | 5,032            | 675           | 2,210         | -              | 3,497            |
| Joseph Rank Trust         | 3,745            | -             | 3,745         | -              | -                |
| HMRC Job Retention Scheme | -                | 180           | 180           | -              | -                |
| McKenzie Friends          | -                | 10,400        | 1,131         | -              | 9,269            |
| BMDC Next Steps           | -                | 6,000         | 5,599         | -              | 401              |
|                           | <u>28,777</u>    | <u>17,255</u> | <u>32,865</u> | <u>-</u>       | <u>13,167</u>    |

### Fund name

### Purpose of restriction

|                           |                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SHCJ                      | To support the salary costs of the Team Leader and McKenzie Friends project leader.                                                                  |
| Hosting                   | To host people seeking asylum who are destitute.                                                                                                     |
| Joseph Rank Trust         | For running costs of the charity.                                                                                                                    |
| HMRC Job Retention Scheme | To contribute to furlough staffing costs.                                                                                                            |
| McKenzie Friends          | To provide legal advocacy and support to people seeking asylum.                                                                                      |
| BMDC Next Steps           | To offer support and assistance to asylum seekers who have been provided with emergency accommodation under the rough sleeper Everyone In programme. |

## 5 Related party transactions

### Trustee expenses

No trustee received any expenses during this year or the previous year.

### Trustee remuneration and benefits

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.