

ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024



Derby Refugee Forum and Derby Refugee Advice Centre

May 2023 - June 2024



Chair's Report - Joan Stannard

It has been a really busy and successful year at the Refugee Advice Centre. The classes for English and Maths continue and workshops have been provided by many external businesses and agencies without charge. Thus, a warm safe space is provided alongside information on life in the UK, health issues, fun sessions and a chance to relax, share food and make friends.

There have been many challenges too, especially with finding homes for those with new refugee status. It is difficult in the current housing crisis to find a hostel or any temporary shelter and even then it is often far from schools, friends and sometimes outside Derby. We are working closely with the housing team at Derby City Council in order to resolve some of these issues. Unfortunately, due to the lack of resources in both sectors, people are left helpless and distressed, with single men and women sleeping on the streets as they cannot find a place to stay. We have given out over 100 sleeping bags this year to those forced to sleep outside. This is a difficult and emotional task for volunteers to deal with when working face to face with people.

Without the 40 plus volunteers, we could not provide the service that we do. Our two part-time workers for Derby Refugee Advice Centre, plus the support of the Bosnia Herzegovina Centre enable us to effectively run the Advice Centre and work with external organisations like other front facing voluntary organisations, schools, the health sector and fire services, police, DWP and housing to name but a few.

It is with total and utter sadness that I must report that on 7th August 2024, our former manager and amazing volunteer, Janet, died from terminal cancer. She was much loved and respected for her wit, intelligence, knowledge and unwavering commitment. She was a huge part of our organisation and will be greatly missed by us all on both a personal and professional level.

We have also sadly lost Anne Wigley who volunteered for over ten years with us. She had been frail for some time and died in July. She too was well loved by many here at the Centre.

Thanks to our Derby Refugee Forum members who attend meetings and support our work. We need you to maintain our charitable status. It is a pleasure to work with a group of people who smile, laugh and share upsetting moments and successes so freely and with such resilience, - Thank you to all of you.

Joan Stannard.



Lottery Update

Our primary source of funding for the past 5 years, has been from the National Lottery Community Fund, and we have a few key areas that we concentrate on to help our communities. This year there has been much activity based around healthcare. The Sexual Health Team run regular drop-in clinics and have provided training for our staff and volunteers. We have worked with the Richmond Fellowship who provided Mental Health workshops, the British Red Cross who taught emergency first aid and the Royal Derby Hospital who requested feedback on their services. Our advice sessions have also been integral to the healthcare work we do, with registering people with a GP or finding a dentist, helping to arrange and understand appointments, paying for travel to get to appointments, to assisting people to the Urgent Care Centre and A&E. We have continued to work with schools and have been delighted to receive both harvest and Christmas donations from them. Derby University ran an information workshop on higher education and Crich school have written letters to our English classes, who in return practiced their letter writing skills to write back. Jasmin house pupils attended a games event and our advice sessions are in regular contact with the New Community Team to get children into schools. This year we have taken two groups to shows at Derby Theatre, held theatre, dancing and puppet workshops in the Centre and supported a student with his theatre studies final project. Our close ties with Maison Foo and their Creative Sanctuary Team remain in place. Our outdoor planters at the Centre have continued to blossom throughout the year with help from both clients and volunteers, planting them up for the different seasons and with regular watering duties. We've visited Wirksworth Community gardens and assisted Derbyshire Wildlife Trust with interpreters and support for their garden project at Laverstoke Court Initial Accommodation Centre.

Our Workshops and activity sessions have been busy again this year with a total of 58 sessions for 665 attendees. Outside of the lottery activities we have also had pamper sessions from LUSH, Parties for Eid and Christmas and visits to Derby County to watch football.

Learning English is an important part of the work we do and we run 4 classes most weeks – Beginners English, Improvers English, English Conversation and Practical maths. Over this year we have held 197 classes, nearly 300 hours, for over 175 individuals, attending 1017 times. Thanks go to our Tutors for their hard work

Classes and Workshops

Thank you to all those who support us.

None of the work that we do would be possible without the dedication and commitment of our volunteers, so a huge THANKS goes to them. This year 44 volunteers have supported all the work that we do. Without their skills, expertise and enthusiasm, we simply couldn't exist. We're also grateful to all those groups and individuals who support us with financial, food, household and clothing donations. We really are appreciative to everyone who supports us.



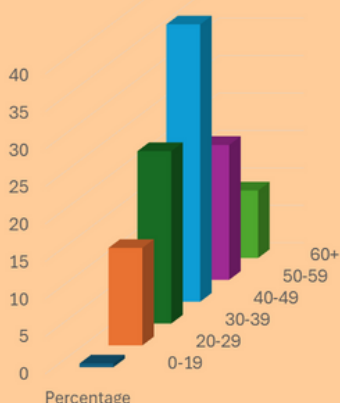
During the year June 23 to May 24 the demand on our services has continued to rise with new issues to solve. Over the last 12 months we have seen the Asylum Questionnaire rollout where we have helped apply for time extensions, dealt with the fallout of the Rwanda policy, seen an increase in positive decisions and felt the impact of changes to government procedure.

Total Advice Sessions 2023/24	2124
No. Service Users	740
Average Sessions Per Day	21
No. of Service User Nationalities	55
Total Sessions Since 2002	37893

Since June 2023 we have held 2124 advice sessions for 740 service users. This is a rise of 688 sessions for 250 more service users, over the previous year, with an increase to an average 21 advice sessions, compared to 14 the previous year. We continue to see more Refugees than Asylum Seekers, with a 77%/23% split. An increase again in Refugee numbers, partially due to the increase in decision making by the Home Office, and partially due to our close work and referral procedures with British Red Cross, who have held 16 outreach sessions in the Centre.

Nearly a third of our advice sessions have been assisting people with housing. With more positive decisions, alongside a national housing crisis, we have seen a huge increase in homelessness this year. Over 150 sessions have been to assist with this problem, including giving out over 100 sleeping bags and emergency blankets. We continue to work closely with Derby City Housing Options, Upbeat Communities Host scheme and Metropolitan Housing, along with the Rough Sleeping team on this matter.

AGE RANGE % OF VISITS

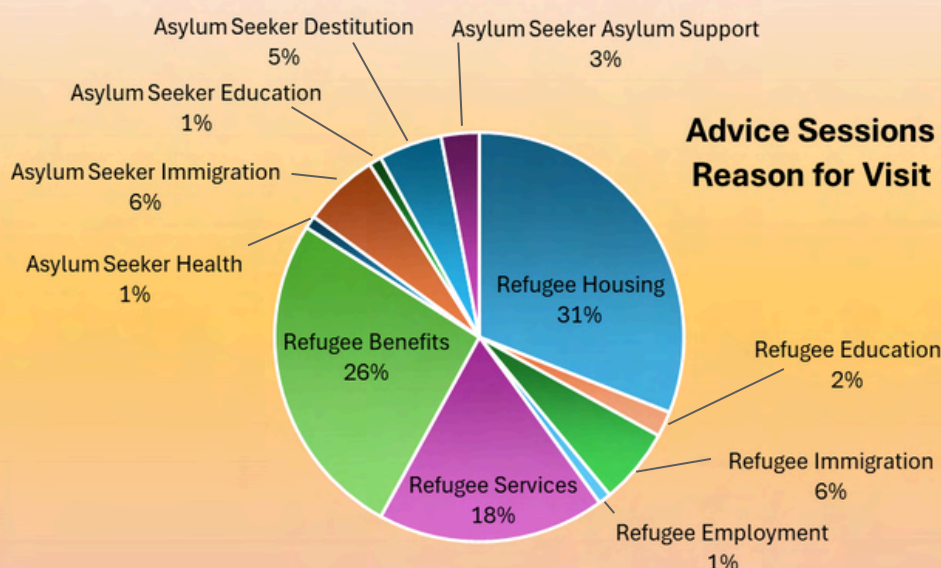


The help we provide to assist with Refugee Benefits has also seen a huge increase this last year, with 26% of our advice sessions helping people to access universal credit, housing benefit and council tax support. We have been pleased to welcome DWP staff to the Centre this year for 19 outreach sessions to help with this.

The majority of our work within the 18% of Refugee Services has been linked to the increase in housing, with 222 appointments to support with utility bills, and household support and energy support fund applications.

With 33 officially identified wars happening all over the world, the numbers of people fleeing for safety continues, and we have seen an increase in the number of nationalities using our services. We have seen service users from 55 different nationalities. The majority come from Sudan (532), Iran (499), Iraq (393), Afghanistan (245) and Kuwait (116), but we have also seen people from Bangladesh, Bolivia, Honduras, India, and Russia.

Advice Sessions Reason for Visit



Brief on finances 2023-2024

Funding from Big Lottery Reaching Communities programme has reached its fifth and final year for this project round, and has covered all of the core costs. This joint project with The Derby Bosnia Herzegovina Community has given stability to the organisation for last 10+ years. It has provided a free place for clients, office space, management, the ability to do further fundraising activities and continuation of the salary for the Project Coordinator post. Other expenditure for this year has been covered through various fundraising activities and from restricted sources. Our reserves have increased on the previous year, with many of our funding applications being successful.

With reserves remaining below expenditure, this gives us increased opportunities to apply for funding from external sources. A mixture of grants, donations and the joint project, has resulted in a good balance between finances and services delivered.

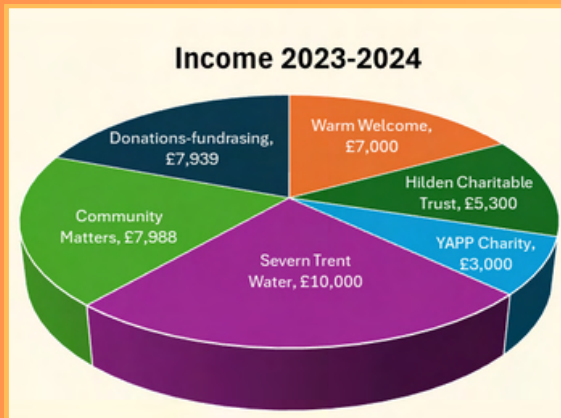
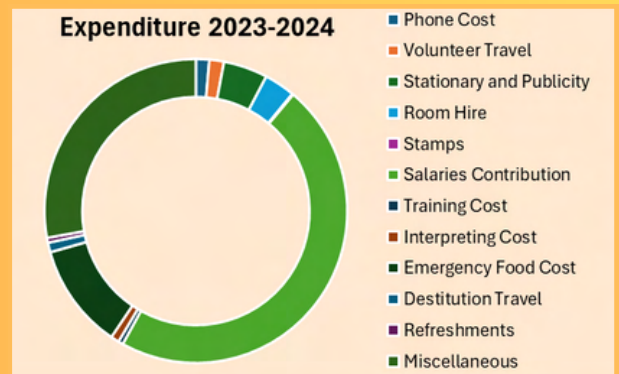
I wish to thank those volunteers who helped with funding applications and gave talks, and to the many churches, community groups and individual donors who've supported us - it is much appreciated.

Ferid Kevric, Treasurer

<u>Income</u>		<u>2023-2024</u>		
<u>2022/2023</u>		<u>Unrestr.</u>	<u>Restr.</u>	<u>Total</u>
11250	Grants	0	33288	33288
8932	Donations	7939	0	7939
20182	TOTAL	7939	33288	41227
<u>Expenditure:</u>				
2082	Office Cost	547	1755	2302
5748	Salaries Contrib.	854	16412	17266
0	Rent & Room Hiring	0	1216	1216
924	Interpreting Cost	1022	257	1279
2338	Destitution Cost	384	4148	4523
855	Manag. Vol. cost	0	0	0
0	Equipment Cost	0	0	0
4667	Sundry	1854	8401	10255
16615	TOTAL	4661	32189	36850
3567	Year movement	-3278	1099	4377
17575	Start of period	13505	7636	21141
0	Transfer between	0	0	0
21141	Carr. Forward	16783	8736	25519
<u>Assets and Liabilities</u>				
21141	Bank	25519		
300	Cash	500		
21441	Total assets	26019		
21441	Net Assets	26019		

Expenditure

The expenditure for this financial year reflects the activities of Derby Refugee Forum and Derby Refugee Advice Centre. The main expenditure was linked to contributions towards staff salaries, volunteer travel and interpreting costs, destitution, food, travel and emergency food. The rest of the expenditure includes volunteer costs and stationary. Office space, a proportion of salaries, insurances and room for activities is all covered through the joint funding bid with Derby Bosnia Herzegovina Community Association. Over the past 2 years, due to HSBC banking regulations, there has been an additional cost of using the bank and paying by cheque. In response, we have opened online banking as per the policy adopted by Management Committee and have new signatories on our account. A breakdown of expenditure can be seen above.



Income

Unrestricted funding came from variety of sources inc. donations from churches, event collections, volunteer talks and individual donations. Donations received by direct transfer to the Charity account have increased to 93 this year, ranging from £10 to £900. Thanks go to all and particularly those who make monthly donations directly. We have been successful obtaining funding from Warm Welcome £7000, Hilden Charitable Trust £5300, YAPP Charitable Trust £3000, Severn Trent Water £10000 and Community Matters £7988. As our work increases, the funding focus for the following year must be on raising finances through a variety of sources.

D E R B Y R E F U G E E F O R U M

Statement of Financial Activity for year 2023/2024 - on 31st May 2024

	No restricted DRF	Warm Welcome	Hilden Chrt. Trust	YAAP Chrt. Trust	Household Support	Allen Lane Foundation	Severn Trent	Community Matters	Total Funds
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS									
6250.00 Warm Welcome-Community	0.00	7000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7000.00
0.00 Hilden Charitable Trust	0.00	0.00	5300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5300.00
0.00 Yapp - Charitable Trust-NN F	0.00	0.00	0.00	3000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3000.00
0.00 Allen Lane Foundation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5000.00 Household Support Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8932.01 Donations + Fundraising	7939.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7939.35
0.00 Severn Trent Water Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10000.00	0.00	10000.00
0.00 Community Matters Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7988.00	7988.00
20182.01 Total receipts	7939.35	7000.00	5300.00	3000.00	0.00	0.00	10000.00	7988.00	41227.35

DIRECT CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

494.66 Phone & Fax cost	523.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	523.71
680.12 Travel for volunteers	508.00	0.00	65.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	573.01
1477.10 Stationary-Publicity	0.00	1739.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1739.49
0.00 Rent and Room Hiring	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1216.00	1216.00
110.68 Stamps & Postage	23.79	0.00	15.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	39.13
5748.45 Salaries Cost + NIC	853.13	0.00	4685.65	2743.39	382.45	0.00	6758.88	1872.00	17295.50
0.00 Training cost	0.00	0.00	0.00	191.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	191.86
924.00 Interpreting cost - travel	323.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	323.50
528.50 Emergency Food/Cost	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	34.14	0.00	34.14
1353.67 Food and hot drinks Asylum Se	7.35	4083.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4091.17
455.65 All Travel related destitute Asyl	377.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	377.15
0.00 Management Cost	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
175.11 Volunteers refreshments	190.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	190.54
0.00 Equipment different for Office	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4667.39 Misleaneous & Sundries	1853.99	2865.98	0.00	64.75	504.30	0.00	65.66	4900.00	10254.68
16615.33 Total Expenditure	4661.16	8689.29	4766.00	3000.00	886.75	0.00	6858.68	7988.00	36849.88
3566.68 Movement of fund Surplus/(De	3278.19	-1689.29	534.00	0.00	-886.75	0.00	3141.32	0.00	4377.47
17574.51 Fund balance brought forward-	13505.22	2,767.17	0.00	0.00	4868.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	21141.19
21141.19 Fund balance carried-end	16783.41	1077.88	534.00	0.00	3982.05	0.00	3141.32	0.00	25518.66

Balance Sheet for year 2022/2023 - ending on 31st May 2024

£		
£ Fixed Assets	£	£
0.00 Equipment (at cost)		
0.00 less depreciation	0.00	
		0.00
Current Assets		

21,141.19 Balance at Bank	25518.66
300.00 Petty Cash	500.00

21441.19 Total Asset Value	26018.66
0.00 Liabilities	0.00
0.00 Creditors	0.00

21441.19 Total Net Assets	26018.66
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AVAILABLE FUND - FINANCE (to Next Year + Petty Cash)

7,635.97 Restricted Funds	8735.25
13,805.22 Unrestricted Funds	16783.41

21441.19	25518.66
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SOURCES OF INCOME

Restricted Funds	Income	Brought	Total	Expend.	Balance
Hildden Charitable Trust	5300.00	0.00	5300.00	4766.00	534.00
Warm Welcome - Communi	7000.00	2767.17	9767.17	8689.29	1077.88
YAAP Charitable Trust	3000.00	0.00	3000.00	3000.00	0.00
Allen Lane Foundation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Household Support Fund	0.00	4868.80	4868.80	886.75	3982.05
Severn Trent Water	10000.00	0.00	10000.00	6858.68	3141.32
Community Matters fund	7988.00	0.00	7988.00	7988.00	0.00
SUB TOTAL	33288.00	7635.97	40923.97	32188.72	8735.25
No Restricted Funds					
DRAC fundrasing	7939.35	13505.22	21444.57	4661.16	16783.41
Petty Cash	200.00	300.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
SUB TOTAL	8139.35	13805.22	21944.57	4661.16	17283.41
T O T A L	41427.35	21441.19	62868.54	36849.88	26018.66

Signed by: On 10th June 2024

Ferid Kevric, Treasurer

Joan Stannard, Chair person

DERBY REFUGEE FORUM

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR
31 MAY 2024**

Charity Registration Number 1121582

DERBY REFUGEE FORUM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024

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DERBY REFUGEE FORUM

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Derby Refugee Forum
I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 May 2024 which are set out on pages 2 to 5.

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and examiner

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

M. Newey

Mark Newey ACMA
Derby Community Accountancy Service
Babington Lodge
128 Green Lane
Derby
DE1 1RY

28/8/2024

Date

DERBY REFUGEE FORUM

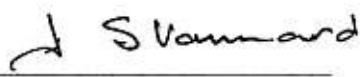
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024

2023				2024	
Total £			Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
	Charitable Income				
11250	Grants	note 1	0	33288	33288
8932	Donations		7939	0	7939
20182			7939	33288	41227
	Charitable Expenditure				
529	Emergency Food - COVID 19		0	34	34
1477	Office stationery, publicity		0	1739	1739
111	Stamps and Postage		24	15	39
0	Rent and Room Hire		0	1216	1216
0	Equipment		0	0	0
495	Telephone & Associated Costs		524	0	524
5748	Salaries & Associated Costs		853	16442	17296
0	Training cost		0	192	192
680	Volunteer Travel Costs		508	65	573
924	Volunteer Travel - Interpreter		324	0	324
175	Refreshments		191	0	191
1354	Food Costs - Destitute Asylum Seekers		7	4084	4091
456	Travel Costs - Destitute Asylum Seekers		377	0	377
4667	Sundry	note 3	1854	8401	10255
16615			4661	32189	36850
3567	Movement of funds for the year		3278	1099	4377
17875	Fund balance at start of period		13805	7636	21441
0	Transfer between funds		0	0	0
21441	Fund balance at end of period		17083	8735	25819

DERBY REFUGEE FORUM

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 MAY 2024

2023		2024
£		£
	Current Assets	
21141	Bank	25519
300	Cash	300
<u>21441</u>	Total assets	<u>25819</u>
	less liabilities	
0	Creditors	0
<u>21441</u>	Net Assets	<u>25819</u>


Chair

23/09/24
Date


Treasurer

23-09-2024
Date

DERBY REFUGEE FORUM

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Note 1

Grants and donations consisted of:-

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Hilton Charitable Trust	0	5300	5300	0
Warm Welcome - Community Action	0	7000	7000	0
YAAP Charitable Trust	0	3000	3000	0
Severn Trent Community Fund	0	10000	10000	0
Community Matters fund	0	7988	7988	0
Derby City Council	0	0	0	5000
Community Action Derby	0	0	0	6250
	0	33288	33288	11250

Note 2

Restricted Funds

	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfer Between Funds	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Household Support	4869	0	887	0	3982
Warm Welcome	2767	7000	8689	0	1078
Hilton Charitable Trust	0	5300	4766	0	534
YAAP Charitable Trust	0	3000	3000	0	0
Severn Trent Community Fund	0	10000	6859	0	3141
Community Matters fund	0	7988	7988	0	0
	7636	33288	32189	0	8735

The Household Support funding provided through Derby City Council was to help buy household goods for asylum seekers.

The Warm Welcome funding, provided through Community Action Derby and was to provide a warm, welcoming space to the community.

Hilton Charitable Trust was to fund the salary of the project manager within Derby Refugee Forum project for one year.

YAAP Charitable Trust money was to partly fund the salary of the Project Manager and small sundry costs.

Severn Trent Community Fund was to fund the Administration support office within the Refugee Forum

Community Matters fund - Funding through the National Grid for warm pack and part of salaries for staff at Derby Refugee Forum

DERBY REFUGEE FORUM

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Note 3

Sundry

	2024	2023
	£	£
Warm Welcome project costs	2866	1984
YAAP Charitable Trust Project costs	65	0
Severn Trent Water project costs	66	0
Community Matters fund project costs	4900	0
Household Support project costs	504	0
Other costs	1854	2684
	<u>10255</u>	<u>4667</u>