

FINANCE REPORT 2022

DEVON & CORNWALL REFUGEE SUPPORT



DCRS Annual Finance report 2022

Devon and Cornwall Refugee Support, 7 Whimble Street, Plymouth PL1 2DH

Charity no.1130360
Company Limited by Guarantee no. 06271122
OISC Exemption no. N200100427

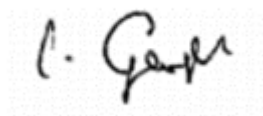
Trustees:

Ian Gasper	Appointed September 2014 - Chair April 2022
Emma Stevenson	Appointed May 2021 - Treasurer
Bridget Bimha	Appointed July 2021 - Safeguarding
Jane Barks	Appointed June 2022 - Secretary
Poorna Dias Gunaswker	Appointed June 2022
Andrew Eccleston	Appointed November 2022
Alana Hunter	Appointed January 2022
Timothy Nyahasha	Appointed January 2023
John Stephens	Appointed January 2022
Diana Bale	Retired June 2022
Hazel Poad	Retired April 2022
Marie Hull	Resigned July 2022
John Jebb	Retired November 2022
Elizabeth Hardinge	Retired February 2023
Christine Reid	Retired February 2023

Devon & Cornwall Refugee Support (DCRS) is overseen by the trustees who meet regularly. Day to day administration is in the hands of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Alex Vessis. New recruits are found through local contacts or Reach Volunteering.

DCRS ensures that asylum seekers and refugees (ASRs) , seeking help, receive the full benefit of their entitlements under UK and international law. We provide a culturally sensitive and practical response to the needs of the ASR community.

The board of trustees are satisfied that the service provided to a under-supported section of the population constitutes a public benefit.



Ian Gasper – Chair

CEO Report January 2022

January 2022 started with DCRS re-finding its feet after the difficulties and barriers that the COVID pandemic caused. We re-opened to the public, focusing on our core work and word quickly spread through the community. Based on learning what the major changes in our society meant we decided to have a hybrid triage service, offering both face to face, email and telephone services. This was gratefully received as we started to cover the entire geographic region with this additional method of communication.

Activities started to build with new colleagues joining the service. This involved holding Mental Health days offering a variety of different things from paddleboarding to wild cooking on Dartmoor. We have built new relationships and rekindled old ones so that we could make sure our offer was the best it could be with the funding available to us.

Our core activities of English classes and Music continued gaining good traction with our English classes receiving an average of 20+ students three times a week. The English classes continue to give our users the building blocks required whilst they wait for spaces with the ESOL qualified provision in the city.

We developed our website, social media channels and newsletter with the help of new volunteers and existing staff members. This has resulted with weekly updates available, a more cohesive straightforward website and quarterly newsletters that are sent out to all our supporters and service users enabling them to stay up to date.

Three new projects began at DCRS to complement our core services. The Fresh Claims Project supporting failed asylum seekers to find a new chance to re-enter the asylum system and move out of destitution. The A.R.E Home provides wrap around support for the same group to have short term accommodation, subsistence support, one to one mental health support and access to our existing services. Finally, Health Point began in June, offering a triage service with dedicated GP and mental health professionals available every Tuesday between 10am and 2pm.

In February, we saw the beginning of the Initial Accommodation Hotels in Tiverton and subsequently an additional 6 hotels were included, across both counties increasing the capacity of those that we serve by an additional 943 people. This has again meant our service has needed to adapt to an increased demand. Logistically, we are unable to access the area from Ilfracombe to Newquay, so we trained existing voluntary sector groups wishing to help in each region instead. We continue to offer specialist support.

The political and legislative landscape in 2022 appeared to become more hostile towards refugees with the introduction of the Nationality and Borders Act being introduced. As a result our partnership working has continued to be imperative, and we have developed stronger links with our main partners in Plymouth and forged many new relationships across both counties.

Through all these changes we have developed a strong core team with a dedicated group of 40 volunteers who continue to work towards creating a fair, humane and safe asylum experience for all.

Treasurer's Report:

The financials of DRCS in 2022 have remained strong, with a surplus in year of £2,967.

Income came in from ongoing funders including the Lottery Community Fund, Aurum Trust, AB Charitable, Blue Thread and Lloyds Bank Foundation, as well as smaller grants and significant donations of £40.3k, over £7k higher than in 2021.

In year expenses were slightly higher than anticipated, with increased expenditure on computers as it was discovered much of the existing hardware needed replacing. The demand for translators also increased, which is an increasingly expensive resource. The charity is looking at alternatives to the current pay per minute service. Staffing costs were also slightly higher than budget.

The charity has no ongoing debtors or creditors.

The reserves policy of the charity is to have three months of running costs as well as dissolution costs. This amount is currently £66k and is reviewed on a quarterly basis.

As at the end of the year the charity held £101k of unrestricted reserves. The charity held £172.5k, including £71.5k of restricted income which has not yet been used.

Moving forward, it is the aim of the charity to maintain a surplus and have at least £100k of unrestricted reserves at the end of the year, leaving headroom above the required reserves.

		<i>Unrestricted Total 2022 £</i>	<i>Restricted Total 2022 £</i>	<i>Total Funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total Funds 2021 £</i>
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Income from donations and legacies	2	189,678	26,235	215,913	306,369
Charitable Activities Income	3	2,592		2,592	703
Investment Income	4				8
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		<u>192,278</u>	<u>26,227</u>	<u>218,505</u>	<u>307,080</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Direct Charitable expenditure	5	204,120	11,220	215,340	239,962
Governance Costs		198		198	
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		<u>204,318</u>	<u>11,220</u>	<u>215,538</u>	<u>239,962</u>
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		-11,716	14,684	2,967	67,117
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD					
AS AT 1st JANUARY 2021		<u>98,627</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>98,627</u>	<u>31,510</u>
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD		<u>86,911</u>	<u>14,684</u>	<u>101,594</u>	<u>98,627</u>
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022		<u><u>86,911</u></u>	<u><u>14,684</u></u>	<u><u>101,594</u></u>	<u><u>98,627</u></u>

Total

2022

2021

£

£

CURRENT ASSETS

Investments	67,002	66,354
Cash at bank	106,010	51,329
Cash in hand	96	24.91
Accounts Receivable (deferred funds)	-71,513	-21,654
	<u>101,594</u>	<u>117,708</u>

LIABILITIES

Amounts falling due within one year		2,573
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NET CURRENT ASSETS

NET ASSETS	<u>101,594</u>	<u>98,627</u>
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FUNDS

Surplus for the year	2,967	67,117
Funds brought forward	98,627	31,509
	<u>101,594</u>	<u>98,627</u>

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS & LEGACIES

	<i>Unrestricted Total 2022</i>	<i>Restricted Total 2022</i>	<i>Total 2022</i>	<i>Total 2021</i>
		£	£	£
Donations	40,311			34,936
Grants	151,967	26,277		110,188
Total	<u>192,278</u>	<u>26,277</u>	<u>218,505</u>	<u>307,080</u>

3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES INCOME

			<i>Total 2022</i>	<i>Total 2021</i>
J2 Fax Refund				90
Improving Lives Plymouth				500
0800 - Social Change	985		985	
0901 - Other Funds Generated	1608		1608	
Total	<u>2,592</u>	<u></u>	<u>2,592</u>	<u>590</u>

2022

Total

£

Expenditure

1501: English Class Expenses	928
1510: Volunteer Expenses	905
1901: Staff Salary	153,820
1902: Staff Expenses	1,604
2120: Council Tax	1,060
2130: Building Lease	6,500
2135: Building Repair Costs	825
2140: Utilities - Water	292
2141: Utilities - Electricity	2,413
2142: Utilities - Phone & Broadband	5,159
2150: Photocopier	716
2160: Computer Expenses	8,843
2170: Postage	341
2201: Training	1,847
2301: Insurances	2,037
2340: Office Expenses	3,824
2360: Subscriptions	1,233
2370: Translation	5,549
2501: Communications & Marketing	995
2900: SU Food	4,314
2920: SU Relief	2,085
2950: SU Activities	3,665
2960: SU Computer Courses	3,456
2961: SU Travel Costs	2,436
9004: Health & Safety	66
9005: Equipment & Stationery	428
9011: Audit and Governance	198

Expenditure totals	215,538
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		2021	2020
		£	£
1501	English Class Supplies	1,706	555
1830	Relief	918	1,591
1901	Staff Costs	128,946	140,413
1902	Staff Expenses	8	289
1905	66354	2,883	4,168
2001	Volunteer Expenses	113	98
2120 & 2130	Rent, Rates	9,428	7,316
2140 & 2401	Heat, Light & Water	1,979	3,237
2145	Health & Safety	5,897	4,048
2150	Equipment & Stationery	642	266
2170	Postage	478	520
2201	Training	2,680	150
2301	Insurances	2,123	1,250
2310	Telephone, Fax & Broadband	5,061	5,600
2330	Computer Expenses	3,550	4,174
2331	Photocopier	288	268
2340	Office Expenses	3,550	2,267
2360	Administration	441	1,191
2501	Newsletter and Website	29	132
2701	Repairs & Renewals	55,949	313
2710	RTP/Solicitors Travel Costs	113	509
2900	SU Food Programme	-	5,266
2950	SU Sports & Activities	9,850	853
2960	SU Computer Courses	3,330	3,276
	Other		10
		239,962	187,760

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE DEVON and CORNWALL REFUGEE SUPPORT

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2022

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 145(5)(b) Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions 2017 given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b)
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
2. to which, in my opinion, attentions should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Dated: th 29 Mar 2023

Signed: 

Independent Examiner
Mr John Gilding
104 Lucas Lane
Plympton
Plymouth
PL7 4EY