

BORDERLANDS (SOUTH WEST) LTD

England & Wales · Charity number 1143313

Details

Other names BORDERLANDS

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [07607693](#)

Registered 2011-08-12

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address The Assisi Centre
Lawfords Gate
Bristol
BS5 0RE

Phone 0117 9040479

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Activities

Objects: 1. TO RELIEVE ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES IN NEED, HARDSHIP AND DISTRESS BY REASON OF THEIR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES BY SUCH CHARITABLE MEANS AS THE TRUSTEES SHALL DETERMINE INCLUDING THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION, RELIEF OF POVERTY AND THE PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION OF GOOD HEALTH.2. TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY PREVENTING PEOPLE FROM BECOMING SOCIALLY EXCLUDED, RELIEVING THE NEEDS OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE SOCIALLY EXCLUDED AND ASSISTING THEM TO INTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY.FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS CLAUSE 'SOCIALLY EXCLUDED' MEANS BEING EXCLUDED FROM SOCIETY, OR PARTS OF SOCIETY, AS A RESULT OF ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS: UNEMPLOYMENT; FINANCIAL HARDSHIP; YOUTH OR OLD AGE; ILL HEALTH (PHYSICAL OR MENTAL); SUBSTANCE ABUSE OR DEPENDENCY INCLUDING ALCOHOL AND DRUGS; DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUNDS OF SEX, RACE, DISABILITY, ETHNIC ORIGIN, RELIGION, BELIEF CREED, SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER RE-ASSIGNMENT, POOR EDUCATION OR SKILLS ATTAINMENT, RELATIONSHIP AND FAMILY BREAKDOWN; POOR HOUSING (THAT IS HOUSING THAT DOES NOT MEET BASIC HABITABLE STANDARDS); CRIME (EITHER AS A VICTIM OF CRIME OR AS AN OFFENDER REHABILITATING INTO SOCIETY); SEXUAL EXPLOITATION.3. TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE SUBJECT OF THOSE GROUPS MENTIONED ABOVE WITH THE AIM OF INCREASING COMMUNITY COHESION.FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS CLAUSE, COMMUNITY COHESION IS A TERM TO DESCRIBE HOW EVERYONE IN A GEOGRAPHICAL AREA LIVES ALONGSIDE EACH OTHER WITH MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT.4. TO PROMOTE GENERAL CHARITABLE PURPOSES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY OF BRISTOL AND THE SURROUNDING AREA, AND TO PROVIDE RELIEF FROM FINANCIAL HARDSHIP AND SOCIAL AND/OR ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE AND TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF ITS RESIDENTS OF ALL AGES; AND IN PARTICULAR TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE AFOREMENTIONED RESIDENTS TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE LIFE OF THEIR COMMUNITY IN WAYS WHICH ADDRESS AND ALLEVIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE.

Activities: Borderlands is a community charity that works with asylum seekers and refugees living in the inner city area of Bristol. These people are very vulnerable because they are chronically impoverished, suffer discrimination and are excluded within society. We offer advice, help and hope and rely on volunteers for the delivery of the majority of our welfare support and education services.

Classification

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

Geography

- Bristol City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£413,473	£299,091	-	-
2024-03-31	£275,808	£296,121	-	-
2023-03-31	£315,360	£274,007	-	-
2022-03-31	£235,155	£232,308	-	-
2021-03-31	£323,682	£209,797	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Kimberlee Lynn Carstensen	Chair	2022-03-09
Bernard Allanzo Morris		2022-12-05
Nick Tarr		2016-07-01
Patrick William John McAlees		2022-03-06
Sneh Jani Patel		2024-12-18

BORDERLANDS (SOUTH WEST) LTD

England & Wales - Charity number 1143313

Accounts

Company no. 07607693
Charity no. 1143313

Borderlands (South West) Limited
Report and Unaudited Financial Statements
31 March 2025

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Reference and administrative details

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Company number 07607693

Charity number 1143313

Registered office and operational address The Assisi Centre
Lawfords Gate
Bristol
BS5 0RE

Trustees Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the period and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Kimberlee Carstensen
Patrick McAlees
Bernard Morris
Cynthia Ochieng
Sneh Patel (appointed 18 December 2024)
Nicholas Tarr

Bankers Lloyds Bank Aldermore Bank
44-45 George White Street Western House
Cabot Circus Lynch Wood
Bristol Peterborough
BS1 3BA PE2 6FZ

Independent examiners Godfrey Wilson Limited
Chartered accountants and statutory auditors
5th Floor Mariner House
62 Prince Street
Bristol
BS1 4QD

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities (effective from January 2019).

1. Structure, governance and management

Borderlands (South West) Limited is constituted as a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. Our governing documents are the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company.

New trustees are recruited by advertising and recommendation to bring new strengths and expertise, fill skill gaps and increase diversity to reflect the communities we work with. Following a selection process and appropriate background checks, new trustees are formally appointed after discussion at a meeting of existing trustees. As part of our ambition to be more member-led, we intend to recruit trustees with lived experience of the UK asylum system as we go forward.

2. Objectives and activities

Borderlands aims to create a community of welcome which supports asylum seekers, refugees and migrants with insecure status in the Bristol area to move 'from exclusion to belonging'.

Established in 2011, the charity grew out of the activities of St Nicholas Church in Easton, a deprived and diverse inner-city area. We have an ethos which respects and values every individual; we do not promote religion and work with people of all faiths and none. Our work is trauma-informed and rooted in our values of Warmth, Sharing, Dignity and Respect.

Our mission is to support people from a time of crisis when they first arrive in Bristol to a point where they can live independent lives. We have a strong focus on empowering the people we work with (our 'members') to take charge of their own lives, working alongside them and learning from them. We also advocate for a fair and humane immigration system where people seeking refuge are treated with dignity and respect. Our vision is a world where refugees and asylum seekers can seek sanctuary and justice, make full use of their talents and abilities, feel valued for their contribution and build worthwhile lives.

The purpose of Borderlands as set out in our governing document is:

- to relieve asylum seekers and refugees in need, hardship and distress by reason of their social and economic circumstances by the advancement of education, relief of poverty and the preservation and protection of good health;
- to promote social inclusion by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society; and
- to advance the education of the public regarding asylum seekers and refugees with the aim of increasing community cohesion and informing public policy.

Our members

Around 63% of our members are asylum seekers, 25% are refugees and 12% are other vulnerable migrants including refused asylum seekers and survivors of trafficking and modern slavery. They come from many different countries including Afghanistan, Eritrea, Sudan, Somalia, Syria, Iran and Iraq.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2025

People seeking sanctuary in the UK are forced into poverty, hardship and social isolation and exclusion. Many have experienced traumatic events before arriving here and, in many cases, are re-traumatised by the UK asylum system. Ever-changing government policies, alongside negative media coverage and the threat of far-right violence, have left our members fearful and uncertain about their future, and we have seen a huge decline in people's mental health.

Most of our members want to be part of their community but often have little English and lack geographical and cultural knowledge. They are also often moved from one part of the city or country to another at short notice, making it even more difficult to build connections and community in their new home.

Our volunteers

A team of over 100 volunteers (equivalent to around 185 hours a week) plays a major role delivering our work, over a third of whom are asylum seekers and refugees. They include chefs, kitchen assistants, our welcome and help teams, drop-in assistants, teachers and teaching assistants, learning navigators, mentors, our social supermarket team and more. We pride ourselves in providing thorough training, supervision and support for our volunteer team.

We encourage our members to volunteer with us, as this can help them to practise their English, make friends, connect with their community and gain new skills. All member-volunteers are given training and guidance for their professional development and get a reference and something to add to their CV (our volunteer chefs and kitchen assistants can also do their Food and Hygiene level 2 certificate with us).

Main activities

Welcome Centre

Our Welcome Centre is a safe, trusted hub of support and community for asylum seekers and refugees in Bristol. Open Mondays and Tuesdays at the Assisi Centre in Easton, we provide:

- a warm welcome and help for new arrivals to register as members and access our projects and wider support in Bristol;
- a weekly shared hot meal and 'social supermarket' giving people the dignity of choosing the fruit, vegetables and tinned goods they want to take home;
- a social space to use the internet, have a drink, chat or read the paper, with board games and a football table;
- one-to-one problem-solving, advocating on people's behalf and referring them to relevant services;
- an art table with a safe, creative atmosphere to find some relief from fear and anxiety;
- hosting of agencies offering specialist advice or support; and
- cooking groups which enable members living in hotels to cook and eat together using our kitchen.

Feel Good Wednesday

On Wednesdays we offer a range of wellbeing activities which help our members feel good and give them coping tools and respite from their situation. Activities include sleep and relaxation sessions, a sewing group, yoga and fitness classes and cooking groups (one for women and another for asylum seekers living in the hotels). We also partner with other organisations to offer climbing, football and free access to a local gym, swimming pool and exercise classes.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Mentoring Project

Our Mentoring Project provides one-to-one practical and emotional support to help asylum seekers and refugees navigate their own paths and regain control over their lives. Mentors help mentees get to know Bristol, find volunteer placements and jobs, improve conversational English, access education or training, and cope with isolation and anxiety. Most importantly, they stand in solidarity with their mentees as they navigate the complex process of claiming asylum in the UK, as well as with resettlement after they receive leave to remain.

Learning Project

Our Learning Project offers classes in English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL), empowering learners to find their way around the city, navigate a new culture, make friends, access opportunities and feel a sense of belonging. We focus on pre-entry and entry level classes for people who speak little or no English as they are most at risk of isolation and exclusion. Classes are small – on average 10 students – with one volunteer teacher and 1-2 teaching assistants per class so each learner receives a lot of individual attention. We work closely with our partners in the refugee sector to coordinate ESOL provision and share training, ideas and volunteers. In addition to English classes, our Learning Navigators provide one-to-one support to help members plan their educational journey, and we also offer a creative women's group, a reading and conversation group, an employability skills course and educational trips.

Outreach work

We deliver a weekly drop-in service in three hotels housing asylum seekers in central Bristol, working alongside Bristol Mind to provide a friendly listening ear, signposting support and digital inclusion. We ensure residents' basic needs are met and help them to access local services, English classes, healthcare, volunteering and social activities. Our presence in the hotels helps to alleviate concerns and facilitate access to our Welcome Centre and projects for people who may feel hesitant to visit. It also enables us to escalate safeguarding concerns and advocate for changes to accommodation for individuals where needed.

A partnership approach

Borderlands is part of the Bristol Refugee and Asylum Seeker Partnership (BRASP) which aims to improve partnership working in the sector and promote a culture of peer support, learning and sharing best practice. The partnership includes joint members' consultation, co-production work and a common needs assessment approach to inform the activities we develop as a sector and as individual organisations. Collectively we also have a stronger campaigning and advocating voice to impact on local and wider policy-making. As well as BRASP, we play an active role in several forums including the Bristol Refugee Forum, Asylum Seeker and Refugee Wellbeing Forum and Young People's Forum.

Giving our members a voice

Borderlands engages in awareness raising and advocacy on a national, regional and local level, working with our BRASP partners and Bristol City of Sanctuary. We participate in social media campaigns and events such as Refugee Week and Bristol Refugee Festival and give TV and radio interviews. Together with our partners, we also run training for our members in public speaking so they can participate in events and meetings.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Housing partnership

In 2017 a private donation enabled us to buy a four-bedroom house in Stapleton, a Bristol suburb with good transport links to the centre. The house is used to provide short-term accommodation for refugees to support them in the transition to independence. Since 2022, ACH – a social housing provider with expertise in working with refugees – has taken on the management and support provision of the house, including additional support and training to enable tenants to settle and integrate.

3. Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. Borderlands delivers public benefit both directly to our members and to the wider public through improved community cohesion and inclusion and by increasing understanding of issues relating to asylum seekers and refugees.

4. Achievements and Performance

Changing context

We continued to experience high demand for our work this year and have adapted and developed our projects in response to changing needs. Asylum seekers housed in three hotels close to our Welcome Centre are now being moved on more quickly to housing in other parts of the city, so their situation and needs can change rapidly. The far-right riots in Bristol last summer, centred around a hotel housing asylum seekers, were followed by inspiring counter protests and a coordinated response that reminded us of the power of community solidarity.

There have been major policy shifts with a change in government and scrapping of the Rwanda scheme and other policies which criminalised people seeking sanctuary in the UK. We have seen more people at risk of homelessness and destitution due to the uptick in the number of people getting refugee status, as applications are fast tracked to clear the backlog. Although the trial extension of the move-on period has given new refugees more time to find housing, they still face many barriers to doing so. We also have concerns about the government's new Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill, which will remove the possibility of refugees obtaining British citizenship and expand detention, as well as the use of rhetoric which dehumanises people fleeing persecution.

Key personnel changes

Our CEO, Susanna Revolti, returned from maternity leave in September 2024. We would like to thank our Interim CEO, Caitlin Plunkett, who held the fort admirably in Susi's absence, developing new aspects of our work and managing Borderlands' response to the far-right riots. We also appointed a new trustee this year, Sneh Patel, who brings valuable experience in the refugee sector as co-founder of Bread and Roses, a social enterprise that runs floristry training programmes for refugee women.

Welcome Centre

Our Welcome Centre helped 835 asylum seekers and refugees to make connections and build community in their new home in Bristol this year, including helping 202 new arrivals to access our projects and wider support.

Food insecurity is a big problem for our members: asylum seekers in dispersal accommodation (shared housing) struggle to feed their families on very limited financial support, and although food is provided in the hotels, it is unhealthy, inappropriate and insufficient, especially for children.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Our weekly shared meals helped foster a vibrant and inclusive community at Borderlands. The meals provided nourishment while fostering social connections and friendships, and our volunteer chefs delighted us each week with their culinary expertise and cherished recipes from many different cultures. Our social supermarket continued to experience high demand, and we introduced regular needs assessments to prioritise those in greatest need as their situations change. Our cooking groups provided those living in hotels with the opportunity to come together, cook and share meals inspired by their home countries, creating feelings of warmth and belonging.

"I feel happy to be here and share with my friends and community. It takes a bit of our daily stress and help us carry on. Thank you very much for helping us. For us having access to a kitchen means a lot to us." Cooking group participant

Hosting other organisations in our Welcome Centre enabled us to introduce our members to a wide range of services in a safe and trusted space. We organised information sessions on healthcare, domestic abuse, support for victims of hate crime, activities for young people and the rights of asylum seekers and refugees in the UK. Feeding Bristol and FareShare helped us to organise a food justice event which brought together our members and staff, celebrated culture and diversity while facilitating discussions on food-related issues affecting our members. We also hosted NHS talking therapies once a month and facilitated a study by Family Health Matters focused on mothers and carers from refugee backgrounds with young children.

"Borderlands feels very genuine, you can come to the welcome centre and get good useful information and signposting. We know we can come here and ask a question and it will be helpful. Members feel safe coming here because they don't need to explain their personal issues. I come and have breakfast and lunch, the lunches are so nice and helpful for the hotel people. Every week it feels like a celebration." Member

Feel Good Wednesday

Our wellbeing project supported 203 members with weekly 'feel good' activities aimed at promoting mental health and self-care including:

- sleep and relaxation sessions facilitated by the Hope: Asylum Seekers and Refugees Trauma Service;
- a sewing group through Bridges for Communities Stitch Together programme, enabling women to create beautiful textile-based art, practise English, make friends and gain confidence;
- a yoga class taught by a Borderlands member who is a trained yoga teacher, which gives women a chance to unwind, relax and meditate, and share healthy snacks after the class;
- women-only dance workshops exploring different styles from contemporary to Bollywood, filled with joy, movement, and a sense of freedom;
- football for men working with St. Paul's Community Sports Academy. We trained two teams to compete in Bristol's Community Cup. Although we didn't win, we're gearing up for next year's tournament!
- climbing classes in collaboration with the Mothership gym, to enjoy learning new skills and feel a sense of accomplishment;
- a partnership with Easton Leisure Centre offering our members free access to the gym, pool and some exercise classes; and
- a photography workshop run by Bridges for Communities, where members learned new techniques and took part in a joint project culminating in an exhibition.

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Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Mentoring Project

This year our Mentoring Project trained and supported 30 volunteer mentors and empowered 48 mentees to achieve some personal goals over 6-9 months. Mentors met mentees once a week for at least an hour and were available at agreed times via phone/social media if needed. Mentees' goals included navigating the asylum system; improving mental health; engaging with their community; accessing education, employment or volunteering; and improving their housing situation.

Other areas of focus for the project were continuing to build partnerships with external agencies, improving our referral system, and strengthening our needs assessment for new mentees to better understand which other agencies are supporting them and avoid duplication. We also introduced new mentor training from Trauma Foundation South West on a trauma-informed approach and avoiding vicarious trauma, and specialist training from Unseen on supporting survivors of modern slavery and human trafficking.

"[My mentor] was one of the first people I really spoke to – she helped me find friends and community. When we spoke together it improved my self confidence. Before meeting her, I was scared of people and didn't want to share about my life. After we met, I felt so much more confident speaking to strangers." Mentee

"It's good luck to know [my mentor] and she is a very nice person and friendly. She helped me so much. She has helped me improve my English, to get to know Bristol, to prepare for my interview.....She's very patient and she did everything to understand me, even though my English isn't good.....She's showed me many things which have helped with the asylum process." Mentee

Learning Project

We continued to see unprecedented demand for English classes this year, and faced challenges catering for an ever-growing waiting list, a 'churn' of students as people were moved on more quickly from the hotels and responding to many different levels of English. We responded by adding new classes for those with little or no English and trialling running classes in the hotels.

We provided 10 x 2-hour English classes per week in our Welcome Centre (440 classes in total), empowering 359 asylum seekers and refugees to navigate a new culture, make friends, access opportunities and feel a sense of belonging in a new city. We also trialled running 2-4 English classes a week in the hotels (around 60 classes in total), providing around 150 asylum seekers with basic English so they could find their way around the city.

"I didn't speak English, when I came here. Because of this I felt lonely, insecure and helpless. It was very difficult! English lessons at the Borderlands gave me a lot of useful information and the necessary knowledge and skills. I feel much better now.... And I also had a strong feeling that I had a new family and cheerful friends here." Member

"Teaching English at Borderlands has given me some of the most memorable and rewarding experiences of my career.... The classes and other activities provide an oasis of safety, security, and friendship." Volunteer teacher

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2025

In addition to English classes, we provided the following learning opportunities:

- our new Learning Navigators worked one-to-one with around 300 members at our Tuesday drop-in to help them plan their educational journey. As well as assessing students to place them in our ESOL classes, they discussed members' academic goals and aspirations, supported with college and university applications, and signposted to other learning opportunities in Bristol;
- helping Members to continue education and training including at university level. This enables members to become economically independent and to integrate into UK society. Members can fill positions which have skill shortages;
- a weekly Reading and Conversation Group for those with a higher level of English, in partnership with national literacy charity The Reader. This allowed learners to explore different writers and ideas while improving their English vocabulary and oral skills. We also ran a special Poetry Writing Workshop where the group had the opportunity to reflect on meaningful objects, places, and memories;
- two 8-week Employability Skills courses run in partnership with Curo housing association, providing participants with the skills and confidence they need to apply for jobs, write CVs, attend interviews and prepare for getting employment in the UK; and
- our Creative Women's Group enabled 28 participants to connect, share and explore creative activities in a series of workshops covering theatre skills, dance/movement, music, and visual arts culminating in a performance. The women were encouraged to share their own knowledge and culture through recipes, songs, dances and crafts. One participant said: *"All your workshops which you were organising bring me joy...I enjoyed everything. I like speaking and listening. I would like come again."*

Outreach project

We expanded our outreach efforts this year, working alongside Bristol Mind to run a weekly drop-in service for asylum seekers in three central Bristol hotels, focusing on digital inclusion and promoting events and support networks.

Our model was to first ensure residents' basic needs were met, including phones and sim cards (with free data and calls), clothing and healthcare. We then helped people to meet their social and wider needs including referrals into language classes, volunteering, educational opportunities, mental health support, leisure activities and navigating the city. We let people know about our Welcome Centre and wider support and helped those being moved to different cities to find services there. We also helped initiate fitness sessions in the hotels, ran taster sessions for our creative women's group, and organised workshops and information sessions from other agencies including SafeLink (sexual or domestic violence support).

We attended regular interagency meetings and created a good working relationship with hotel management, which allowed us to raise residents' concerns and ensure they were supported and received up-to-date information. Our presence in the hotels also enabled us to escalate safeguarding concerns and advocate for changes to accommodation for individuals where needed.

Through our outreach work in the hotels, we were able to help mitigate the monotony that many asylum seekers experience while waiting for their asylum decisions and provide opportunities, information and a friendly face in an often hostile situation.

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Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Special events and trips

We organised many events, trips and socials through the year to help our members unwind, explore new places and connect with nature. Trips included a day at the beach in Clevedon, two visits to the SS Great Britain and an outing to Bristol Central Library. Our Outreach Project partnered with Forest School to run monthly trips to Westbury Wildlife Park and weekly outings to Ashton Hill focused on walking, foraging, cooking and whittling. Our Creative Women's Group went to see private viewings of exhibitions at the Arnolfini and RWA, a historical walking tour of Bristol and multiple plays at Bristol Old Vic. Mentors and mentees were also able to get out and explore the city together with the option of free entry to the SS Great Britain, We the Curious and the RWA.

Working with our partners, we welcomed over 170 members for a vibrant and heart-warming celebration of Eid and Easter, bringing people from many different backgrounds together to relax, connect, eat, and dance in a space filled with warmth, laughter, and cultural richness. We also celebrated community and sanctuary at Bristol Refugee Festival including a Picnic & Poetry session, cheering on the Borderlands team in the City Community Cup football tournament, and a Refugees Rock Fundraiser at The Climbing Academy Bristol.

Effective collaboration

We continued to work as part of the Bristol Refugee and Asylum Seeker Partnership (BRASP) to coordinate support throughout the city, support lived experience leadership and strengthen our advocacy and campaigning efforts. This included:

- playing a key role designing and launching a new service mapping website, KOMPASI, to improve interagency referrals and create a more coordinated welcome for new arrivals;
- a coordinated response to the far-right riots in summer 2024 to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our members, staff and volunteers. This included joint risk assessments, additional safety measures and plans, and providing members with accurate information from reliable sources;
- providing accurate information and signposting for those affected by the government's Rwanda plan, which was crucial in avoiding spreading panic.

Campaigning and awareness raising

Much of our campaigning and awareness raising this year was focused on reaching out to schools of sanctuary, attending assemblies and teachers' meetings, and having a stall at festivals and other public events. Together with our partners, we organised training for staff and volunteers with lived experience in confidence building, public speaking and community mobilisation. This led to a listening event with local MPs, the metro mayor and local councillors on the need for free local public transport for asylum seekers. We hope, through additional funding, that this will be the first of many meetings with city-wide policy-makers in which leaders with lived experience can get their voices heard.

Member participation

Our Welcome and Members Participation Officer (WAMPO) – a refugee herself – led our Welcome Desk throughout the year alongside a team of member-volunteers, helping to provide confidence and a feeling of ownership over the space. Most of the activities in our Welcome Centre were delivered by a team of member-volunteers, providing 51 volunteering opportunities for asylum seekers and refugees.

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Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2025

We consulted with our members in the following ways:

- our WAMPO worked with women attending wellbeing activities on Wednesdays to gather feedback and suggestions;
- member-volunteer team meetings to discuss how we are delivering activities and suggest improvements;
- a member-volunteers survey, which elicited suggestions for new activities, changes and improvements; and
- a consultation with over 100 members asking what they would like our organisation/sector to campaign for in the coming year. Free bus travel for asylum seekers was voted as top priority and improved access to legal aid and the right to work for asylum seekers agreed to be other issues on which to focus our campaigning efforts at a national level.

As part of the BRASP working group for lived experience leadership, we launched a peer support scheme for staff from a refugee background in our organisations. We are currently embarking on a joint project where staff with lived experience from each organisation will nurture and lead a group of members in a lived experience leaders group, who will create surveys, sit on interview panels and participate in focus groups, trustee meetings, partnership meetings and local campaigns. We also reviewed our recruitment procedure this year to ensure the process is accessible for those with lived experience.

Developing our organisation

We continued to implement our three-year Strategic Plan and Governance Action Plan this year, focusing on developing our outreach work, improving lived experience participation and investing in training and development of our staff, trustees and volunteers. Staff and trustees attended Race Aware training - a vital step in strengthening our pledge to be actively anti-racist and in shaping internal changes to create a more inclusive and equitable space. Trustees and relevant staff also attended training in trauma-informed line management from Trauma Foundation South West.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Our impact

The table below describes the outcomes and long-term goals we want to achieve with our work. Our model is to enable our members to move from intensive support to independence.

Activities and services we provide	Short and medium term outcomes: changes that will start the journey	Long term outcomes: changes that will help us to bring about our goal	Our long term goal: the world we want to see
<p>A Welcome Centre offering community, food, shared activities and practical support.</p> <p>Mentoring Project.</p> <p>Learning Project.</p> <p>Wellbeing activities.</p> <p>Outreach support in hotels.</p> <p>Signposting and referrals to other services.</p> <p>Hosting of other agencies.</p>	<p>Members have the knowledge and information they need to advocate for themselves and their rights.</p> <p>Their basic needs are met (food, a hot meal, SIM card/phone).</p> <p>They have a chance to learn / improve their English.</p> <p>They have developed a network and a community.</p> <p>They know how to access education, jobs and volunteering opportunities.</p> <p>They have access to health care and mental health support.</p>	<p>People have moved on - they have jobs, a community, education, opportunity.</p> <p>New members hear positive stories and have positive experiences, feel welcome and safe.</p> <p>A diverse range of people have equitable access to our services and those of other agencies.</p> <p>Volunteers have opportunities to understand and learn in a professional environment.</p> <p>People have choice and dignity; they have developed confidence and self-esteem; they have a sense of purpose.</p>	<p>People can become independent and live in a compassionate, just and understanding community.</p> <p>They can find safety, have their basic needs met and integrate into society.</p> <p>Borderlands is a model of how to welcome and support asylum seekers and refugees, working effectively with our partners.</p>

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Project / activity	Number of individuals supported
Welcome Centre	835
Welcome support for new arrivals	202
Food Provision	150 per week
Feel Good Wednesday	203
Mentoring Project	48
Learning Project	509
Outreach Project	898
Volunteering opportunities	51
Trips and special events	150
Total across all projects	1,251

We use an annual members and member-volunteer survey and evaluation from specific projects to measure the impact of our work and collect case studies and testimonials to illustrate our impact. This year our members survey was moved to June 2025 due to staff shortages, but we did undertake a member-volunteers survey and evaluation of our Mentoring and Learning Projects.

Of the mentoring partnerships which ended this year:

- 58% of mentees said they achieved all their goals and 38% partially achieved their goals;
- 100% improved their English;
- 43% found volunteer placements and 65% went into education or training;
- 43% moved into more secure housing / made progress with their housing issues; and
- 33% were supported to navigate the UK asylum system.

Most mentees were asylum seekers and not allowed to work, but 65% made progress towards finding employment on securing refugee status. Of those permitted to work, 29% found jobs.

In a survey of Learning Project participants at Borderlands in August 2024:

- 55% of respondents said our ESOL classes had improved their English (40% said 'very much');
- 65% had improved confidence (40% 'very much');
- 50% had improved wellbeing; and
- 55% said the classes had given them a good knowledge of Bristol and the UK.

In a survey of our member-volunteers in January 2025:

- 67% said they feel very much part of Borderlands community and 81% had made new friends;
- 41% felt more confident speaking English and 59% had learnt new skills; and
- for those allowed to work, 40% said they felt more confident looking for a job since volunteering at Borderlands.

"Borderlands is like a huge tree with many branches that caters to diverse groups with many aspects of need. I love that people can come here, be fed and get the help they need. Whatever Borderlands can't offer, they signpost to the relevant services. I'm super proud to be part of the team." Member-volunteer

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Case study: a member's journey

In August 2024, SA moved into an asylum hotel in Bristol. She soon met our Outreach Officer, and the following week came to our Welcome Centre and registered as a Borderlands member.

SA quickly became interested in our work and asked to become a volunteer. After a successful induction and training, she joined our Welcome Desk team to register new members, make them feel welcome and provide signposting resources. Over the next few months, SA joined our cooking sessions for people living in the hotel, preparing delicious food from her country for all our community. She also enrolled into our mentoring program and received support from a trained mentor to achieve her goals of accessing courses and education to either pursue a law degree or become a social worker.

SA is now one of our leading Welcome Centre volunteers. She recently attended a public speaking training held at Borderlands, for people with lived experience who are keen to mobilise communities and campaign for social change. She then participated in a listening event with local MPs, the combined authority Mayor and city councillors, where she and other lived experience leaders put forward the campaign for free bus travel for asylum seekers. SA said: *"Thank you so much for the opportunity to attend the event and be one of the persons representing Borderlands, it was a great experience.... I felt extremely proud of our organisation's presentation."*

5. Future plans

Looking ahead, we are committed to continuously evolving our services to meet the changing needs of our members, and to ensure every member feels supported and empowered on their journey toward independence and inclusion. Amidst increasing hostility towards people seeking safety in the UK, we will continue to work tirelessly with our partners for a welcoming and safe environment.

Our priorities for the coming year are:

- continue to strengthen our governance by recruiting new trustees who bring new skills and experience, including lived experience;
- work with our partners to improve outreach for asylum seekers in dispersal accommodation (shared housing) across the city, who often struggle to access support;
- establish a lived experience leaders group who will engage our members in meaningful feedback, sit on interview panels and participate in focus groups, trustee meetings, partnership meetings and local campaigns;
- continue to invest in developing and training our staff and trustees to help us to maintain flexibility and resilience;
- diversify our funding streams and become more financially sustainable through developing individual giving, community fundraising and corporate partnerships, including recruiting for a new part-time Fundraising Manager post; and
- develop our Learning Projects by introducing a new English class for students who are pre-literate and running a Creative Leadership Training programme for women to develop their confidence and leadership skills and lead creative sessions.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Thank you

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who have contributed to our work. Our funders this year included the Garfield Weston Foundation, Henry Smith Charity, Albert Gubay Foundation, John James Bristol Foundation, Postcode Local Trust, Bristol City Council, Van Neste Foundation, Harold Hood Trust, Medlock Trust, Nisbet Trust and others, including those who prefer to be anonymous. We are also grateful to the individuals, local businesses, social enterprises and charities who have made donations. Last but not least, thank you to our wonderful members, volunteers, partners and staff for your ongoing commitment, expertise, and energy in welcoming and supporting refugees and asylum seekers.

6. Financial review

Our Accounts for 2024-25 show income of £413,473 and expenditure of £299,091; £44,541 of the £114,382 surplus was restricted grants received in 2024-25 to be spent in 2025-26. 60% of income came from Trusts and Foundations, 21% from local authorities or central government, 16% from individual donations and 3% from rental income. 64% of expenditure was on salary-related costs for our team of two full-time and seven part-time staff (6 FTE).

We currently have three multi-year grants from the Henry Smith Charity, Bristol Impact Fund and Nisbet Trust. A substantial three-year grant from the Albert Gubay Foundation ended this year, and funding from the Henry Smith Charity will end in 2025-26. We aim to secure more multi-year funding in the coming year to build sustainability as we develop and grow our work, including applying for continuation funding.

Reserves policy

The Trustees have a General Reserves Policy which follows Charity Commission guidance. This protects our operations and essential services from the potential risk of disruption at short notice due to a lack of funds while ensuring Borderlands does not retain income for longer than required. The policy takes into account operating expenses and maintenance of essential services in the event of a downturn in income and/or unforeseen increases in costs. It also takes account of the contractual obligations to our employees and the costs of closure or wind-down of our core operations.

Borderlands calculates its general (free) reserves by working out unrestricted net current assets. At 31 March 2025, net current assets were £275,150, of which £109,231 is restricted, leaving £163,474 as general (free) reserves.

Our forecast expenditure for 2025-26 is £407,930, so reserves represent approximately five months' costs, which is in accordance with the trustees' policy of maintaining free reserves at between four and six months' costs. The basis of determining the target reserves level is kept under periodic review and will be adjusted as perceptions of risk and other factors change.

Please note: a proportion of unrestricted funds on the balance sheet relates to a house owned by Borderlands used to provide supported housing for refugees. These funds are therefore not available for spending.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are held separately within the accounts and are spent within the time-frame indicated by the donor, which may cover more than one financial year. Restricted funds were £109,231 on 31 March 2025.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees (who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Members of the charitable company guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The trustees are company members but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

Independent examiners

Godfrey Wilson Limited were re-appointed as independent examiners to the charitable company during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

Approved by the trustees on 12 August 2025 and signed on their behalf by

Kimberlee Lynn Carstensen

Kimberlee Carstensen, Chair

Independent examiner's report

To the trustees of

Borderlands (South West) Limited

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Borderlands (South West) Limited (the charitable company) for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 18 to 30.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charitable company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charitable company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charitable company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charitable company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), which is one of the listed bodies.

Godfrey Wilson Limited also provides bookkeeping and payroll services to the charitable company. I confirm that as a member of the ICAEW I am subject to the FRC's Revised Ethical Standard 2016, which I have applied with respect to this engagement.

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 charitable company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Independent examiner's report

To the trustees of

Borderlands (South West) Limited

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.

Dougal Howard

Date: 18 August 2025

Dougal Howard ACA

Member of the ICAEW

For and on behalf of:

Godfrey Wilson Limited

Chartered accountants and statutory auditors

5th Floor Mariner House

62 Prince Street

Bristol

BS1 4QD

Borderlands (South West) Limited**Statement of financial activities** *(incorporating an income and expenditure account)***For the year ended 31 March 2025**

	Note	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	250,804	147,206	398,010	260,988
Charitable activities	4	-	12,000	12,000	12,264
Investments		-	3,463	3,463	2,556
Total income		<u>250,804</u>	<u>162,669</u>	<u>413,473</u>	<u>275,808</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		-	22,639	22,639	21,485
Charitable activities		<u>206,263</u>	<u>70,189</u>	<u>276,452</u>	<u>274,636</u>
Total expenditure	6	<u>206,263</u>	<u>92,828</u>	<u>299,091</u>	<u>296,121</u>
Net income / (expenditure) and net movement in funds	7	44,541	69,841	114,382	(20,313)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		<u>64,690</u>	<u>275,481</u>	<u>340,171</u>	<u>360,484</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u><u>109,231</u></u>	<u><u>345,322</u></u>	<u><u>454,553</u></u>	<u><u>340,171</u></u>

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 15 to the accounts.

Borderlands (South West) Limited**Balance sheet****As at 31 March 2025**

	Note	£	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets	10		<u>198,153</u>	<u>205,739</u>
Current assets				
Debtors	11	13,203		47,114
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>292,297</u>		<u>161,144</u>
		305,500		208,258
Liabilities				
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	12	<u>(30,350)</u>		<u>(30,076)</u>
Net current assets			<u>275,150</u>	<u>178,182</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			473,303	383,921
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than 1 year	13		<u>(18,750)</u>	<u>(43,750)</u>
Net assets	14		<u>454,553</u>	<u>340,171</u>
Funds	15			
Restricted funds			109,231	64,690
Unrestricted funds				
General funds			<u>345,322</u>	<u>275,481</u>
Total charity funds			<u>454,553</u>	<u>340,171</u>

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to the audit of the financial statements for the period by virtue of section 477(2), and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) ensuring that the Company keeps proper accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act; and
- (ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the trustees on 12 August 2025 and signed on their behalf by

Kimberlee Lynn Carstensen

Kimberlee Carstensen, Chair

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

Borderlands (South West) Limited is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. The registered office address is The Assisi Centre, Lawfords Gate, Bristol, BS5 0RE.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Borderlands (South West) Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b) Going concern basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the charity is able to continue as a going concern, which the trustees consider appropriate having regard to the current level of unrestricted reserves and confirmed future funding. There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

c) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from the government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

d) Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item, is probable and the economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

e) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity: this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

f) Funds accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

g) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

h) Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity, including the costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements and any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities. These costs have been allocated in full to the cost of charitable activities in both the current and prior year, on the basis that the charity has not expended any significant resources towards fundraising this year, outside of the staff time and consultancy already allocated.

i) Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Freehold property	50 years
Furniture and equipment	4 years

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £500.

j) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

k) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

l) Creditors

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

m) Concessionary loans

The charitable company is in receipt of concessionary loans for furtherance of their charitable activities. Concessionary loans are recognised when the commitment is entered into and the relevant loan documentation has been completed. The loans are initially recognised and measured at the amount received, with the carrying amount adjusted in subsequent years to reflect repayments and if necessary any accrued interest.

n) Financial instruments

The charitable company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently recognised at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

o) Pension costs

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees. There are no further liabilities other than that already recognised in the SOFA.

p) Accounting estimates and key judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The key sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are described below.

Depreciation

As described in note 1i to the financial statements, depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

2. Statement of financial activities: prior period comparatives

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2024 Total £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	157,506	103,482	260,988
Charitable activities	-	12,264	12,264
Investments	-	2,556	2,556
Total income	<u>157,506</u>	<u>118,302</u>	<u>275,808</u>
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	-	21,485	21,485
Charitable activities	195,147	79,489	274,636
Total expenditure	<u>195,147</u>	<u>100,974</u>	<u>296,121</u>
Net income / (expenditure) and net movement in funds	<u>(37,641)</u>	<u>17,328</u>	<u>(20,313)</u>

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2025 Total £
Companies and trusts	250,348	82,764	333,112
Individuals	456	62,191	62,647
Gifts in kind	-	1,001	1,001
Gift aid	-	1,250	1,250
Total income from donations and legacies	<u>250,804</u>	<u>147,206</u>	<u>398,010</u>

Gift in kind income relates to donations of food items for the benefit of service users.

Prior period comparative:

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2024 Total £
Companies and trusts	157,506	66,224	223,730
Individuals	-	35,764	35,764
Gift aid	-	1,494	1,494
Total income from donations and legacies	<u>157,506</u>	<u>103,482</u>	<u>260,988</u>

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

4. Income from charitable activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Rental income	12,000	12,000
Other charitable activities	-	264
	<u>12,000</u>	<u>12,264</u>

All income from charitable activities is unrestricted.

5. Government grants

The charitable company receives government grants, defined as funding from Bristol City Council, South Gloucestershire Council, and the Bristol Impact Fund 2 to fund charitable activities. The total value of such grants in the period ending 31 March 2025 was £53,409 (2024: £55,381 from Bristol City Council, South Gloucestershire Council, and the Bristol Impact Fund 2). There are no unfulfilled conditions or contingencies attaching to these grants in 2024-25.

6. Total expenditure

	Raising funds £	Charitable activities £	Support and governance costs £	2025 Total £
Staff costs (note 8)	8,239	168,849	12,917	190,005
Other staff costs	-	-	4,821	4,821
Project delivery costs	-	33,948	-	33,948
Other project costs	-	2,436	-	2,436
Premises costs	-	10,775	9,401	20,176
Insurance	-	-	1,361	1,361
Accountancy	-	-	10,449	10,449
Consultancy	14,400	-	2,400	16,800
Admin costs	-	872	8,779	9,651
Depreciation	-	-	9,444	9,444
	<u>22,639</u>	<u>216,880</u>	<u>59,572</u>	<u>299,091</u>
Sub-total	22,639	216,880	59,572	299,091
Allocation of support and governance costs	-	59,572	(59,572)	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>59,572</u>	<u>(59,572)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total expenditure	<u>22,639</u>	<u>276,452</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>299,091</u>

Total governance costs were £2,520 (2024: £2,400).

Borderlands (South West) Limited**Notes to the financial statements****For the year ended 31 March 2025**

6. Total expenditure (continued)**Prior year comparative**

	Raising funds £	Charitable activities £	Support and governance costs £	2024 Total £
Staff costs (note 8)	10,973	162,040	14,070	187,083
Other staff costs	-	-	4,930	4,930
Drop-in costs	-	33,042	-	33,042
Other project costs	-	4,699	-	4,699
Premises costs	-	11,310	8,880	20,190
Insurance	-	-	2,547	2,547
Accountancy	-	-	10,732	10,732
Consultancy	10,512	-	1,200	11,712
Admin costs	-	833	10,697	11,530
Depreciation	-	-	9,656	9,656
Sub-total	21,485	211,924	62,712	296,121
Allocation of support and governance costs	-	62,712	(62,712)	-
Total expenditure	21,485	274,636	-	296,121

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

7. Net movement in funds

This is stated after charging:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Depreciation	9,444	9,656
Trustees' remuneration	Nil	Nil
Trustees' reimbursed expenses	Nil	Nil
Independent examiner's remuneration (excluding VAT):		
▪ Independent examination	2,100	2,000
▪ Other services	6,607	5,785
	<u>6,607</u>	<u>5,785</u>

8. Staff costs and numbers

Staff costs were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries and wages	178,201	174,830
Social security costs	8,710	8,821
Pension costs	3,094	3,432
	<u>190,005</u>	<u>187,083</u>

No employee earned more than £60,000 during the current or prior year.

The key management personnel of the charitable company comprised the Trustees, CEO and Interim CEO. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel were £58,101 (2024: Trustees, CEO and Interim CEO, £56,613).

	2025	2024
	No.	No.
Average head count	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>

9. Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Furniture & equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2024	238,500	19,211	257,711
Additions	-	1,867	1,867
Disposals	-	(410)	(410)
	<u>238,500</u>	<u>20,668</u>	<u>259,168</u>
At 31 March 2025			
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2024	38,160	13,812	51,972
Charge for the year	4,770	4,674	9,444
Disposals	-	(401)	(401)
	<u>42,930</u>	<u>18,085</u>	<u>61,015</u>
At 31 March 2025			
Net book value			
At 31 March 2025	<u>195,570</u>	<u>2,583</u>	<u>198,153</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>200,340</u>	<u>5,399</u>	<u>205,739</u>

11. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Prepayments	3,203	3,639
Other debtors	-	1,494
Accrued income	10,000	41,981
	<u>13,203</u>	<u>47,114</u>

12. Creditors : amounts due within 1 year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	1,052	2,139
Loans	25,000	25,000
Accruals	3,992	2,272
Pensions payable	306	665
	<u>30,350</u>	<u>30,076</u>

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

13. Creditors : amounts due after 1 year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Loans	<u>18,750</u>	<u>43,750</u>

The loan is a 10 year loan from a former trustee for purchase of a residential property, secured by a legal mortgage over the property. The loan commenced in 2017 and is repayable at £25,000 per annum. No interest is charged.

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	198,153	198,153
Current assets	109,231	196,269	305,500
Current liabilities	-	(30,350)	(30,350)
Non-current liabilities	-	<u>(18,750)</u>	<u>(18,750)</u>
Net assets at 31 March 2025	<u>109,231</u>	<u>345,322</u>	<u>454,553</u>
Prior period comparatives			
	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	205,739	205,739
Current assets	64,690	143,568	208,258
Current liabilities	-	(30,076)	(30,076)
Non-current liabilities	-	<u>(43,750)</u>	<u>(43,750)</u>
Net assets at 31 March 2024	<u>64,690</u>	<u>275,481</u>	<u>340,171</u>

Borderlands (South West) Limited**Notes to the financial statements****For the year ended 31 March 2025****15. Movements in funds**

	At 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 March 2025 £
Restricted funds				
Drop-in fund	4,221	146,435	(72,564)	78,092
Mentoring Project fund	45,721	-	(45,365)	356
Outreach work	8,048	3,500	(1,000)	10,548
Legal fund	700	-	-	700
Learning Project	6,000	39,239	(30,896)	14,343
Wellbeing activities	-	21,630	(16,820)	4,810
CEO salary costs	-	40,000	(39,618)	382
Total restricted funds	<u>64,690</u>	<u>250,804</u>	<u>(206,263)</u>	<u>109,231</u>
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	<u>275,481</u>	<u>162,669</u>	<u>(92,828)</u>	<u>345,322</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>275,481</u>	<u>162,669</u>	<u>(92,828)</u>	<u>345,322</u>
Total funds	<u><u>340,171</u></u>	<u><u>413,473</u></u>	<u><u>(299,091)</u></u>	<u><u>454,553</u></u>

Purposes of restricted funds

Drop-in fund	We received grants from a range of funders to support our Drop-in (Welcome Centre), including food provision, social and wellbeing activities. Funders included Bristol Impact Fund 2 (Bristol City Council), The Souter Charitable Trust, John James Foundation, One Stop, Asda, National Lottery Awards for All, Arnold Clark, Bristol Local Food Fund, J&M Britton Charitable Trust, The Mbili Charitable Trust, Feeding Bristol, The Swan Mountain Trust, Migrant Help, Quartet Community Foundation – Wessex Water, and the Sir Harold Hood Charitable Trust.
Mentoring Project fund	The Mentoring Project was funded by the Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation. The funds were awarded in March 2024 and were carried forward and utilised during this period.
Outreach work	Our outreach work with asylum seekers residing in three initial accommodation hotels across Bristol was funded by Bristol City Council. A grant from University Hospitals Bristol supported social activities for hotel residents. Following the violent riots outside one of the hotel accommodations, a public fundraiser was held; proceeds were gifted to Borderlands from the GoFundMe fundraiser to support further activities for residents.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

15. Movements in funds (continued)

Legal fund	A small fund established by the trustees to support legal costs for asylum seekers and refugees in cases where public funding is unavailable, enabling access to justice.
Learning Project	The Learning Project was funded by the Quartet Community Foundation, The Nisbet Trust, The Medlock Charitable Trust, The Van Neste Foundation, and the Benefact Group. Additional funding for specific elements came from the Southall Trust for women's theatre workshops and the University of Bristol for a summer internship within the Learning Project.
Wellbeing activities	Funds raised by staff and volunteers running a marathon who requested that donations were used to fund wellbeing activities.
CEO salary costs	Funding from The Henry Smith Charity to support the CEO role.

Prior period comparatives

	At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 March 2024 £
Restricted funds				
Drop-in fund	24	75,587	(71,390)	4,221
Mentoring Project fund	53,525	43,181	(50,985)	45,721
Beach Trip fund	1,331	-	(1,331)	-
Outreach work	20,177	28,700	(40,829)	8,048
Legal fund	700	-	-	700
Learning Project	26,574	10,038	(30,612)	6,000
Total restricted funds	<u>102,331</u>	<u>157,506</u>	<u>(195,147)</u>	<u>64,690</u>
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	<u>258,153</u>	<u>118,302</u>	<u>(100,974)</u>	<u>275,481</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>258,153</u>	<u>118,302</u>	<u>(100,974)</u>	<u>275,481</u>
Total funds	<u>360,484</u>	<u>275,808</u>	<u>(296,121)</u>	<u>340,171</u>

16. Related party transactions

Included within the charity's creditors at the year end is a 10 year loan from a former trustee for the purchase of a residential property, secured by a legal mortgage over the property. The loan commenced in 2017 and is repayable at £25,000 per annum. No interest is charged on the loan. The balance outstanding on the loan at the year end is £43,750 (2024: £68,750).

The total aggregate donations from trustees during the year were £nil (2024: £100). There were no restrictions attached to these donations in the current or prior year.

BORDERLANDS (SOUTH WEST) LTD

England & Wales - Charity number 1143313

Accounts

Company no. 07607693
Charity no. 1143313

Borderlands (South West) Limited
Report and Unaudited Financial Statements
31 March 2024

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Reference and administrative details

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Company number 07607693

Charity number 1143313

Registered office and operational address
The Assisi Centre
Lawfords Gate
Bristol
BS5 0RE

Trustees Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the period and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Andrew Bent	Resigned 11 April 2023
Kimberlee Carstensen	
Patrick McAlees	
Richard McKay	Resigned 11 August 2023
Bernard Morris	
Cynthia Ochieng	
Nicholas Tarr	

Bankers

Lloyds Bank	CAF Bank Ltd
44-45 George White Street	25 Kings Hill Avenue
Cabot Circus	Kings Hill
Bristol	West Malling
BS1 3BA	Kent
	ME19 4JQ

Aldermore Bank
Western House
Lynch Wood
Peterborough
PE2 6FZ

Independent examiners
Godfrey Wilson Limited
Chartered accountants and statutory auditors
5th Floor Mariner House
62 Prince Street
Bristol
BS1 4QD

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities (effective from January 2019).

1. Structure, governance and management

Borderlands (South West) Limited is constituted as a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. Our governing documents are the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company.

New trustees are recruited by advertising and recommendation to bring new strengths and expertise, fill skill gaps and increase diversity to reflect the communities we work with. Following a selection process and appropriate background checks, new trustees are formally appointed after discussion at a meeting of existing trustees.

2. Objectives and activities

Borderlands aims to create a community of welcome which supports asylum seekers, refugees and migrants with insecure status in the Bristol area to move 'from exclusion to belonging'.

Borderlands is a charity working alongside asylum seekers, refugees, migrants with unsettled status. Established in 2011, the charity emerged from the Christian mission of St Nicholas of Tolentino Church in Easton, a deprived and diverse inner-city area. We work with people of all faiths and none. Our values of Warmth, Sharing, Dignity and Respect were informed by a wide consultation with our members (asylum seekers and refugees), staff, volunteers and trustees.

Our mission is to support people from a time of crisis when they first arrive in Bristol to a point where they can live independent lives. We have a strong focus on empowering the people we work with (our 'members') to take charge of their own lives, working alongside them and learning from them. We also advocate for a fair and humane immigration system where people seeking refuge are treated with dignity and respect. Our vision is a world where refugees and asylum seekers can seek sanctuary and justice, make full use of their talents and abilities, feel valued for their contribution and build worthwhile lives.

The purpose of Borderlands as set out in our governing document is:

- to relieve asylum seekers and refugees in need, hardship and distress by reason of their social and economic circumstances by the advancement of education, relief of poverty and the preservation and protection of good health;
- to promote social inclusion by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society; and
- to advance the education of the public regarding asylum seekers and refugees with the aim of increasing community cohesion and informing public policy.

Our members

63% of our members are asylum seekers, 25% are refugees and 12% are other vulnerable migrants including refused asylum seekers and survivors of trafficking and modern slavery. They come from many different countries including Afghanistan, Eritrea, Sudan, Somalia, Syria, Iran and Iraq.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2024

The UK asylum system forces our members into poverty and hardship, which affects their wellbeing and prevents them living a healthy life. Many have experienced traumatic events before arriving in the UK and, in many cases, are re-traumatised by the UK asylum system. They are also increasingly moved to other parts of the country at short notice, making it even more difficult to build connections and community in their new home.

The new Illegal Migration and Rwanda Acts have left our members fearful and uncertain about their future, and we have seen a huge decline in people's mental health. They fear being sent to offshore detention centres or left in limbo with no status, rights or future.

Our volunteers

A team of 139 volunteers (equivalent to 185 hours a week) plays a major role delivering our work, over a third of whom are asylum seekers and refugees. We pride ourselves in providing thorough training, supervision and support for our volunteer team. We encourage our members to volunteer with us, as this can help them to make friends, build skills and confidence and connect with their community. All 'member-volunteers' are given training and guidance for their professional development and get a reference and something to add to their CV (our volunteer chefs and kitchen assistants can also do their Food and Hygiene level 2 certificate with us).

Main activities

Welcome Centre

Our Welcome Centre is a safe, trusted hub of support and community for asylum seekers and refugees in Bristol. Open Mondays and Tuesdays at the Assisi Centre in Easton, we provide:

- a warm welcome and help for new arrivals to register as members and access our projects and wider support;
- a shared hot meal and 'social supermarket' giving people the dignity of choosing the fruit, vegetables and other groceries they want to take home;
- a social space to use the internet, have a drink, chat or read the paper, with board games and a football table;
- one-to-one problem-solving, advocating on people's behalf and referring them to relevant services;
- an art table with a safe, creative atmosphere to find some relief from fear and anxiety; and
- hosting of agencies offering specialist advice or support.

Feel Good Wednesday!

On Wednesdays we offer a range of wellbeing activities which give our members coping tools and respite from their situation. Activities include sleep and relaxation sessions, a sewing group, yoga and fitness classes and a women's cooking group. We also partner with other organisations to offer climbing, football and access to a local gym, swimming pool and exercise classes.

Mentoring Project

Our Mentoring Project provides one-to-one practical and emotional support to help asylum seekers and refugees navigate their own paths and regain control over their lives. Mentors help mentees get to know Bristol, find volunteer placements and jobs, improve conversational English, access education or training, and cope with isolation and anxiety. Most importantly, they stand in solidarity with their mentees as they navigate the complex process of claiming asylum in the UK, as well as with resettlement after they receive leave to remain.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Learning Project

Our Learning Project offers classes in English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL), focusing on pre-entry and entry level classes for people who speak little or no English as they are most at risk of isolation and exclusion. Classes are small – on average 10 students - with one volunteer teacher and 1-2 teaching assistants per class so each learner receives a lot of individual attention. We work closely with our partners in the refugee sector to coordinate ESOL provision and share training, ideas and volunteers. We also provide other learning opportunities including theatre workshops, a poetry group, employability skills, discussion groups and trips.

Outreach work

We deliver a drop-in service in initial accommodation hotels, working alongside Bristol Mind to provide listening and problem-solving support, ensure residents' basic needs are met and help them to access local services, English classes, healthcare, volunteering and social activities. We also alleviate concerns and facilitate access to our Welcome Centre and projects for people who may feel hesitant to visit.

A partnership approach

Borderlands is part of the Bristol Refugee and Asylum Seeker Partnership (BRASP) which aims to improve partnership working in the sector and promote a culture of peer support, learning and sharing best practice. The partnership includes joint members' consultation, co-production work and a common needs assessment approach to inform the activities we develop as a sector and as individual organisations. Collectively we also have a stronger campaigning and advocating voice to impact on local and wider policy-making. As well as BRASP, we play an active role in several forums including the Bristol Refugee Forum, Asylum Seeker and Refugee Wellbeing Forum and Young People's Forum.

Awareness raising and advocacy

We aim to give our members a voice and engage in awareness raising, campaigning and advocacy on a national, regional and local level, working with our BRASP partners and Bristol City of Sanctuary. We participate in social media campaigns, events such as Refugee Week and Bristol Refugee Festival, and TV and radio interviews. We also provide training in public speaking for our members so they can tell their story at events and meetings.

Housing partnership

In 2017 a private donation enabled us to buy a four-bedroom house in Stapleton, a Bristol suburb with good transport links to the centre. The house is used to provide short-term accommodation for refugees to support them in the transition to independence. Since 2022, ACH – a social housing provider with expertise in working with refugees – has taken on the management and support provision of the house, including additional support and training to enable tenants to settle and integrate.

3. Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. Borderlands delivers public benefit both directly to our members and to the wider public through improved community cohesion and inclusion and by increasing understanding of issues relating to asylum seekers and refugees.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2024

4. Achievements and Performance

Changing Context

This year saw a significant increase in the number of asylum seekers in central Bristol with the opening of two large initial accommodation hotels housing many families, which put pressure on all our services. Another hotel on the outskirts of the city, where we had been delivering outreach support, closed in March 2024. We began to witness a constant movement of people, as asylum seekers were moved on more quickly from the hotels while others arrived to replace them. There was also an uptick in people receiving refugee status, who find themselves facing homelessness as they are rapidly evicted from asylum accommodation and their financial support is stopped. We adapted quickly to meet changing needs and situations and increased demand for our services.

Welcome Centre

Our Welcome Centre helped 836 asylum seekers and refugees to make connections and build community in their new home in Bristol this year.

We hosted many different organisations to introduce our members to their services in a safe and trusted space. They included Dentaaid (a mobile dental clinic), a Covid and flu vaccination clinic, 'Alright my Liver' (NHS liver scans), Herbalists without Borders (herbal remedies), NHS Talking Therapies, IRC (an employability scheme for refugees) and Fareshare (volunteer opportunities).

Food insecurity is a big problem for our members: asylum seekers in housing struggle to feed their families on very limited financial support, and although food is provided in the hotels it is unhealthy, inappropriate and insufficient, especially for children. We expanded our weekly hot meal and social supermarket to benefit around 150 people and their families each week.

At Borderlands, food has always played a key role in fostering a vibrant and inclusive community. Our shared meals provided nourishment throughout the year while fostering social connections and friendships, and our volunteer chefs delighted us each week with their culinary expertise and cherished recipes from many different cultures.

After careful consideration and consultation, we introduced a needs assessment for our social supermarket, ensuring asylum seekers in housing have fair access while still supporting people in hotels. Refugees are given a limited time to use the service, during which we offer tailored support to help them to build independence. We have also split the 'supermarket' into two rooms to cater for those with and without cooking facilities, which helps to maintain a safe and calm space.

Asylum seekers residing in hotels have no cooking facilities and often tell us they miss cooking and eating together. A big highlight of the year was the launch of our community cooking groups (14 sessions in total), which enabled families and friends to cook and share food together using our kitchen. The joy and connection during these gatherings was heart-warming; participants experienced a sense of empowerment and belonging, with one likening the experience to "home." One member said: *"We enjoy the cooking, we miss our kitchen so much and after so long we cook and we enjoy it and we do it again. Our kids will be so happy to have these dishes!"*

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Feel Good Wednesday!

Our wellbeing project blossomed this year, supporting 140 members with weekly 'feel good' activities including:

- sleep and relaxation sessions facilitated by the Hope: Asylum Seekers and Refugees Trauma Service;
- a weekly sewing group through Bridges for Communities Stitch Together programme, enabling women to create beautiful textile-based art, practise English, make friends and gain confidence;
- weekly yoga and fitness classes, both taught by members;
- a new cooking group where women cook together and share nutritious snacks, providing a sense of freedom and independence that is taken away in the asylum system; and
- new member-led initiatives including a nail bar, a dance class and a barber.

The project also expanded out of Wednesdays with three partnerships including:

- weekly football working with St. Paul's Community Sports Academy, with the goal of establishing a Borderlands team to compete in an upcoming community cup;
- climbing classes in collaboration with the Mothership Gym, to enjoy learning new skills and feel a sense of accomplishment; and
- a partnership with Easton Leisure Centre offering our members free access to the gym, pool and some exercise classes.

Mentoring Project

This year we increased the capacity and reach of our Mentoring Project, training and supporting 54 volunteer mentors to empower 68 mentees to achieve some personal goals over 6-9 months. Mentors met mentees once a week for at least an hour and were available at agreed times via phone/social media if needed. Mentees' goals included navigating the asylum system; improving mental health; creating CVs and practicing interview skills; understanding entitlements; accessing education and healthcare; and exploring volunteer and employment opportunities.

Of the partnerships which ended this year:

- 56% of mentees said they achieved all their goals and 44% partially achieved their goals;
- 97% improved their English;
- 44% found volunteer placements;
- 52% went into education or training, including with Bristol University, City of Bristol College, Bristol Wood Recycling Project, the Amnesty Bookshop and Bristol Museum; and
- 25% moved into more secure housing / made progress with their housing issues.

Most mentees were asylum seekers and not allowed to work, but 37% made progress towards finding employment on securing refugee status. Of those permitted to work, 50% found jobs including as translators, tailors and carers.

L had the goal of improving her housing, which was very damp and worsening her health condition. She also wanted help navigating the disability benefits system and challenging a negative decision. With the help of her mentor, L was able to advocate for herself, speak on the phone to her solicitor, and write regularly to the council about her housing situation. As a result, she received the benefits she was entitled to, and the council took action to resolve the damp in the house. At the final mentoring meeting, L said: "*She [the mentor] told me you can speak, you can write, you can do. She pushed me and gave me more confidence....Now I feel who I am.*"

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2024

We had planned to re-launch our Peer Mentoring this year, having adapted the project to meet the current needs of asylum seekers new to Bristol. This was delayed due to an influx of referrals to the main project and a changeover of staff, but we aim to get peer mentoring off the ground in 2024-25. Finally, we continued to meet regularly with our network of six refugee mentoring projects from across the UK to share resources and learning.

Learning Project

Our Learning Project saw remarkable growth this year in response to an increase in referrals from the new hotels. We provided nine English classes per week in our Welcome Centre, empowering 306 asylum seekers and refugees to navigate a new culture, make friends, access opportunities and feel a sense of belonging in a new city. From September, we also successfully trialled running 2-4 English classes a week in the hotels, providing around 150 asylum seekers with basic English so they could find their way around the city.

"I am happy. Lessons are interesting. The class is friendly. I am confident. My English is getting better. My vocabulary is increasing. My teacher is good."

"Borderlands is like a family. It doesn't feel like students and teachers but everyone together. I remember this from the first time that I came here."

As well as English classes, we offered the following learning opportunities for our members:

- a series of 12 theatre workshops for women facilitated by a theatre practitioner followed by two 'sharings', enabling 29 women to develop theatre skills and use drama to explore issues important to them, practise their English and form connections;
- a weekly poetry class, in partnership with The Reader, allowing 45 members to explore different writers and ideas while improving their English vocabulary and oral skills;
- a hugely popular maths class, in collaboration with CURO, equipping 26 members with skills to progress in their studies and professional lives; and
- a member-led discussion group called 'Sharing Stories' in which 13 participants brought examples of their own culture to share, with each week centred around a theme such as music, festivals or recipes. Participants were able to celebrate their own experiences and learn from others, deepening understanding and facilitating cultural exchange.

Outreach project

We expanded our outreach efforts this year, working with Bristol Mind to run a weekly drop-in service for asylum seekers in two central Bristol hotels and one hotel on the outskirts of the city, supporting 725 individuals and families. We provided listening and signposting support, combining Borderlands' experience supporting asylum seekers with Bristol Mind's expertise in mental health, and let people know about our Welcome Centre and other support services in the sector.

Our model was to first ensure residents' basic needs were met, including phones and sim cards (with free data and calls), clothing, healthcare and legal support. We then helped people to meet their social and wider needs including referrals into language classes and volunteering, educational opportunities, mental health support, leisure activities and navigating the city (including accessing bikes). We also collaboratively developed activities for residents in the hotels including football, fitness classes, guided walks and after-school clubs for children.

We attended regular interagency meetings and created a good working relationship with hotel management to ensure residents were supported and received the most up-to-date information and to raise their concerns.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Special events and trips

We organised many events, trips and socials through the year to help to engage our members with their local community and reduce feelings of isolation. They included:

- a summer beach trip to Exmouth for 55 members – a chance to get out of Bristol, enjoy the beautiful Devon coast and fresh sea air, relax and get to know each other;
- two trips to Westbury Wildlife Park for Learning Project participants to enjoy the tranquillity of nature and take part in an art project;
- taking our women's theatre group to see Arabian Nights at the Bristol Old Vic and a Sudanese festival, making these cultural events accessible; and
- an Eid celebration with our partners at the Trinity Centre in Easton for around 150 asylum seekers and refugees, featuring wonderful food, children's activities, and lively music and dance.

Strengthening our partnerships

In such complex and hostile times for asylum seekers and refugees, we believe it is important that we stand united alongside them. We intensified our partnership efforts in 2023-24, collaborating with the local refugee sector to coordinate support throughout the city and strengthen our advocacy and campaigning efforts. With our BRASP partners, we started a joint project to create a service mapping website to improve interagency referrals in Bristol and create a more coordinated welcome for new arrivals.

Awareness raising and campaigning

Much of our campaigning/awareness raising work this year was focused on the new bills being passed through parliament and changes in policy. This included calling for the government to scrap the cruel and unlawful Rwanda scheme and the short-lived Home Office policy of evicting new refugees from their asylum accommodation within seven days which caused a huge rise in homelessness. We ran joint social media campaigns with Together with Refugees, held stalls at several events and gave interviews with BBC Radio Bristol, ITV and Channel 4 (on the Bibby Stockholm, food poverty and destitution).

Member participation

Our Welcome and Members Participation Officer (WAMPO) – a refugee herself - led our Welcome Desk throughout the year alongside a team of member-volunteers. This meant the first interaction new members had with Borderlands was with a person with lived experience, helping to give them confidence and a feeling of ownership over the space. Most of the activities in our Welcome Centre were delivered by a team of member-volunteers, providing 82 volunteering opportunities for asylum seekers and refugees. We consulted with our members in the following ways this year:

- our WAMPO worked with women attending wellbeing activities on Wednesdays to gather feedback and suggestions;
- a consultation on how to improve our social supermarket to best meet members' needs and ensure fair distribution of food (using visuals as many of our members do not speak much English);
- quarterly member-volunteer team meetings to discuss how we are delivering activities and suggest improvements;
- a members survey and member-volunteers survey, both of which elicited suggestions for new activities, changes and improvements; and
- a focus group with members interested in being peer mentors, to explore how to best meet the needs of new arrivals and training, resources and support needed.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2024

We had hoped to create an advisory board of experienced members to feed into our governance, but it has been difficult to engage our members at this level, especially with the constant movement of people. This is still a priority, and we continue to explore ways members can input into strategic decisions.

Key personnel changes

Our longstanding Chair of Trustees, Richard McKay, stepped down in August 2023. An existing Trustee, Kimberlee Carstensen, a solicitor with extensive experience in equipping people with advocacy, negotiation and arbitration skills, was selected as our new Chair to guide Borderlands in our next strategic and developmental chapter.

Our CEO, Susanna Revolti, went on maternity leave in August 2023, and after careful consideration the trustees offered the Interim CEO position to Caitlin Plunkett. Caitlin brought relevant experience of working as our Operations Manager as well as in international development, humanitarian aid and support work with refugees.

Developing our organisation

Following a comprehensive governance review and finalising of our new strategy last year, we continued to strengthen our governance, finances and staff team in the following ways this year:

- support from Lloyds Bank Foundation to work with an expert in charity finance to help improve our financial reporting and increase financial stability;
- upskilling our staff team, including training in creating trauma-informed spaces, suicide first aid, inter-agency safeguarding, dealing with challenging behaviour and new Home Office regulations and policies;
- integrating our strategic plan with our budget and fundraising plans; and
- improving the way we measure our impact to demonstrate value for money to our funders.

Our impact

The table below describes the outcomes and long-term goals we want to achieve with our work. We aim to foster a supportive and inclusive environment where asylum seekers and refugees can find connection and empowerment in their new home. Our model is to enable our members to move from intensive support to independence.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Activities and services we provide	Short and medium term outcomes: changes that will start the journey	Long term outcomes: changes that will help us to bring about our goal	Our long term goal: the world we want to see
<p>A Welcome Centre offering community, food, shared activities and practical support.</p> <p>Mentoring Project.</p> <p>Learning Project.</p> <p>Wellbeing activities.</p> <p>Outreach support in hotels.</p> <p>Signposting and referrals to other services.</p> <p>Hosting of other agencies.</p>	<p>Members have the knowledge and information they need to advocate for themselves and their rights.</p> <p>Their basic needs are met (food, a hot meal, SIM card/phone).</p> <p>They have a chance to learn / improve their English.</p> <p>They have developed a network and a community.</p> <p>They know how to access education, jobs and volunteering opportunities.</p> <p>They have access to health care and mental health support.</p>	<p>People have moved on - they have jobs, a community, education, opportunity.</p> <p>New members hear positive stories and have positive experiences, feel welcome and safe.</p> <p>A diverse range of people have equitable access to our services and those of other agencies.</p> <p>Volunteers have opportunities to understand and learn in a professional environment.</p> <p>People have choice and dignity; they have developed confidence and self-esteem; they have a sense of purpose.</p>	<p>People can become independent and live in a compassionate, just and understanding community.</p> <p>They can find safety, have their basic needs met and integrate into society.</p> <p>Borderlands is a model of how to welcome and support asylum seekers and refugees, working effectively with our partners.</p>

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2024

The table below summarises the number of members we supported this year with each project:

Project / activity	Number of individuals supported
Welcome Centre / Drop-in	836
Feel Good Wednesday	140
Mentoring Project	68
Learning Project	456
Outreach work	725
Volunteering opportunities	82

In a survey of our members in December 2023 with 39 respondents:

- 25% said Borderlands has helped them to feel more in control and independent;
- 89% feel part of our community and have made more friends;
- 76% said Borderlands has helped them feel more supported; and
- 51% feel a lot more confident.

“I have made many friends. We communicate with many people from different cultures. We have the opportunity at Borderlands to create community. That’s our great achievement. It’s great to connect people from different nationalities, backgrounds, and cultures.” (Member)

In a survey of member-volunteers in December 2023:

- 86% said they feel very much part of Borderlands community;
- 86% felt more confident speaking English and had learnt new skills; and
- 71% felt very confident suggesting new activities and giving their opinion.

“When I came to Borderlands the staff were very welcoming.....I decided to volunteer, and when I started I felt everyone wanted to help me to progress.... When I arrived as asylum seeker without anyone, I felt Borderlands like part of a big family.” (Member-volunteer)

“I have been volunteering at Borderlands for 5 months now, I am very happy, they are very nice. I would not have known about the opportunity but they visited my hotel and told me. Now I am not bored in my room all the time.” (Member-volunteer)

Case study

Below are two examples of how we supported and empowered our members on their journey toward independence and inclusion this year:

K, an asylum seeker volunteering in our social supermarket, expressed interest in gaining work experience as a chef, so we signposted him to a 12-week intensive cooking training with Migrateful. K was accepted on to the programme where he learnt how to manage a team in a busy kitchen environment and completed his Level 2 Food Hygiene Certificate. He is now using his new skills volunteering as a chef at Borderlands and sharing his knowledge with our kitchen volunteers, and has qualifications and experience to carry into a career in the restaurant industry upon receiving refugee status.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2024

When M started coming to Borderlands, she had limited English, lacked confidence and struggled to connect with others. Initially M started accessing our social supermarket and weekly hot meal, which alleviated her hardship and allowed her to make friends and gain confidence. M then became a Borderlands volunteer and started to take ownership of the space, welcoming new members and gaining new skills. Within a year, M began attending our weekly yoga and sewing classes which had a significant impact on her wellbeing. She also gained the confidence to join our English classes and poetry group, which she quickly excelled in. Through our services M has grown from someone who was very socially isolated to being fully engaged with her community.

5. Future plans

Looking ahead, we are committed to continuously evolving and adapting our services to meet the changing needs of our members. Amidst increasing hostility towards people seeking safety in the UK, we will continue to work tirelessly with our partners for a welcoming and safe environment. Our priorities for the coming year include:

- launch our Peer Mentoring scheme, in which asylum seekers and refugees who have taken part in our Mentoring Project will provide emotional and practical support for new arrivals;
- develop our Learning Project, including introducing a new Employability programme and recruiting a part-time Learning Navigator to help members plan their educational journey;
- work with our partners to improve our outreach for asylum seekers in housing across the city, who often struggle to access support. This may involve establishing a single welcome point with signposting to all relevant services; and
- continue to strengthen our governance and improve member participation, including recruiting trustees with lived experience of the UK asylum system and exploring new ways our members can input into strategic decisions.

Thank you

We extend our gratitude to all who have contributed to our work. Our funders this year included the Henry Smith Charity, Albert Gubay Foundation, Bristol City Council, South Gloucestershire Council, John James Bristol Foundation, Postcode Local Trust, Household Support Fund, Medlock Trust, Nisbet Trust and others, including those who prefer to be anonymous. We are also grateful to the individuals, local businesses, social enterprises and charities who have made donations. Last but not least, thank you to our wonderful members, volunteers, partners and staff who are the heart and the soul of this organisation.

6. Financial review

Our Accounts for 2023-24 show income of £275,808 and expenditure of £296,121. The deficit of £20,313 was mostly covered by restricted funds brought forward from the previous year. Expenditure increased by 8% from 2022-23 owing to staff pay rises, higher food costs and increased staff hours. 61% of income came from Trusts and Foundations, 20% from local authorities, 14% from individual donations and 4% from rental income. 63% of expenditure was on salary-related costs for our team of three full-time and five part-time staff (6 FTE).

We currently have three multi-year grants from the Henry Smith Charity, Bristol Impact Fund and Albert Gubay Foundation; the latter finishes at the end of 2024. We aim to secure more multi-year funding in the coming year to build sustainability as we develop and grow our work.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Reserves policy

General reserves

The Trustees have a General Reserves Policy which follows Charity Commission guidance. This protects our operations and essential services from the potential risk of disruption at short notice due to a lack of funds while ensuring Borderlands does not retain excessive reserves. The policy takes into account operating expenses and maintenance of essential services in the event of a downturn in income and/or unforeseen increases in costs. It also takes account of the contractual obligations to our employees and the costs of closure or wind-down of our core operations.

We aim to maintain general (free) reserves at between four and six months' expenditure, which the Trustees consider to be an appropriate level for Borderlands. The basis of determining our target reserves level is kept under periodic review and will be adjusted as perceptions of risk and other factors change. The charity's net current assets were £178,182 on 31 March 2024, of which £113,492 were general reserves. Our forecast expenditure for 2024-25 is £322,284, so free reserves represent approximately four months' costs, going forward. The basis of determining the target reserves level is kept under periodic review and will be adjusted as perceptions of risk and other factors change.

Please note: a proportion of unrestricted funds on the balance sheet relates to a house owned by Borderlands used to provide supported housing for refugees. These funds are therefore capital and not revenue.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are held separately within the accounts and are spent within the time-frame indicated by the donor, which may cover more than one financial year. Restricted funds were £64,690 on 31 March 2024.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees (who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Members of the charitable company guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The trustees are company members but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

Independent examiners

Godfrey Wilson Limited were re-appointed as independent examiners to the charitable company during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

Approved by the trustees on 1 October 2024 and signed on their behalf by

Kimberlee Lynn Carstensen

Kimberlee Carstensen, Chair

Independent examiner's report

To the trustees of

Borderlands (South West) Limited

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Borderlands (South West) Limited (the charitable company) for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 17 to 29.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charitable company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charitable company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charitable company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charitable company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), which is one of the listed bodies.

Godfrey Wilson Limited also provides bookkeeping and payroll services to the charitable company. I confirm that as a member of the ICAEW I am subject to the FRC's Revised Ethical Standard 2016, which I have applied with respect to this engagement.

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 charitable company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Independent examiner's report

To the trustees of

Borderlands (South West) Limited

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.

Dougal Howard

Date: 1 October 2024

Dougal Howard ACA

Member of the ICAEW

For and on behalf of:

Godfrey Wilson Limited

Chartered accountants and statutory auditors

5th Floor Mariner House

62 Prince Street

Bristol

BS1 4QD

Borderlands (South West) Limited**Statement of financial activities** *(incorporating an income and expenditure account)***For the year ended 31 March 2024**

	Note	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	157,506	103,482	260,988	304,096
Charitable activities	4	-	12,264	12,264	10,421
Investments		-	2,556	2,556	843
Total income		<u>157,506</u>	<u>118,302</u>	<u>275,808</u>	<u>315,360</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		-	21,485	21,485	23,325
Charitable activities		<u>195,147</u>	<u>79,489</u>	<u>274,636</u>	<u>250,682</u>
Total expenditure	6	<u>195,147</u>	<u>100,974</u>	<u>296,121</u>	<u>274,007</u>
Net income / (expenditure) and net movement in funds	7	(37,641)	17,328	(20,313)	41,353
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		<u>102,331</u>	<u>258,153</u>	<u>360,484</u>	<u>319,131</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u><u>64,690</u></u>	<u><u>275,481</u></u>	<u><u>340,171</u></u>	<u><u>360,484</u></u>

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 15 to the accounts.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Balance sheet

As at 31 March 2024

	Note	£	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets	10		<u>205,739</u>	<u>216,088</u>
Current assets				
Debtors	11	47,114		44,353
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>161,144</u>		<u>200,272</u>
		208,258		244,625
Liabilities				
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	12	<u>(30,076)</u>		<u>(31,479)</u>
Net current assets			<u>178,182</u>	<u>213,146</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			383,921	429,234
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than 1 year	13		<u>(43,750)</u>	<u>(68,750)</u>
Net assets	14		<u><u>340,171</u></u>	<u><u>360,484</u></u>
Funds	15			
Restricted funds			64,690	102,331
Unrestricted funds				
General funds			<u>275,481</u>	<u>258,153</u>
Total charity funds			<u><u>340,171</u></u>	<u><u>360,484</u></u>

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to the audit of the financial statements for the period by virtue of section 477(2), and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) ensuring that the Company keeps proper accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act; and
- (ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the trustees on 1 October 2024 and signed on their behalf by

Kimberlee Lynn Carstensen

Kimberlee Carstensen, Chair

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

Borderlands (South West) Limited is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. The registered office address is The Assisi Centre, Lawfords Gate, Bristol, BS5 0RE.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Borderlands (South West) Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b) Going concern basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the charity is able to continue as a going concern, which the trustees consider appropriate having regard to the current level of unrestricted reserves and confirmed future funding. There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

c) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from the government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

d) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity: this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

e) Funds accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Accounting policies (continued)

f) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

g) Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity, including the costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements and any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities. These costs have been allocated in full to the cost of charitable activities this year, on the basis that the charity has not expended any significant resources towards fundraising this year, outside of the staff time already allocated.

h) Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Freehold property	50 years
Furniture and equipment	4 years

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £500.

i) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

j) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

k) Creditors

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

l) Concessionary loans

The charitable company is in receipt of concessionary loans for furtherance of their charitable activities. Concessionary loans are recognised when the commitment is entered into and the relevant loan documentation has been completed. The loans are initially recognised and measured at the amount received, with the carrying amount adjusted in subsequent years to reflect repayments and if necessary any accrued interest.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Accounting policies (continued)

m) Financial instruments

The charitable company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently recognised at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

n) Pension costs

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees. There are no further liabilities other than that already recognised in the SOFA.

o) Accounting estimates and key judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The key sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are described below.

Depreciation

As described in note 1h to the financial statements, depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

2. Statement of financial activities: prior period comparatives

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2023 Total £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	174,317	129,779	304,096
Charitable activities	-	10,421	10,421
Investments	-	843	843
Total income	174,317	141,043	315,360
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	-	23,325	23,325
Charitable activities	157,826	92,856	250,682
Total expenditure	157,826	116,181	274,007
Net income	16,491	24,862	41,353
Transfers between funds	(7,500)	7,500	-
Net movement in funds	8,991	32,362	41,353

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2024 Total £
Companies and trusts	157,506	66,224	223,730
Individuals	-	35,764	35,764
Gift aid	-	1,494	1,494
Total income from donations and legacies	157,506	103,482	260,988
Prior period comparative:			
	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2023 Total £
Companies and trusts	174,317	91,799	266,116
Individuals	-	36,085	36,085
Gift aid	-	1,895	1,895
Total income from donations and legacies	174,317	129,779	304,096

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

4. Income from charitable activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Rental income	12,000	9,990
Other charitable activities	264	431
	<u>12,264</u>	<u>10,421</u>

All income from charitable activities is unrestricted.

5. Government grants

The charitable company receives government grants, defined as funding from Bristol City Council, South Gloucestershire Council, and the Bristol Impact Fund 2 to fund charitable activities. The total value of such grants in the period ending 31 March 2024 was £55,381 (2023: £56,582 from Bristol City Council, South Gloucestershire Council, the Bristol Impact Fund 2 and the Household Support fund). There are no unfulfilled conditions or contingencies attaching to these grants in 2023-24.

6. Total expenditure

	Raising funds £	Charitable activities £	Support and governance costs £	2024 Total £
Staff costs (note 8)	10,973	162,040	14,070	187,083
Other staff costs	-	-	4,930	4,930
Project delivery costs	-	33,042	-	33,042
Other project costs	-	4,699	-	4,699
Premises costs	-	11,310	8,880	20,190
Insurance	-	-	2,547	2,547
Accountancy	-	-	10,732	10,732
Consultancy	10,512	-	1,200	11,712
Admin costs	-	833	10,697	11,530
Depreciation	-	-	9,656	9,656
	<u>21,485</u>	<u>211,924</u>	<u>62,712</u>	<u>296,121</u>
Sub-total	21,485	211,924	62,712	296,121
Allocation of support and governance costs	-	62,712	(62,712)	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>62,712</u>	<u>(62,712)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total expenditure	<u>21,485</u>	<u>274,636</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>296,121</u>

Total governance costs were £2,400 (2023: £2,040).

Borderlands (South West) Limited**Notes to the financial statements****For the year ended 31 March 2024****6. Total expenditure (continued)****Prior year comparative**

	Raising funds £	Charitable activities (restated) £	Support and governance costs (restated) £	2023 Total £
Staff costs (note 8)	10,487	140,350	11,740	162,577
Other staff costs	-	-	7,735	7,735
Drop-in costs	-	11,630	-	11,630
Mentoring consultancy	-	696	-	696
Other project costs	-	6,449	-	6,449
Premises costs (restated)	-	17,056	8,730	25,786
Insurance	-	-	1,560	1,560
Accountancy	-	-	9,952	9,952
Consultancy	12,838	-	3,750	16,588
Legal expenses	-	-	500	500
Admin costs	-	1,590	18,263	19,853
Depreciation	-	-	10,681	10,681
Sub-total	23,325	177,771	72,911	274,007
Allocation of support and governance costs	-	72,911	(72,911)	-
Total expenditure	23,325	250,682	-	274,007

A restatement has been made to correct a portion of premises costs that have been considered as directly attributable to charitable activities. This has no effect on the total expenditure or movement in funds shown in the 2023 accounts.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

7. Net movement in funds

This is stated after charging:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Depreciation	9,656	10,681
Trustees' remuneration	Nil	Nil
Trustees' reimbursed expenses	Nil	Nil
Independent examiner's remuneration (excluding VAT):		
▪ Independent examination	2,000	1,700
▪ Other services	5,785	6,171
	<u>5,785</u>	<u>6,171</u>

8. Staff costs and numbers

Staff costs were as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Salaries and wages	174,830	152,420
Social security costs	8,821	7,300
Pension costs	3,432	2,857
	<u>187,083</u>	<u>162,577</u>

No employee earned more than £60,000 during the current or prior year.

The key management personnel of the charitable company comprised the Trustees, CEO and Interim CEO. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel were £56,613 (2023: Trustees and CEO, £35,160).

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
Average head count	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>

9. Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Furniture & equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2023	238,500	26,900	265,400
Disposals	<u>-</u>	<u>(7,689)</u>	<u>(7,689)</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>238,500</u>	<u>19,211</u>	<u>257,711</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	33,390	15,922	49,312
Charge for the year	4,770	4,886	9,656
Disposals	<u>-</u>	<u>(6,996)</u>	<u>(6,996)</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>38,160</u>	<u>13,812</u>	<u>51,972</u>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2024	<u>200,340</u>	<u>5,399</u>	<u>205,739</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>205,110</u>	<u>10,978</u>	<u>216,088</u>

11. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Prepayments	3,639	1,614
Other debtors	1,494	1,895
Accrued income	<u>41,981</u>	<u>40,844</u>
	<u>47,114</u>	<u>44,353</u>

12. Creditors : amounts due within 1 year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	2,139	1,336
Loans	25,000	25,000
Accruals	2,272	2,172
Pensions payable	665	484
Other taxation and social security	<u>-</u>	<u>2,487</u>
	<u>30,076</u>	<u>31,479</u>

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

13. Creditors : amounts due after 1 year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Loans	<u>43,750</u>	<u>68,750</u>

The loan is a 10 year loan from a former trustee for purchase of a residential property, secured by a legal mortgage over the property. The loan commenced in 2017 and is repayable at £25,000 per annum. No interest is charged.

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	205,739	205,739
Current assets	64,690	143,568	208,258
Current liabilities	-	(30,076)	(30,076)
Non-current liabilities	-	(43,750)	(43,750)
Net assets at 31 March 2024	<u>64,690</u>	<u>275,481</u>	<u>340,171</u>
Prior period comparatives			
	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	216,088	216,088
Current assets	102,331	142,294	244,625
Current liabilities	-	(31,479)	(31,479)
Non-current liabilities	-	(68,750)	(68,750)
Net assets at 31 March 2023	<u>102,331</u>	<u>258,153</u>	<u>360,484</u>

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

15. Movements in funds

	At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	At 31 March 2024 £
Restricted funds					
Drop-in fund	24	75,587	(71,390)	-	4,221
Mentoring Project fund	53,525	43,181	(50,985)	-	45,721
Beach Trip fund	1,331	-	(1,331)	-	-
Outreach work	20,177	28,700	(40,829)	-	8,048
Legal fund	700	-	-	-	700
Learning Project	<u>26,574</u>	<u>10,038</u>	<u>(30,612)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,000</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>102,331</u>	<u>157,506</u>	<u>(195,147)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>64,690</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>258,153</u>	<u>118,302</u>	<u>(100,974)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>275,481</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>258,153</u>	<u>118,302</u>	<u>(100,974)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>275,481</u>
Total funds	<u><u>360,484</u></u>	<u><u>275,808</u></u>	<u><u>(296,121)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>340,171</u></u>

Purposes of restricted funds

Drop-in fund	We received grants from various grant-making organisations to support our Drop-in / Welcome Centre, including for food provision, social and wellbeing activities. They included the Bristol Impact Fund 2 (Bristol City Council), Feeding Bristol (Household Support Fund), Bristol Churches City Fund, the Coop and a Trust that prefers to remain anonymous.
Mentoring Project fund	The Mentoring Project was funded by the Albert Gubay Foundation and Swan Mountain Trust.
Beach Trip fund	This is supported by a private restricted donation so that Borderlands can offer an annual beach trip to our members.
Outreach work	South Gloucestershire Council funded our outreach work supporting asylum seekers residing in an initial accommodation hotel in Filton and Bristol City Council funded our drop-in service in two initial accommodation hotels in Bristol.
Legal fund	A small fund established by the trustees, this provides assistance with legal costs to enable asylum-seekers and refugees to seek justice when public funds are not available.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

15. Movements in funds (continued)

Learning Project The Learning Project was funded by the John James Bristol Foundation, Medlock Charitable Trust, Leonard Laity Stoate Charitable Trust, an individual donor via Quartet Community Foundation and a Trust who wish to remain anonymous. The Yellow Wood Foundation funded our women's theatre workshops and the University of Bristol funded an internship, both within the Learning Project.

Prior period comparatives

	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	At 31 March 2023 £
Restricted funds					
Drop-in fund	-	58,296	(58,272)	-	24
Future Project fund	7,500	-	-	(7,500)	-
Mentoring Project fund	48,432	47,344	(42,251)	-	53,525
Beach Trip fund	2,038	-	(707)	-	1,331
Covid-19 support	16,600	-	(16,600)	-	-
Internet Cafe	3,000	-	(3,000)	-	-
Outreach work	8,570	20,177	(8,570)	-	20,177
Health Activities	6,000	-	(6,000)	-	-
Legal fund	1,200	-	(500)	-	700
Learning Project	-	48,500	(21,926)	-	26,574
Total restricted funds	<u>93,340</u>	<u>174,317</u>	<u>(157,826)</u>	<u>(7,500)</u>	<u>102,331</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>225,791</u>	<u>141,043</u>	<u>(116,181)</u>	<u>7,500</u>	<u>258,153</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>225,791</u>	<u>141,043</u>	<u>(116,181)</u>	<u>7,500</u>	<u>258,153</u>
Total funds	<u>319,131</u>	<u>315,360</u>	<u>(274,007)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>360,484</u>

16. Related party transactions

Included within the charity's creditors at the year end is a 10 year loan from a former trustee for the purchase of a residential property, secured by a legal mortgage over the property. The loan commenced in 2017 and is repayable at £25,000 per annum. No interest is charged on the loan. The balance outstanding on the loan at the year end is £68,750 (2023: £93,750).

The total aggregate donations from trustees during the year were £100 (2023: £300). There were no restrictions attached to these donations in the current or prior year.

BORDERLANDS (SOUTH WEST) LTD

England & Wales - Charity number 1143313

Accounts

Company no. 07607693
Charity no. 1143313

Borderlands (South West) Limited
Report and Unaudited Financial Statements
31 March 2023

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Reference and administrative details

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Company number 07607693

Charity number 1143313

Registered office and operational address The Assisi Centre
Lawfords Gate
Bristol
BS5 0RE

Trustees Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the period and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Andrew Bent	Resigned 11 April 2023
Kimberlee Carstensen	
Mary Hopper	Resigned 4 December 2022
Patrick McAlees	
Richard McKay	Resigned 11 August 2023
Bernard Morris	Appointed 5 December 2022
Cynthia Ochieng	
Nicholas Tarr	

Bankers

Co-operative Bank	CAF Bank Ltd
PO Box 250	25 Kings Hill Avenue
Delf House	Kings Hill
Southway	West Malling
Skelmersdale	Kent
WN8 6WT	ME19 4JQ

Aldermore Bank
Western House
Lynch Wood
Peterborough
PE2 6FZ

Independent examiners Godfrey Wilson Limited
Chartered accountants and statutory auditors
5th Floor Mariner House
62 Prince Street
Bristol
BS1 4QD

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities (effective from January 2019).

1. Structure, governance and management

Borderlands (South West) Limited is constituted as a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. Our governing documents are the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company.

New trustees are recruited by advertising – and sometimes by recommendation – in order to bring new expertise, fill certain skill gaps and increase diversity to reflect the communities we work with. As part of our ambition to be more member-led, we intend to recruit people with lived experience of the UK asylum system to the board as we go forward. Following a detailed selection process approved by the Board, and the appropriate background checks, they are formally appointed after discussion at a meeting of the trustees.

2. Objectives and activities

Borderlands aims to create a community of welcome which supports asylum seekers, refugees and migrants with insecure status in the Bristol area to move ‘from exclusion to belonging’.

Established in 2011, the charity grew out of the activities of St Nicholas Church in Easton, a deprived and diverse inner-city area. We have a Christian ethos which respects and values every individual; we do not promote religion and work with people of all faiths and none. Our values are Warmth, Sharing, Dignity and Respect Everyone.

Our mission is to support people from a time of crisis when they first arrive in Bristol to a point where they can live independent lives. We have a strong focus on empowering the people we work with to take charge of their own lives, working alongside them and learning from them. We also aim to advocate for a fair and humane immigration system where people seeking refuge are treated with dignity and respect. We have a vision for a world where refugees and asylum seekers can seek sanctuary and justice, make full use of their talents and abilities, feel valued for their contributions, and build worthwhile lives.

The purpose of Borderlands as set out in our governing document is:

- to relieve asylum seekers and refugees in need, hardship and distress by reason of their social and economic circumstances by the advancement of education, relief of poverty and the preservation and protection of good health;
- to promote social inclusion by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society; and
- to advance the education of the public regarding asylum seekers and refugees with the aim of increasing community cohesion and informing public policy.

Our members

Around 35% of the people we work with (our members) are refugees, 55% are asylum seekers and 10% are other vulnerable migrants including survivors of trafficking and modern slavery. They come from many different countries, most fleeing some of the world’s most dangerous and repressive countries such as Afghanistan, Eritrea, Sudan, Syria, Iran, Iraq and Ukraine.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Having already experienced huge trauma and loss, our members are often re-traumatised by an asylum system which is increasingly dehumanising. More and more people are being housed in hotels, many in isolated areas far from support agencies and local services. Prolonged stays and the huge backlog in asylum claims leaving people waiting in limbo for many months or even years is causing severe isolation, damaging people's health and wellbeing and worsening mental health problems. Our members fear for their safety, with an increase in far-right activity and harassment and reports of people going missing suspected to have been trafficked. People are also often moved to new hotels in other parts of the country at short notice, making it even more difficult to build connections and community in their new home.

At the same time, new government policies which will criminalise refugees for how they travel to the UK are putting our members at greater risk of destitution and exploitation. The new Nationality & Borders Bill makes an artificial distinction between asylum seekers who journey here seeking safety and those who manage to access resettlement schemes, ignoring the reality that most people crossing on small boats are genuine refugees (as proven by the Home Office's own data). The upcoming Illegal Migration Bill represents a deepening of this damaging approach, promising more detention and deportation of people seeking asylum, blocking trafficking victims from receiving vital support and weakening their rights.

The hostile political discourse and criminalisation of people seeking safety in the UK is further increasing fear, trauma, destitution and exploitation amongst our members. They fear being left in limbo with no status, rights or future as the new legislation removes any permanent right to settle for asylum seekers.

Main activities

Welcome Centre

Borderlands' Welcome Centre is a safe, trusted and well-known space for asylum seekers and refugees to get support, make connections and build community in their new home in Bristol. Open on Mondays and Tuesdays at the Assisi Centre in Easton, we provide:

- a friendly welcome and help for new arrivals to register as Borderlands members and access our projects and wider support in Bristol;
- a delicious and nourishing shared hot meal, breakfast table and 'social supermarket' where members can choose fruit, vegetables and groceries to take home (distributed according to the number of people per household);
- a social space with a cafe vibe where members can use the internet, have a drink, socialise or read the paper, with board games and a football table;
- one-to-one support to help people solve problems they are facing, advocating on their behalf and referring them to relevant services, including emergency accommodation for those who are destitute;
- an art table where members can enjoy a safe, creative atmosphere, illustrate feelings they may not be able to express in words, and find some relief from fear, anxiety and stress;
- local excursions to help people get to know the Bristol area, including guided walks, boat trips round the harbour, visits to local museums and attractions and an annual trip to the seaside; and
- hosting of agencies offering specialist advice or support including The Haven health clinic and Herbalists without Borders. We also invite organisations in to run workshops such as print-making, floristry, cooking, film-making, music therapy and public speaking.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Feel Good Wednesday!

On Wednesdays we offer a range of activities to improve health and wellbeing. Activities currently include:

- fortnightly sleep and relaxation sessions for members who have difficulty sleeping due to anxiety, nightmares and flashbacks, facilitated by Recovery Coordinators from Hope: Asylum Seekers and Refugees Trauma Service;
- weekly sewing classes through Bridges for Communities Stitch Together programme, which enable women to create beautiful textile-based art, practise English, make friends and gain confidence; and
- weekly yoga classes for women and fitness classes for men, both taught by Borderlands members.

Our members often struggle to access healthcare and may be reluctant to do so for fear of being charged or detained by the authorities. To address this issue we also work with healthcare providers to run workshops e.g. on vaccine awareness and women's health, and pop-up clinics for vaccination, dental check-ups and general health checks.

Mentoring Project

Our Mentoring Project provides one-to-one practical and emotional support from trained volunteer mentors to support asylum seekers and refugees to achieve some personal goals over six to nine months. Mentors help mentees to get to know Bristol, find volunteer placements and jobs, improve conversational English, access education or training, and cope with isolation and anxiety. Most importantly, they stand in solidarity with their mentees as they navigate the complex and challenging process of claiming asylum in the UK, as well as with resettlement after they receive leave to remain. Mentors and mentees meet once a week for at least an hour and are available by phone or social media at agreed times for more support if needed. We offer a thorough training for our mentors before they join the programme and support them through regular supervision and training.

Learning Project

Our Learning Project offers classes in English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL) and helps our members to explore other learning opportunities. We focus on providing pre-entry and entry level classes for those who speak little or no English as they are most at risk of isolation and exclusion. We also support our learners through creative activities, including working with Phosphorus Theatre and Bristol Old Vic to teach English through theatre and body language and running a weekly reading and poetry group. We work closely with other local ESOL providers in the refugee sector, meeting regularly to collaborate and share training, ideas and volunteers.

Outreach work

Since the beginning of 2022, Borderlands has been working with the local refugee sector and South Gloucestershire Council to deliver outreach support for asylum seekers housed in an Initial Accommodation hotel in Filton on the outskirts of Bristol. The residents experience many barriers including a lack of cash to travel to appointments or drop-in centres, and limited access to the internet, mobile phones and data/phone credit. Most people are desperate to access college courses but rules about how long you have been in the country, access to transport and long waiting lists all act as a barrier. Access to legal advice is near impossible.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2023

We run a weekly drop-in service in the hotel alongside Bristol Mind where we help the residents connect with relevant services while answering their many questions (some people have been in the UK as little as one day and don't even know which city they are in). We provide listening and problem-solving support, distribute bus tickets, sim cards and phones, help coordinate activities, and assist The Haven healthcare clinic with assessments, referrals and booking doctor's appointments.

Campaigning and advocacy

Borderlands engages in campaigning and advocacy on behalf of asylum seekers and refugees on a national, regional and local level, working with our partners in the Bristol Refugee and Asylum Seeker Partnership (BRASP) and Bristol City of Sanctuary. We continue to campaign for a fair and safe asylum system where people seeking refuge are treated with respect and allowed to live in dignity, and have a team of volunteer members trained in public speaking so they can tell their story at campaign events. Our work includes giving talks in schools, colleges, churches and community groups to raise awareness of the issues facing asylum seekers and refugees in the UK. We also give TV and radio interviews and participate in national campaigns such as Refugee Week and local events such as Bristol Refugee Festival. We seek to counteract the negative stereotyping of asylum seekers and refugees presented in the media, and to present a more factual and informed insight into their lives in Bristol. By challenging prejudice and changing attitudes, we aim to contribute to better integration and social cohesion.

Our volunteers

A team of over 60 volunteers delivers most of our frontline work, around 50% of whom are asylum seekers and refugees. They include chefs and kitchen assistants, Welcome desk and Help volunteers, mentors, English language teachers, teaching assistants, drivers, IT support and office assistants. Our members have much to contribute in terms of skills, knowledge and lived experience, and volunteering can help them to make friends, gain skills and confidence and alleviate stress and anxiety while they wait to hear a decision on their case. We provide all volunteers with training and guidance for their professional development, meeting one-to-one every six months to set new objectives and help understand which opportunities and career path they want to follow.

Our partnerships

Borderlands aims to foster a culture of inter-agency working to make best use of everyone's resources and avoid duplication. We are part of the Bristol Impact Fund and Bristol Refugee and Asylum Seeker Partnership (BRASP), both of which aim to improve partnership working and promote a culture of peer support, learning and sharing best practice. These partnerships include joint members' consultation, co-production work and a common needs assessment approach to inform the activities we develop as a sector and as individual organisations. Collectively we also have a stronger campaigning and advocating voice to impact on local and wider policy-making and to support emerging partnerships in other regions. We play an active role in several forums including the Bristol Refugee Forum, Asylum Seeker and Refugee Wellbeing Forum and Young People's Forum.

3. Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. Borderlands delivers public benefit both directly to our members and to the wider public through improved community cohesion and inclusion and by increasing understanding of issues relating to asylum seekers and refugees.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2023

4. Achievements and Performance

In 2021-22 we invested in building a robust staff team in response to the increased number of asylum seekers in the Bristol area, especially in South Gloucestershire, which has left the local refugee sector stretched. This enabled us to grow and develop our work this year to better meet the needs of our members.

Welcome Centre

This year our Welcome Centre supported over 300 asylum seekers and refugees, including welcoming 170 people for the first time.

The cost of living crisis has had a huge impact on our members; most live on very low or zero incomes, and those with cash often have to choose between buying healthy ingredients or a bus ticket for an essential appointment. The food provided in initial accommodation hotels is usually very poor quality, inadequate and often inappropriate. Both of these factors have significantly increased demand for our weekly hot meal and social supermarket, and this year we expanded our food provision to benefit around 150 members and their families each week.

Food continues to be very important to us at Borderlands; our members come together once a week to share a nourishing and delicious meal, creating social connections and friendships. The diversity of our community is reflected in our kitchen, as volunteer chefs from different parts of the world cooked and delighted us with amazing food and recipes. This year we organised a workshop delivered by Tiffins, a local Gujarati Indian food business, who taught our chefs how to cook authentic, regional Indian foods. We hope to offer these cookery workshops to all our members next year, to help them turn the food from our social supermarket into culturally appropriate meals for their families.

Working with our partners, we organised an Eid celebration at the Trinity Centre in Easton for around 150 people, open to all faiths and none. The event was a great success, with a delicious hot lunch, craft and play activities for children and music and dancing that filled the air with laughter and smiles.

53 of our members came on our annual beach trip to Exmouth in August to enjoy the beautiful Devon coast and fresh sea air - an opportunity to get out of Bristol, relax and get to know each other. This was just one of the many socials we organised throughout the year, such as guided walks and boat trips, which help to reduce feelings of isolation and engage people with their local community.

Feel Good Wednesday!

In addition to our usual Monday and Tuesday drop-in, at the start of 2022 we launched our 'Feel Good Wednesday' project, which provides health and wellbeing activities usually inaccessible to our members due to their financial situation. In addition to Sleep and Relaxation sessions, yoga and fitness classes and sewing classes, we have established a new partnership with Easton Leisure Centre which means our members who live in Bristol can access the gym, swimming pool and some classes for free.

We also organised a six-week floristry course in collaboration with Bread and Roses – a charity who run floristry training for refugee women around the world. Eight women were invited to come and learn how to arrange flowers in a calm and friendly environment led by two wonderful florists. The florists offered employment advice and entrepreneurial conversations about how to work with flowers, and the feedback we received was fantastic.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Mentoring Project

This year our Mentoring Project trained and supported 48 volunteer mentors to help 52 mentees achieve some personal goals. Mentors helped mentees with securing volunteer placements, accessing education and training, finding housing, writing CVs and attending job interviews, mental health and isolation, and getting to know Bristol and life in the UK. Many mentees focused on improving English as one of their goals, as this is key to studying, building independence and navigating the complex asylum process.

Below are two examples of how the project has helped asylum seekers and refugees this year:

- Ivan's mentor, Luke, supported him to find employment in Bristol. In their meetings, they discussed writing CVs and practised interview techniques. Ivan successfully applied for a job and now works for Bristol Hospitality Network; and
- one partnership was focused on finding education for the mentee with the hope of securing a job in the future. During the partnership, the mentor helped the mentee on to an Administration course with Monarch Education and English classes at City of Bristol College. As a result of the courses, the mentee secured an admin job at Horfield Doctors Surgery four days a week.

Of mentees taking part in the project in 2022-23:

- 100% felt their spoken English improved, 85% say their written English improved and 85% say their reading improved;
- 40% got involved in volunteering and 75% went into education/training during their mentoring partnership;
- 45% found jobs with the NHS, other charities in the sector, in healthcare and with businesses (NB employment is only an option for refugees as asylum seekers are not allowed to work); and
- 60% moved into more secure housing.

"I didn't trust Borderlands at the beginning. When I see you accepted me, talked to me and made time for me, then I trusted you and opened up. When I joined Borderlands, I was lifeless. Now I am full of laughter and full of life." (Mentee)

We made two films about the Mentoring Project this year – available on our website - which we share with referrers and new mentees. We would like to thank the Bristol Video Company and Kate Fit Design for enabling us to do this.

Learning Project

This year we provided eight English classes per week, supporting 60 asylum seekers and refugees to navigate the asylum process, make friends, study and build independence. The classes were taught by our Learning Manager alongside seven qualified volunteer teachers and seven volunteer teaching assistants. Classes were small – on average 10 students - with one teacher and 1-2 teaching assistants per class so each learner received a lot of individual attention. Below are two comments from members on our English classes:

"I am happy. Lessons are interesting. The class is friendly. I am confident. My English is getting better. My vocabulary is increasing. My teacher is good."

"I have learnt more in one week at Borderlands than I ever learnt before! I love coming here. The class is really nice and everyone is friendly and welcoming. Here I am not shy and I feel I can ask questions. The teacher always takes the time to explain things."

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Following a successful three-month pilot project, this year we built on our partnerships with Bristol Old Vic and Phosphorous Theatre teaching English through drama and body language, culminating in students being involved in a play at Bristol Old Vic. We also started working with national literacy charity The Reader to develop a scheme supporting our members to improve their reading skills, including a weekly reading and poetry group and one-to-one support from our teaching assistants.

As part of the Learning Project, we aim to help our members explore other learning opportunities. This year we worked with the International Arts Partnership to enable three young Afghan refugees to create a six-minute radio play in Pashto as part of the Transmission Project (www.the-transmission.eu). Our members really enjoyed their experiences, especially getting to record the play in a professional studio.

Outreach project

We supported 207 people this year with our weekly drop-in service at the Initial Accommodation hotel in Filton. As well as providing signposting and problem-solving support and assisting with health assessments and referrals, we have distributed sim cards and mobile phones for those who needed them. We also helped around 50 residents a week to get out and about and access essential transport by distributing group bus tickets (funded by Bristol Red Cross), and are seeking a more permanent solution to address transport issues. We are still working to address the lack of access to education. Some residents who have bikes or volunteer with us now access our English classes and there have been a few classes running in the hotel but provision is patchy.

Work in the Filton hotel has been a collaborative effort by the Bristol refugee sector and others. We have worked hard with our partner organisations to coordinate support and make the hotel as welcoming and full of activities as possible. The different agencies have worked together in a really positive way, being generous with their advice, resources, learning and knowledge. We have developed a successful partnership with Bristol Mind and will continue to work together to delivering our Drop-ins and coordinate other activities.

Although there remain huge challenges, the situation in the hotel has greatly improved since early 2022. One resident said recently: "It's so much better now because we have things to do, there are activities." All the waiting and lack of information can really get people down so offering people something to do has made a world of difference.

Strengthening our partnerships

We put a lot of effort into strengthening our relationship with the local refugee sector this year, especially through the Bristol Refugee and Asylum Seeker Partnership (BRASP). Borderlands has

- lived experience leadership – sharing share success, learning and challenges around creating pathways for participation and leadership for those with lived experience;
- service coordination – coordinating services and activities in the sector;
- advocacy – making sure BRASP has a presence in strategic forums where key decisions and policies affecting asylum seekers and refugees in Bristol are discussed and taken;
- information sharing - exploring ways we can legally share information on service users with other BRASP organisations in line with GDPR; and
- we have also built a strong relationship with Bristol Mind this year through our outreach work in the Filton hotel, which combines Borderlands' experience of working with asylum seekers and refugees with Bristol Mind's expertise in mental health.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Campaigning and awareness raising

This year much of our campaigning work was focused on the new Nationality and Borders Bill and stopping the flights to Rwanda. We also worked with the BRASP partnership to launch a campaign for free public transport in the Bristol area for asylum seekers, who frequently cannot afford to travel to crucial appointments, interviews and other important activities.

We worked with Bristol Hospitality Network and Bristol Refugee Festival to run a series of workshops with the aim of skilling up asylum seekers and refugees to speak publicly in different forums: from protests, to events to meetings. Facilitated by experienced drama practitioners and a public speaking specialist as well as our Mentoring Manager, the sessions also helped participants to build confidence, express themselves, tell their stories and have fun together.

We also collaborated with a PhD student in Social Policy at the University of Bath, Michelle James, whose thesis considers the impact of community-based welfare support on the wellbeing of asylum seekers in the UK. As part of her research, Michelle carried out a photography project with 10 Borderlands members who took photos of what makes their lives easier and happier, and what makes them harder. The resulting exhibition, 'Being Human', was displayed at the Lecture Theatre Foyer at the University of Bristol.

Member participation

We have continued to make progress towards becoming more member-led this year. Our new Welcome and Members Participation Officer (WAMPO) – a refugee herself - has led our Welcome Desk throughout the year. This means the first interaction new asylum seekers and refugees in Bristol have with Borderlands is with a person with lived experience, giving them confidence and a feeling of ownership over the space. The WAMPO is also supporting our CEO to plan and develop meaningful participation for our members so their voices can influence and inform strategic decisions. Our next step is to create an advisory board of experienced members to inform our strategy, support member consultation and attend trustee meetings. We plan to foster roles where our members can grow and take on leadership, managerial and trustee roles.

Developing our organisation

We have made huge strides in improving our leadership, governance, HR, monitoring and evaluation, finance and marketing this year, with expert advice and guidance from Lloyds Bank Foundation and others. We carried out a governance review and skills audit led by an external consultant and are in the process of implementing our Governance Action Plan. Lloyds supported us to run a strategy workshop which has fed into a new three-year strategy produced in consultation with our members, volunteers, partners, funders, staff and trustees. Our CEO has had a mentor to improve her confidence in financial leadership, including developing a new reserves policy and measuring financial risks, and has benefited from connecting with other new CEOs to share experiences and challenges.

Housing partnership

On receiving refugee status, people are given just 28 days to find rental accommodation and secure a job and/or benefits and many people become homeless at this stage. In 2017 a private donation enabled Borderlands to buy a four-bedroom house in Stapleton, a Bristol suburb with good transport links to the centre. We have used the house to provide short-term accommodation for refugees to support them in the transition to independence.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2023

This year we made the decision to partner with ACH – a social housing provider with expertise in working with refugees - in the management and support provision of the house. ACH were able to undertake essential improvement works, including painting and decorating, installing new flooring and carrying out safety checks. They will use the house to provide safe and secure accommodation for refugees, providing additional support to enable them to settle, integrate and gain valuable skills through training.

Our impact

This year we developed a new theory of change (see table below) which describes the outcomes and long-term goals we want to achieve with our work. Our model is to enable asylum seekers, refugees and other vulnerable migrants to move from intensive support to independence.

Activities and services we provide	Short and medium term outcomes: changes that will start the journey	Long term outcomes: changes that will help us to bring about our goal	Our long term goal: the world we want to see
<p>A Welcome Centre offering community, food provision, shared activities & practical support.</p> <p>Mentoring Project.</p> <p>Learning Project.</p> <p>Wellbeing activities.</p> <p>Outreach support in hotels.</p> <p>Signposting and referrals to other services.</p> <p>Hosting of other agencies.</p>	<p>People have the knowledge and information they need to advocate for themselves and their rights.</p> <p>Their basic needs are met (food, a hot meal, SIM card/phone, community).</p> <p>They have a chance to learn/ improve their English.</p> <p>They have developed a network and a community.</p> <p>They know how to access education, jobs and volunteering opportunities.</p> <p>They have access to health care (physical and mental health and wellbeing).</p>	<p>People have moved on - they have jobs, a community, education, opportunity.</p> <p>New members hear positive stories and have positive experiences, feel welcome and safe.</p> <p>A diverse range of people have equitable access to our services and those of other agencies.</p> <p>Volunteers have opportunities to understand and learn in a professional environment.</p> <p>People have choice and dignity; they have developed confidence and self-esteem; they have a sense of purpose.</p>	<p>People can become independent and live in a compassionate, just and understanding community.</p> <p>They can find safety, have their basic needs met and integrate into society.</p> <p>Borderlands is a model of how to welcome and support asylum seekers and refugees, working effectively with our partners.</p>

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2023

This year we completed the installation of a new Client Relationship Management system (Lamplight) which will enable us to better monitor outputs and outcomes for individual members. We use an annual members survey and volunteer survey, feedback from specific activities, focus groups and case studies to measure our impact, using visual tools as many of our members do not speak much English. We also hold quarterly volunteer team meetings to discuss the way we are delivering activities and help us make improvements. The results of our evaluations are used to inform our future service and to share learning and best practice with our partners.

In a members survey carried out in December 2022 with 48 respondents:

- 85% of members said they feel part of Borderlands community and 40% have made new friends;
- 66% said Borderlands has helped them or helped them a lot in difficult times;
- 36% feel more independent and 59% feel a lot more independent since becoming a Borderlands member; and
- 34% said Borderlands has helped them to improve their English.

"I have made many friends. We communicate with many people from different cultures. We have the opportunity at Borderlands to create community. That's our great achievement. It's great to connect people from different nationalities, backgrounds, and cultures." (Member)

We provided 30 volunteering opportunities for our members throughout the year. In a survey of our volunteers who are asylum seekers or refugees, carried out in December 2022:

- 100% said that since they started volunteering at Borderlands they have made new friends;
- 83% said they feel very much part of Borderlands community;
- 50% felt more confident speaking English;
- 100% said they had learnt new skills; and
- For those allowed to work, 67% felt more confident looking for a job.

"Training and skills acquired in Borderlands has enabled me to gain meaningful opportunities in other organisations." (Volunteer)

"When this sort of organisation is helping us, we would like to give something back....also, speaking wise has helped me a lot because when I started, I couldn't speak communicate that much but now I feel more confident I can speak with staff and other members." (Volunteer)

Case study

Like many of our members, Ayham came to Borderlands without many friends or any knowledge of other organisations that could help him. Below he describes how he felt when he first arrived at our doors and how Borderlands has helped him:

"I came to Bristol after a long and exhausting journey. The first two or three months I didn't have any connection with the community, I didn't leave the hotel I was in. After some time, I looked for charities that worked with refugees and I found Borderlands. I made a phone call, and the person who answered the phone was very friendly and welcoming."

"The first minute I arrived at Borderlands a staff member came and asked me about my situation, where I was living, and tried to be aware of my situation to give me the right help. The same day, I asked for volunteering, and started working at the breakfast table and later in the social supermarket. I felt part of this organisation from the first week. There's a lovely environment and I felt comfortable and sometimes there are special activities I love to join like exhibitions or trips."

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Borderlands also referred me to the mentoring project, and it was nice to have a person who helped in improving my English and meeting new friends. It also helped with my mental health because it kept me a bit away of my daily concerns. When you have nice friends around, life's a bit easier."

5. Future plans

With expert advice and guidance from Lloyds Bank Foundation, this year we developed a draft Strategic Plan for the next three years. Our strategic aims are:

a) to develop a more structured approach to welcoming asylum seekers and refugees, working with other agencies to develop a process which ensures all new arrivals to Greater Bristol are welcomed, wherever they are located. This will include developing our outreach services;

b) to work closely with the BRASP partnership and others to ensure Borderlands is part of a comprehensive delivery of services for asylum seekers and refugees across Bristol. This will involve developing the 'journey' model so that members can access different services at different stages, and increasing lived experience participation and leadership;

c) to support campaigning and advocacy on behalf of refugees and asylum seekers, engaging in national, regional and local debates on policy and legislative proposals and participating in specific campaigns such as free public transport for asylum seekers; and

d) to develop the 'infrastructure' of Borderlands to ensure we are resilient, flexible and stable while operating in an uncertain and changing political and economic environment. We want to grow whilst ensuring we have a clear quality standards framework in place and are financially sustainable. This will involve strengthening our trustee board, investing in training for staff, trustees and volunteers, and assessing the capacity of our current premises.

Our plans for the coming year include expanding our outreach to work in a hotel in central Bristol, increasing the number of English classes we offer, launching new IT skills sessions, relaunching our Peer Mentoring scheme, offering regular theatre workshops and working with Dentaaid to provide dental care for our members. We will continue to improve participation for our members including creating an advisory group of members and reviewing our recruitment process for staff, volunteers and trustees.

We will be recruiting new Trustees including a new Chair of Trustees to guide Borderlands in our next strategic and developmental chapter as our current Chair, Richard McKay, is stepping down. Richard was the original founder of Borderlands in 2011 and we are hugely thankful to him for all the commitment and dedication he has given to the charity over the last 12 years. We hope to attract a diverse range of candidates to diversify our board and bring new expertise and strengths.

Thank you

We would like to thank all our funders this year, including the Albert Gubay Foundation, Lloyds Bank Foundation, Garfield Weston Foundation, Bristol City Council, South Gloucestershire Council, John James Bristol Foundation, Postcode Local Trust, Bristol Churches City Fund, Feeding Bristol and others, including those who prefer to be anonymous. We are also most grateful to the individuals, local businesses, social enterprises and charities who have made donations and supplied us with food for our hot meals and social supermarket. Last but not least, thank you to all our wonderful members, volunteers, partners and staff who are the heart and the soul of this organisation.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2023

6. Financial review

Our accounts for 2022-23 show income of £315,360 against expenditure of £274,007 – a surplus of £41,353. Income and expenditure increased by around 25% and 18% on the previous year, respectively, due to the expansion of our work and our bigger staff team. Around 66% of our income in 2022-23 came from Trusts and Foundations, 18% came from local authorities, 12% came from individual donations (including gift aid) and 4% came from other sources (mainly rental income). 60% of expenditure was on salary costs, National Insurance and pension contributions for our team of 8 (5.5 FTE) staff.

We were successful in securing a three-year grant this year from the Henry Smith Charity (to start in 2023-24). Alongside multi-year grants from the Bristol Impact Fund, Albert Gubay Foundation and Lloyds Bank Foundation, this new core funding will help to build sustainability as we develop and grow our work.

Reserves policy

General reserves

The Trustees have a General Reserves Policy which follows the Charity Commission's guidance on charity reserves. This protects our operations and essential services from the potential risk of disruption at short notice due to a lack of funds while ensuring Borderlands does not retain income for longer than required. The policy takes into account operating expenses and maintenance of essential services in the event of a downturn in income and/or unforeseen increases in costs. It also takes account of the contractual obligations to our employees and the costs of closure or wind-down of our core operations.

General reserves are not restricted to or designated for a particular purpose. General reserves are a part of net current assets and are equivalent to approximately 4-6 months' committed expenditure at budgeted 2023-24 levels which the Trustees consider to be an appropriate level for Borderlands. The basis of determining the target reserves level is kept under periodic review and will be adjusted as perceptions of risk and other factors change.

Our accounts show net current assets of £213,146 at 31 March 2023, of which £110,815 are free reserves (£102,331 are restricted funds to be spent in 2023-24). Our forecast expenditure for 2023-24 is £305,944, so free reserves represent approximately 4 months' operating costs going forward.

Please note: a proportion of total unrestricted funds shown on the balance sheet relates to a four-bedroom house owned by Borderlands and managed by ACH to provide supported housing for refugees at risk of homelessness. These funds are therefore not available for spending.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are held separately within the charity's financial accounts and are spent within the time-frame indicated by the donor which may cover more than one financial year.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees (who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Members of the charitable company guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The trustees are company members but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

Independent examiners

Godfrey Wilson Limited were re-appointed as independent examiners to the charitable company during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

Approved by the trustees on 4 September 2023 and signed on their behalf by

Kimberlee Lynn Carstensen

Kimberlee Carstensen, Chair

Independent examiner's report

To the trustees of

Borderlands (South West) Limited

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Borderlands (South West) Limited (the charitable company) for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 16 to 29.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charitable company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charitable company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charitable company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Godfrey Wilson Limited also provides bookkeeping and payroll services to the charitable company. I confirm that as a member of the ICAEW I am subject to the FRC's Revised Ethical Standard 2016, which I have applied with respect to this engagement.

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 charitable company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.

William Guy Blake

Date: 4 September 2023

William Guy Blake

Member of the ICAEW

For and on behalf of:

Godfrey Wilson Limited

Chartered accountants and statutory auditors

5th Floor Mariner House

62 Prince Street

Bristol

BS1 4QD

Borderlands (South West) Limited**Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)****For the year ended 31 March 2023**

	Note	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	174,317	129,779	304,096	224,160
Charitable activities	4	-	10,421	10,421	9,287
Other income		-	-	-	1,300
Investments		-	843	843	408
Total income		<u>174,317</u>	<u>141,043</u>	<u>315,360</u>	<u>235,155</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		-	23,325	23,325	18,691
Charitable activities		<u>157,826</u>	<u>92,856</u>	<u>250,682</u>	<u>213,617</u>
Total expenditure	6	<u>157,826</u>	<u>116,181</u>	<u>274,007</u>	<u>232,308</u>
Net income / (expenditure)		16,491	24,862	41,353	2,847
Transfers between funds		<u>(7,500)</u>	<u>7,500</u>	-	-
Net movement in funds	7	8,991	32,362	41,353	2,847
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		<u>93,340</u>	<u>225,791</u>	<u>319,131</u>	<u>316,284</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u><u>102,331</u></u>	<u><u>258,153</u></u>	<u><u>360,484</u></u>	<u><u>319,131</u></u>

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 15 to the accounts.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Balance sheet

As at 31 March 2023

	Note	£	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets	10		<u>216,088</u>	<u>226,769</u>
Current assets				
Debtors	11	44,353		29,262
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>200,272</u>		<u>190,301</u>
		244,625		219,563
Liabilities				
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	12	<u>(31,479)</u>		<u>(33,451)</u>
Net current assets			<u>213,146</u>	<u>186,112</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			429,234	412,881
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than 1 year	13		<u>(68,750)</u>	<u>(93,750)</u>
Net assets	14		<u>360,484</u>	<u>319,131</u>
Funds	15			
Restricted funds			102,331	93,340
Unrestricted funds				
General funds			<u>258,153</u>	<u>225,791</u>
Total charity funds			<u>360,484</u>	<u>319,131</u>

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to the audit of the financial statements for the period by virtue of section 477(2), and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) ensuring that the Company keeps proper accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act; and
- (ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the trustees on 4 September 2023 and signed on their behalf by

Kimberlee Lynn Carstensen

Kimberlee Carstensen, Chair

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

1. Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Borderlands (South West) Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b) Going concern basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the charity is able to continue as a going concern, which the trustees consider appropriate having regard to the current level of unrestricted reserves and confirmed future funding. There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

c) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from the government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

d) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity: this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

e) Funds accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

f) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

g) Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity, including the costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements and any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities. These costs have been allocated in full to the cost of charitable activities this year, on the basis that the charity has not expended any significant resources towards fundraising this year, outside of the staff time already allocated.

h) Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Freehold property	50 years
Furniture and equipment	4 years
Phone equipment	2 years

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £100.

i) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

j) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

k) Creditors

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

l) Concessionary loans

The charitable company is in receipt of concessionary loans for furtherance of their charitable activities. Concessionary loans are recognised when the commitment is entered into and the relevant loan documentation has been completed. The loans are initially recognised and measured at the amount received, with the carrying amount adjusted in subsequent years to reflect repayments and if necessary any accrued interest.

m) Financial instruments

The charitable company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently recognised at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

n) Pension costs

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees. There are no further liabilities other than that already recognised in the SOFA.

o) Accounting estimates and key judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The key sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are described below.

Depreciation

As described in note 1h to the financial statements, depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life.

2. Statement of financial activities: prior period comparatives

	Restricted	Unrestricted	2022 Total
	£	£	£
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	168,316	55,844	224,160
Charitable activities	-	9,287	9,287
Other income	-	1,300	1,300
Investments	-	408	408
Total income	168,316	66,839	235,155
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	-	18,691	18,691
Charitable activities	122,921	90,696	213,617
Total expenditure	122,921	109,387	232,308
Net income / (expenditure)	45,395	(42,548)	2,847
Transfers between funds	15,874	(15,874)	-
Net movement in funds	61,269	(58,422)	2,847

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2023 Total £
Companies and trusts	174,317	91,799	266,116
Individuals	-	36,085	36,085
Gift aid	-	1,895	1,895
Total income from donations and legacies	174,317	129,779	304,096

Prior period comparative:

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2022 Total £
Companies and trusts	168,316	11,593	179,909
Individuals	-	42,473	42,473
Gift aid	-	1,778	1,778
Total income from donations and legacies	168,316	55,844	224,160

4. Income from charitable activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Rental income	9,990	9,287
Other charitable activities	431	-
	10,421	9,287

All income from charitable activities is unrestricted.

5. Government grants

The charitable company receives government grants, defined as funding from Bristol City Council, South Gloucestershire Council, and the Bristol Impact Fund 2 to fund charitable activities. The total value of such grants in the period ending 31 March 2023 was £56,582 (2022: £64,580 from Bristol City Council and South Gloucestershire Council). There are no unfulfilled conditions or contingencies attaching to these grants in 2022/23.

Borderlands (South West) Limited**Notes to the financial statements****For the year ended 31 March 2023**

6. Total expenditure

	Raising funds £	Charitable activities £	Support and governance costs £	2023 Total £
Staff costs (note 8)	10,487	140,350	11,740	162,577
Other staff costs	-	-	7,735	7,735
Drop-in costs	-	11,630	-	11,630
Mentoring consultancy	-	696	-	696
Other project costs	-	6,449	-	6,449
Premises costs	-	-	25,786	25,786
Insurance	-	-	1,560	1,560
Accountancy	-	-	9,952	9,952
Consultancy	12,838	-	3,750	16,588
Legal expenses	-	-	500	500
Admin costs	-	1,590	18,263	19,853
Depreciation	-	-	10,681	10,681
Sub-total	23,325	160,715	89,967	274,007
Allocation of support and governance costs	-	89,967	(89,967)	-
Total expenditure	23,325	250,682	-	274,007

Total governance costs were £2,040 (2022: £1,920).

Borderlands (South West) Limited**Notes to the financial statements****For the year ended 31 March 2023****6. Total expenditure (continued)****Prior year comparative**

	Raising funds £	Charitable activities £	Support and governance costs £	2022 Total £
Staff costs (note 8)	9,010	100,753	4,915	114,678
Other staff costs	-	-	455	455
Destitution payments	-	20,205	-	20,205
Drop-in costs	-	13,905	-	13,905
Mentoring consultancy	-	2,703	-	2,703
Other project costs	-	1,459	-	1,459
Premises costs	-	-	28,057	28,057
Insurance	-	-	1,303	1,303
Accountancy	-	-	6,388	6,388
Consultancy	9,681	-	-	9,681
Legal expenses	-	650	2,400	3,050
Admin costs	-	4,281	16,353	20,634
Depreciation	-	-	9,790	9,790
Sub-total	18,691	143,956	69,661	232,308
Allocation of support and governance costs	-	69,661	(69,661)	-
Total expenditure	18,691	213,617	-	232,308

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

7. Net movement in funds

This is stated after charging:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Depreciation	10,681	9,790
Trustees' remuneration	Nil	Nil
Trustees' reimbursed expenses	Nil	Nil
Independent examiner's remuneration (excluding VAT):		
▪ Independent examination	1,700	1,600
▪ Other services	6,171	3,289
	<u>6,171</u>	<u>3,289</u>

8. Staff costs and numbers

Staff costs were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Salaries and wages	152,420	107,711
Social security costs	7,300	4,551
Pension costs	2,857	2,416
	<u>162,577</u>	<u>114,678</u>

No employee earned more than £60,000 during the current or prior year.

The key management personnel of the charitable company comprised the Trustees and Director. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel were £35,160 (2022: £19,896).

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
Average head count	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>

9. Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

Borderlands (South West) Limited**Notes to the financial statements****For the year ended 31 March 2023**

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Furniture & equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2022 and at 31 March 2023	<u>238,500</u>	<u>26,900</u>	<u>265,400</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022	28,620	10,011	38,631
Charge for the year	<u>4,770</u>	<u>5,911</u>	<u>10,681</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>33,390</u>	<u>15,922</u>	<u>49,312</u>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2023	<u>205,110</u>	<u>10,978</u>	<u>216,088</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>209,880</u>	<u>16,889</u>	<u>226,769</u>

11. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Prepayments	1,614	391
Other debtors	1,895	18,871
Accrued income	<u>40,844</u>	<u>10,000</u>
	<u>44,353</u>	<u>29,262</u>

12. Creditors : amounts due within 1 year

	2023 £	2022 £
Loans	25,000	25,000
Trade creditors	1,336	203
Accruals	2,172	4,561
Pensions payable	484	475
Other taxation and social security	<u>2,487</u>	<u>3,212</u>
	<u>31,479</u>	<u>33,451</u>

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

13. Creditors : amounts due after 1 year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Loans	<u>68,750</u>	<u>93,750</u>

The loan is a 10 year loan from a former trustee for purchase of a residential property, secured by a legal mortgage over the property. The loan commenced in 2017 and is repayable at £25,000 per annum. No interest is charged.

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	216,088	216,088
Current assets	102,331	142,294	244,625
Current liabilities	-	(31,479)	(31,479)
Non-current liabilities	-	(68,750)	(68,750)
Net assets at 31 March 2023	<u>102,331</u>	<u>258,153</u>	<u>360,484</u>
Prior period comparatives			
	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	226,769	226,769
Current assets	93,340	126,223	219,563
Current liabilities	-	(33,451)	(33,451)
Non-current liabilities	-	(93,750)	(93,750)
Net assets at 31 March 2022	<u>93,340</u>	<u>225,791</u>	<u>319,131</u>

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

15. Movements in funds

	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	At 31 March 2023 £
Restricted funds					
Drop-in fund	-	58,296	(58,272)	-	24
Future Project fund	7,500	-	-	(7,500)	-
Mentoring Project fund	48,432	47,344	(42,251)	-	53,525
Beach Trip fund	2,038	-	(707)	-	1,331
Covid-19 support	16,600	-	(16,600)	-	-
Internet Cafe	3,000	-	(3,000)	-	-
Outreach work	8,570	20,177	(8,570)	-	20,177
Health Activities	6,000	-	(6,000)	-	-
Legal fund	1,200	-	(500)	-	700
Learning Project	-	48,500	(21,926)	-	26,574
Total restricted funds	93,340	174,317	(157,826)	(7,500)	102,331
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	225,791	141,043	(116,181)	7,500	258,153
Total unrestricted funds	225,791	141,043	(116,181)	7,500	258,153
Total funds	319,131	315,360	(274,007)	-	360,484

Purposes of restricted funds

Drop-in fund
Borderlands received multiple grants from various funders to support the work in our drop-in, including food provision, extra social activities, wellbeing and health related activities. In 22-23 our drop-in continued being funded by the multi-year grant through Bristol Impact Fund 2 (BIF 2) from Bristol City Council. We also received specific grants which aimed at tackling the difficult wintertime for our members, namely Feeding Bristol, Bristol Churches, and Quartet Foundation. The John James Bristol Foundation covered any costs related to the running of our welcome space at the drop-in. Burges Salmon also gave £3,000 towards a Food for Eid celebration.

Future Project fund
This is a restricted donation fund made to enable the charity to pursue a specific project, as and when one is identified and is approved by the donor. In 22-23, the donor approved the fund to be released into general reserves to support Borderland's wider charitable purposes.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

15. Movements in funds (continued)

Mentoring Project fund	The Mentoring Project was funded by a 3-year grant from the Albert Gubay Foundation and a one-year grant from the Swan Mountain Trust.
Beach Trip fund	This is supported by a private restricted donation so that Borderlands can offer an annual trip to members to the beach and give them an opportunity to get outside of Bristol and enjoy nature. It's an opportunity to build relationships and support wellbeing.
Covid-19 support	Two grants from Bristol City Council to provide practical and emotional support to members self-isolating and for communities facing the greatest barriers during Covid-19 pandemic.
Internet Cafe	This was funded with a grant from Quartet Community Foundation Express Fund.
Outreach work	South Gloucestershire Council continued funding our outreach and support work at Filton hotel aimed at supporting asylum seekers residing in initial accommodation in that area.
Health Activities	A grant from BNSSG Clinical Commissioning Group to deliver activities aimed at reducing health inequalities taking place in our drop-in space.
Legal fund	A fund established by the trustees, this provides assistance with legal costs to enable asylum-seekers and refugees to seek justice when public funds are not available.
Learning Project	As our Learning Project has grown and developed its own identity within the Welcome Centre, we have applied for separate funding to support its development. In 2022-23, the project was funded by the Postcode Local Trust and Barnabas Trust. We also received funding from the John James Foundation and the Medlock Trust this year towards running the Learning Project in 2023-24.

Transfers between funds

The transfer from the Future Project fund represents funds where the charity has obtained permission from the funder to remove the restriction and add to its general unrestricted reserves.

Borderlands (South West) Limited**Notes to the financial statements****For the year ended 31 March 2023****15. Movements in funds (continued)****Prior period comparatives**

	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	At 31 March 2022 £
Restricted funds					
Drop-in fund	-	66,287	(82,161)	15,874	-
Future Project fund	7,500	-	-	-	7,500
Mentoring Project fund	16,000	62,229	(29,797)	-	48,432
Beach Trip fund	2,972	-	(934)	-	2,038
Covid-19 fund	-	16,600	-	-	16,600
IT Centre	5,599	-	(5,599)	-	-
Internet Cafe	-	3,000	-	-	3,000
Outreach work	-	10,000	(1,430)	-	8,570
Health Activities	-	9,000	(3,000)	-	6,000
Legal fund	-	1,200	-	-	1,200
Total restricted funds	32,071	168,316	(122,921)	15,874	93,340
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	284,213	66,839	(109,387)	(15,874)	225,791
Total unrestricted funds	284,213	66,839	(109,387)	(15,874)	225,791
Total funds	316,284	235,155	(232,308)	-	319,131

16. Related party transactions

Included within the charity's creditors at the year end is a 10 year loan from a former trustee for the purchase of a residential property, secured by a legal mortgage over the property. The loan commenced in 2017 and is repayable at £25,000 per annum. No interest is charged on the loan. The balance outstanding on the loan at the year end is £93,750 (2022: £118,750).

The total aggregate donations from trustees during the year were £300 (2022: £1,500). There were no restrictions attached to these donations in the current or prior year.

BORDERLANDS (SOUTH WEST) LTD

England & Wales - Charity number 1143313

Accounts

Company no. 07607693
Charity no. 1143313

Borderlands (South West) Limited
Report and Unaudited Financial Statements
31 March 2022

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Reference and administrative details

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Company number 07607693

Charity number 1143313

Registered office and operational address The Assisi Centre
Lawfords Gate
Bristol
BS5 0RE

Trustees Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the period and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Andrew Bent	
Peter Browne	Resigned 8 October 2021
Kimberlee Carstensen	Appointed 9 March 2022
Mary Hopper	
Motcha Mary	Resigned 27 January 2022
Patrick McAlees	Appointed 9 March 2022
Richard McKay	
Cynthia Ochieng	
Antonio Stavrou	Resigned 14 July 2021
Nicholas Tarr	
Robert von Hawrylak	Resigned 5 March 2022

Bankers

Co-operative Bank	CAF Bank Ltd
PO Box 250	25 Kings Hill Avenue
Delf House	Kings Hill
Southway	West Malling
Skelmersdale	Kent
WN8 6WT	ME19 4JQ

Aldermore Bank
Western House
Lynch Wood
Peterborough
PE2 6FZ

Independent examiners Godfrey Wilson Limited
Chartered accountants and statutory auditors
5th Floor Mariner House
62 Prince Street
Bristol
BS1 4QD

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities (effective from January 2019).

Structure, governance and management

Structure

Borderlands (South West) Limited is constituted as a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. Our governing documents are the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company.

New trustees are recruited by invitation from the networks of existing trustees, by recommendation and by advertising in order to fill certain skill gaps. Following a detailed selection process approved by the Board, and the appropriate background checks, they are formally appointed after discussion at a meeting of the trustees. As part of our ambition to be more member-led, we intend to recruit people with experience of the UK asylum system to the board as we go forward.

Objectives and activities

Borderlands aims to support asylum seekers, refugees and migrants with insecure status in the Bristol area to participate in their local communities and rebuild their lives. Established in 2011, the charity grew out of the activities of St Nicholas Church in Easton, a deprived and diverse inner-city area. We have a Christian ethos which respects and values every individual; we do not promote religion and work with people of all faiths and none. Our values - the result of a consultation with over 100 staff, volunteers, service users and trustees - are Warmth, Sharing, Dignity and Respect for Everyone.

Our mission is to support people from a time of crisis when they first arrive in Bristol to a point where they can live independent lives. We do this by creating an inclusive community which supports people 'from exclusion to belonging'. We also aim to promote an inclusive culture in which local communities can understand and welcome refugees and to advocate for a fair and humane immigration system. Our vision is a society where people seeking sanctuary feel welcome and safe, have a sense of belonging in the community, make full use of their talents and abilities, and get the help they need to rebuild their lives.

The purpose of the charity as set out in our governing documents is:

- To relieve asylum seekers and refugees in need, hardship and distress by reason of their social and economic circumstances by the advancement of education, relief of poverty and the preservation and protection of good health;
- To promote social inclusion by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society; and
- To advance the education of the public regarding asylum seekers and refugees with the aim of increasing community cohesion and informing public policy.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Our members

The people we work with are called “members” because we want them to feel Borderlands belongs to them. Around 35% of our members are refugees, 55% are asylum seekers and 10% are other vulnerable migrants including survivors of trafficking and modern slavery. They come from over 50 countries, including Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran and Bangladesh.

Our members are often deeply traumatised, having lived through terrifying experiences and faced devastating losses. On arriving in the UK, asylum seekers are now being accommodated in Initial Accommodation hotels, typically for many months, with sometimes even basic support needs not being met. A huge backlog of asylum claims due to the pandemic has left more people waiting months or years in limbo, causing huge amounts of stress and driving many to despair. The new Nationality and Borders Act, which criminalises refugees for how they travel to the UK, will put our members at even greater risk of poverty and exploitation, as well as impacting on their mental health.

Main activities

Drop-in centre

Our Drop-in is a safe space open two days a week offering asylum seekers and refugees a compassionate welcome, community and support to rebuild their lives including:

- Our Welcome Team who help new members to register and access our projects and wider support in Bristol, where possible in a native language;
- A weekly delicious shared hot meal and healthy food to take home including a ‘social supermarket’ where members have ownership and autonomy over the food they choose;
- A Solidarity Fund of £10/week for a limited time, run with the Red Cross, offers financial respite to our destitute members who have no recourse to public funds and are homeless or temporarily hosted through partner agencies. People can use the fund to get phone credit, attend appointments and buy some food for their host, providing some dignity, showing solidarity and giving hope to those who fall through the gaps in the system. Alongside the fund we provide a one-to-one listening, signposting and problem-solving service. This allows a regular check-in and enables us to build a relationship and trust with our most vulnerable members;
- An Internet cafe and IT courses to enable members to communicate with support agencies, continue their education, keep in touch with loved ones, access benefits advice and search for jobs and housing;
- Hosting of external agencies who offer specialist advice or support, such as Herbalists without Borders, an osteopath and community music groups;
- Social activities including boat trips and guided walks, celebration of cultural events and an annual beach trip, and skill-based workshops such as print-making and film-making; and
- A Travel Fund for members to travel to their solicitor and court appointments.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Mentoring project

Our Mentoring Project provides one-to-one practical and emotional support from trained volunteer mentors to support asylum seekers and refugees to achieve some personal goals over six months. Mentors support mentees through the complex and challenging process of claiming asylum in the UK. They also help them to get to know Bristol, find volunteer placements, improve conversational English, access education or training, and cope with isolation and anxiety. We carefully recruit and train volunteers in the personal and practical skills to be an effective mentor. We then match mentors and mentees based on the linguistic, practical and/or emotional needs of the 'mentee' and the skill-set and experience of the mentor. Mentors and mentees meet once a week for at least an hour and are available by phone or social media at agreed times for more support if needed. We offer a thorough training for our mentors before they join the programme and support them through regular supervision and training.

Education Project

Our Education Project offers classes in English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL) and literacy, and also helps students to explore other learning opportunities. Since Covid, we have focused on providing pre-entry and entry level classes for newly arrived asylum seekers who speak little or no English as this is the area of greatest need (and these people are most at risk of isolation and exclusion). We aim to support our learners through creative learning approaches (e.g. drama sessions) and we do regular needs assessments to inform the development of new learning activities. Our English classes are taught by our Education Manager and qualified volunteer teachers.

Health and Wellbeing Hub

Our Health and Wellbeing hub is a series of initiatives aimed at tackling health inequalities, some of which are funded by Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group. We work with the Asylum Seeker and Refugee Traumatic Stress Service to run fortnightly Sleep Support and Relaxation sessions for members who experience difficulties sleeping e.g. due to anxiety, nightmares and flashbacks. We are also working with the Haven Healthcare Clinic, other local refugee charities and new partners – such as Bloody Good period and Caafi Health – to provide workshops on vaccine awareness and women's health; pop-up clinics for vaccination, dental check-ups and general health checks; and workshops on making healthy and culturally appropriate food, including budgeting skills.

Outreach work

This year we started working with South Gloucestershire Council to deliver outreach support for asylum seekers housed in an Initial Accommodation hotel in Filton on the outskirts of Bristol one day a week. We are providing signposting information and one-to-one listening and problem-solving support, and assisting with health and social needs assessments, referrals and health navigation (e.g. booking doctors appointments). This work is still in its early stages and may develop to include social/wellbeing activities such as preparing meals for people to eat together, sleep and relaxation sessions and guided walks.

Housing Project

Our Housing Project was launched in 2017 when a private donation enabled us to pay the deposit on a four-bedroom house in Stapleton, a Bristol suburb with good transport links to the centre. Crossbridge House provides accommodation for four newly-granted refugees at a time for 6-12 months to help ease the transition to independence in the early days of renting when they do not yet have a bank account or money for a deposit. Each tenant is offered a mentor through our Mentoring Project.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Campaigning and advocacy

We regularly give talks in schools, colleges, churches and community groups to raise awareness of the issues facing asylum seekers and refugees in the UK. We also give TV and radio interviews and participate in national campaigns such as Refugee Week and local events such as Little Amal in Bristol and Bristol Refugee Festival. We seek to counteract the negative stereotyping of asylum seekers and refugees presented in the media, and to present a more factual and informed insight into their lives in Bristol. By challenging prejudice and changing attitudes, we aim to contribute to better integration and social cohesion.

Our volunteers

Our members have much to contribute in terms of skills, knowledge and lived experience. We provide volunteer opportunities to engage our members with their community, help them gain skills and confidence and alleviate stress and anxiety while they endure the long wait to hear a decision on their case. A team of over 60 volunteers delivers the majority of our frontline work, around 50% of whom are asylum seekers and refugees. We offer volunteers training and guidance for their professional development, meeting one-to-one every six months to set new objectives and help understand which opportunities and career path they want to follow.

Our partnerships

At Borderlands we aim to foster a culture of inter-agency working in order to coordinate services, create joint strategies, make best use of everyone's resources and avoid duplication. We are part of the Bristol Impact Fund and Bristol Refugee and Asylum Seeker Partnership (BRASP), both of which aim to improve partnership working and promote a culture of peer support, learning and sharing best practice. These partnerships include joint members' consultation, co-production work and a common needs assessment approach to inform the activities we develop as a sector and as individual organisations. Collectively we also have a stronger and more effective campaigning and advocating voice to impact on local and wider policy-making and to support emerging sector partnerships in other regions. As BRASP our shared values are: Lived experienced-led, Empowerment, Inclusive, Solidarity, Integrity and Independence. Borderlands also plays an active role in several forums including the Bristol Refugee Forum, Asylum Seeker and Refugee Wellbeing Forum and Young People's Forum.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Borderlands delivers public benefit both directly to our members and to the wider public through improved community cohesion and inclusion and by increasing understanding of issues relating to asylum seekers and refugees.

Achievements and performance

The Covid pandemic altered our way of working at Borderlands, and led us to become more flexible in adapting our activities so we can respond to potential future variants and restrictions. It also gave us the opportunity to step back and reflect on how we best meet the needs of our members.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2022

There has been a significant increase in the number of asylum seekers in the Bristol area since 2020, most of whom are now being accommodated in Initial Accommodation hotels – some far from support agencies and services. This, together with the impact of Covid, has left the local refugee sector stretched. In response, we have reviewed roles within Borderlands and invested in building a robust and experienced team, including creating three new posts: an Education Manager, Project Administrator and Welcome and Members Participation Officer. We also launched new Health and Wellbeing activities, developed a more in-depth listening and problem-solving service for our destitute members, expanded our provision of English classes, introduced new IT courses, and began working in an Initial Accommodation hotel on the outskirts of Bristol.

350 asylum seekers and refugees benefitted from our work in 2021-22 including:

- Supporting 114 people per week with our Drop-In, including provision of hot meals and healthy food to take home, an internet cafe, print-making workshops and social activities including a boat trip, guided walk and beach trip;
- Our Welcome Team provided an introduction to our services and wider support in Bristol for 245 new members;
- Solidarity Fund payments and one-to-one support for 89 individuals to help them to get out of crisis;
- Emotional and practical support for 51 asylum seekers and refugees with our Mentoring Project;
- 12 Sleep Support and Relaxation sessions for 33 members;
- temporary accommodation and a springboard to independence for four refugees with our Housing Project; and
- 30 volunteering opportunities for our members.

Impact summary 2021-22:

	Number of asylum seekers & refugees supported
All Borderlands activities	350
Drop-in and Covid support	114 per week
Welcome Desk	245
Solidarity Fund	89
English classes	100
Mentoring Project	51
Sleep Support & Relaxation sessions	33
IT classes	12
Volunteer opportunities	30
Housing Project	4

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Food

Food is very important to us at Borderlands: our members come together with us once a week to share a nourishing and delicious meal, creating social connections and friendships. The diversity of our community is reflected in our kitchen too, as our volunteer chefs from different parts of the

Over the pandemic we had to pause our shared meals, instead providing hot meals and bags of groceries for members to take away. We also brought in a home delivery system for those who were unable to get to Borderlands to ensure all our members had weekly access to food. While there were real downsides to this way of working, it helped us to realise that providing healthy, culturally appropriate food to take home was really important to our members. This year we introduced a Social Supermarket where our members have total ownership over what food they choose to take home. Unfortunately due to the new Covid variant – and the complex health needs and vulnerability of our members – we had to postpone re-starting our shared meals, although offered a sit-in option during the coldest months of the winter. We were delighted to fully re-open our Drop-in with shared meals in February 2022.

New Director

Our new Director, Susanna Revolti, started in her role as Director in October 2021, having previously worked as our Mentoring Manager since 2017. Susi has a deep commitment to working with refugees, and has worked as a Human Rights Observer in conflict and post-conflict countries and as a researcher and caseworker in refugee camps in Europe. Since starting as Director, she has completed a Clore Social Leadership course - an intensive six-month programme to help emerging leaders build their leadership potential, strengthen their networks, and drive change. Susi is passionate about making sure that strategic decisions are informed by our members, and is also working with the Bristol Refugee and Asylum Seeker Partnership to develop pathways through which people with lived experience can gain employment in the sector and take on leadership positions.

Member engagement

We made huge strides at Borderlands this year towards involving our members in development and delivery of our work to better reflect the communities we serve. We set up committees for finance and social activities on which members play a leading role, which are delegated power to make decisions on the day-to-day running of the charity. With the aim of becoming more member-led, we have just recruited for a new role: Welcome and Members Participation Officer – a refugee herself - who will listen to members' feedback and develop structures so that their voices inform strategic decisions. Our next step is to create an advisory board of experienced members to inform our strategy, support member consultation and attend trustee meetings. We plan to foster roles where our members can grow and take on leadership, managerial and trustee roles.

Our impact

We reviewed how we monitor and evaluate our work this year, helped by a PhD student with expertise in this area. This included installing a new Client Relationship Management system (Lamplight) to enable us to better track outputs and outcomes for individual members. We use an annual members survey, volunteer survey, feedback from specific activities, focus groups and case studies to measure our impact. We also hold quarterly volunteer team meetings to discuss the way we are delivering activities and to help us make improvements. The results of our evaluations are collated and assessed, and then reviewed by the staff and trustees to create a model of best practice for future projects.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2022

We measure our progress against the following outcomes – asylum seekers and refugees will:

- Be supported at a time of crisis, and helped to move on positively with their lives;
- Feel socially connected, reducing isolation and improving mental wellbeing;
- Be able to navigate the asylum process, benefits, housing, health and/or employment systems and claim their rights and entitlements; and
- Have improved skills to move towards employment, including education, training and volunteering.

In our latest survey, 95% of members said Borderlands had helped reduce poverty and hardship, 79% had improved social connections, 97% had greater resilience and wellbeing, and 58% had increased skills and independence.

“Borderlands has been a light at the end of the tunnel for my husband and I. We have made wonderful friends and learnt about cultures and nationalities we didn’t know about. In these uncertain circumstances for our personal lives and for the world, finding Borderlands has been a priceless hope. Thanks for always being concerned for those who need help and for promoting an environment of dignity, acceptance and respect. We will always be grateful.”

Of those mentees who ended their mentoring partnership in 2021, 100% thought their mentor was the right person for them and would recommend the project to a friend. 89% felt more confident in speaking English, and 100% said that as a result of their mentoring partnership they feel less lonely and more integrated in the community. On average, 90% of those participating in our Mentoring Project start volunteering, 75% access education or training and 25% secure a job or job placement.

“I felt alone before and my English was very bad. Now I feel good. I am smiling. My confidence has built and I am really grateful. I will never forget you!” Mentee

“The best thing was seeing his increased confidence in talking about his achievements and taking decisions about his future.” Mentor

Our English classes helped 100 of our members to make friends, study and build independence in 2021-22. Here are some comments from our students:

“I am happy. Lessons are interesting. The class is friendly. I am confident. My English is getting better. My vocabulary is increasing. My teacher is good.”

“I have noticed a great improvement when I communicate with people. For example when I go to the supermarket. Everyone has told me that my English has improved a lot in the last few months. Also the English teachers are very good and very patient.” Member

We provided 30 volunteering opportunities for our members last year, supporting them to gain skills and confidence, connect with their community and give them a sense of purpose while they wait for a decision on their asylum claim. In a survey with our member volunteers in October 2021, 100% said they had made new friends and felt part of Borderlands community as a result of volunteering and 57% had learnt new skills. Of those who are allowed to work, 57% said they felt more confident looking for work since volunteering at Borderlands.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2022

"I would like to thank Borderlands for the wonderful opportunity it provides me. Since coming to Borderlands I have learnt that the greatest reward one can give to humanity is devoting his/her time to other."

"Borderlands has really changed my life, before I was always at home, I had nothing to do, but when I started volunteering I started feeling better."

As a result of our Sleep Support and Relaxation sessions, 80% of participants said they have seen a great improvement in their sleep and 90% will continue to practice the advice they have received and skills they have learned.

Case studies

Salha, a young Sudanese refugee mum of 4 kids, now co-runs a catering enterprise, 'Houria', with her mentor, Kim. Houria – which means freedom in Arabic – provides training and employment for female victims of trafficking and modern slavery in cooking African and middle eastern food. The idea for the enterprise was born at Borderlands and through the connection that the founder Kim had with the women here, especially from being part of the mentoring programme. Kim worked with women who were talented and passionate cooks who told her they needed sustainable employment and chances to make friends in Bristol.

When Gholam was referred to Borderlands from the Red Cross he was homeless. Due to his situation he had no recourse to public funds and was receiving no financial support. There was very little movement with his asylum case and his mental health was declining. We met Gholam and began issuing him solidarity payments and talking to him about his situation. We referred him to the Churches Night Shelter which gave him a room and three meals a day over winter as well as ongoing support from St Mungo's. He was then able to take the time to consult with his solicitor and submit a fresh claim, and is now due move into asylum accommodation. By linking into our solidarity payments we were able to work with Gholam to ensure he was also being referred into and supported by other services in Bristol.

Future plans

In response to increased demand, changing needs and a stretched local refugee sector, we have significantly expanded our staff team so that we have the capacity to grow and develop our work. We have ambitious plans for the coming year, including becoming more 'mobile' to reach more new asylum seekers and developing our support for those accommodated in hotels. We want to build on our work improving wellbeing and access to healthcare, expand our provision of English classes and further develop our learning and skills offer. We plan to connect up with other Mentoring Projects to better share learning and best practice with others and to create a forum with other ESOL providers to share resources and learning and better coordinate the local ESOL offer.

We will also step up our advocacy work with regards to the Nationality and Borders Bill, which will criminalise of refugees for how they travel to the UK, and give more voice to what is happening in the Initial Accommodation hotels. As part of this we will train a team of volunteer members in public speaking e.g. at campaigning events.

As part of their enhanced support, in the coming year Lloyds Bank Foundation will facilitate a governance review, a strategy workshop and a finance mentor to help us to create a robust finance strategy. These will all feed into a new five-year strategy we will produce in consultation with our members, volunteers, partners, funders, staff and trustees.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Thank you

We would like to thank all our funders this year, including Bristol City Council, the Albert Gubay Foundation, the John James Bristol Foundation, BNSSG Clinical Commissioning Group, The National Lottery Community Fund and others who choose to be anonymous. We are also most grateful to individuals, local businesses, social enterprises and charities who have made donations and supplied us with the majority of our food.

Financial review

The accounts for 2021-22 show income of £235,155 against expenditure of £232,308 – a surplus £2,847. There was a significant drop in donations from individuals, companies and community groups this year, due to Covid restricting our ability to organise fundraising events and – we suspect – the economic decline. This drop in income was mitigated by securing more income from grants.

We were successful in securing three multi-year grants this year, including from the Bristol Impact Fund, Albert Gubay Foundation and Lloyd's Bank Foundation (the latter to start in 2022-23). This funding will help to build sustainability, and we hope to secure at least two more multi-year grants in the coming year as we enter a period of growth and development.

Reserves policy

General reserves

The Trustees have a General Reserves Policy which follows the Charity Commission's guidance on charity reserves. This policy protects our operations and essential services from the potential risk of disruption at short notice due to a lack of funds while at the same time ensuring that Borderlands does not retain income for longer than required. The policy takes into account the operating expenses of the charity and maintenance of essential services in the event of a downturn in income and/or unforeseen increases in costs. It also takes account of the contractual obligations to the Charity's employees and the costs of closure or wind-down of its core operations. Having reserves at the beginning of the Covid pandemic gave Borderlands the flexibility to change the services we delivered to our members during lockdown and remain in operation. The current global economic uncertainty increases the probability that investment income of grant making bodies may be limited and this may result in a consequential reduction in grant income.

General reserves are not restricted to or designated for a particular purpose. General reserves are a part of net current assets and are equivalent to approximately six months' committed expenditure at budgeted 2021-22 levels which the Trustees consider to be an appropriate level for Borderlands. The basis of determining the target reserves level is kept under periodic review and will be adjusted as perceptions of risk and other factors change.

Designated and restricted funds

The trustees designated funds throughout the year from our unrestricted income to be used for the operation of the Legal and Destitution funds. Funds designated to our Destitution/Solidarity Fund were fully spent at the year end. During the pandemic our members' asylum cases were on hold and therefore funds designated to the Legal Fund were re-directed to our other activities. We are currently keeping the Legal Fund – which can contribute to helping asylum seekers to pursue their right to remain in the UK or reunite with family when public funds are not available - on hold pending a strategic decision in the coming year.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Restricted funds are held separately within the charity's financial accounts and are spent within the time-frame indicated by the donor which may cover more than one financial year.

Our accounts show net current assets of £186,122 at 31 March 2022, of which £92,772 are free reserves (£93,340 of net current assets are restricted funds to be spent in 2022-23). Our forecast expenditure for 2022-23 is £299,340, so free reserves represent approximately 4 months' operating costs going forward.

Please note: a proportion of Unrestricted Funds shown on the balance sheet relates to the freehold property we use for our Housing Project and is therefore not available for spending.

Investment policy and objectives

All funds are held in the bank current accounts and are immediately available.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees (who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable UK accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Members of the charitable company guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The trustees are company members but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Independent examiners

Godfrey Wilson Limited were re-appointed as independent examiners to the charitable company during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

Approved by the trustees on TBC and signed on their behalf by

Richard McKay, Chair

Independent examiner's report

To the trustees of

Borderlands (South West) Limited

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Borderlands (South West) Limited (the charitable company) for the year ended 31 March 2022, which are set out on pages 14 to 28.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charitable company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charitable company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charitable company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Godfrey Wilson Limited also provides bookkeeping and payroll services to the charitable company. I confirm that as a member of the ICAEW I am subject to the FRC's Revised Ethical Standard 2016, which I have applied with respect to this engagement.

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 charitable company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.

Date:

William Guy Blake

Member of the ICAEW

For and on behalf of:

Godfrey Wilson Limited

Chartered accountants and statutory auditors

5th Floor Mariner House

62 Prince Street

Bristol

BS1 4QD

Borderlands (South West) Limited**Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)****For the year ended 31 March 2022**

	Note	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	168,316	55,844	224,160	315,717
Charitable activities	4	-	9,287	9,287	7,200
Other income		-	1,300	1,300	-
Investments		-	408	408	765
Total income		<u>168,316</u>	<u>66,839</u>	<u>235,155</u>	<u>323,682</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		-	9,010	9,010	9,080
Charitable activities		<u>122,921</u>	<u>100,377</u>	<u>223,298</u>	<u>200,717</u>
Total expenditure	6	<u>122,921</u>	<u>109,387</u>	<u>232,308</u>	<u>209,797</u>
Net income / (expenditure)		45,395	(42,548)	2,847	113,885
Transfers between funds		<u>15,874</u>	<u>(15,874)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds	7	61,269	(58,422)	2,847	113,885
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		<u>32,071</u>	<u>284,213</u>	<u>316,284</u>	<u>202,399</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u><u>93,340</u></u>	<u><u>225,791</u></u>	<u><u>319,131</u></u>	<u><u>316,284</u></u>

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 15 to the accounts.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Balance sheet

As at 31 March 2022

	Note	£	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets	10		<u>226,769</u>	<u>216,146</u>
Current assets				
Debtors	11	29,262		19,627
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>190,301</u>		<u>232,098</u>
		219,563		251,725
Liabilities				
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	12	<u>(33,451)</u>		<u>(32,837)</u>
Net current assets			<u>186,112</u>	<u>218,888</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			412,881	435,034
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than 1 year	13		<u>(93,750)</u>	<u>(118,750)</u>
Net assets	14		<u>319,131</u>	<u>316,284</u>
Funds	15			
Restricted funds			93,340	32,071
Unrestricted funds				
General funds			<u>225,791</u>	<u>284,213</u>
Total charity funds			<u>319,131</u>	<u>316,284</u>

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to the audit of the financial statements for the period by virtue of section 477(2), and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) ensuring that the Company keeps proper accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act; and
- (ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the trustees on TBC and signed on their behalf by

Richard McKay, Chair

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

1. Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Borderlands (South West) Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b) Going concern basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the charity is able to continue as a going concern, which the trustees consider appropriate having regard to the current level of unrestricted reserves. There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

c) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from the government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

d) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity: this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

e) Funds accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

f) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

g) Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity, including the costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements and any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities. These costs have been allocated in full to the cost of charitable activities this year, on the basis that the charity has not expended any significant resources towards fundraising this year, outside of the staff time already allocated.

h) Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Freehold property	50 years
Furniture and equipment	4 years
Phone equipment	2 years

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £100.

i) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

j) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

k) Creditors

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

l) Concessionary loans

The charitable company is in receipt of concessionary loans for furtherance of their charitable activities. Concessionary loans are recognised when the commitment is entered into and the relevant loan documentation has been completed. The loans are initially recognised and measured at the amount received, with the carrying amount adjusted in subsequent years to reflect repayments and if necessary any accrued interest.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

m) Financial instruments

The charitable company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently recognised at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

n) Pension costs

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees. There are no further liabilities other than that already recognised in the SOFA.

o) Accounting estimates and key judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The key sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are described below.

Depreciation

As described in note 1h to the financial statements, depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

2. Statement of financial activities: prior period comparatives

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2021 Total £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	105,247	210,470	315,717
Charitable activities	-	7,200	7,200
Investments	-	765	765
	<u>105,247</u>	<u>218,435</u>	<u>323,682</u>
Total income	105,247	218,435	323,682
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	-	9,080	9,080
Charitable activities	<u>116,459</u>	<u>84,258</u>	<u>200,717</u>
	<u>116,459</u>	<u>93,338</u>	<u>209,797</u>
Total expenditure	116,459	93,338	209,797
Net expenditure	(11,212)	125,097	113,885
Transfers between funds	<u>11,278</u>	<u>(11,278)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds	<u>66</u>	<u>113,819</u>	<u>113,885</u>

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2022 Total £
Companies and trusts	168,316	11,593	179,909
Individuals	-	42,473	42,473
Gift aid	-	1,778	1,778
Total income from donations and legacies	168,316	55,844	224,160

Prior period comparative:

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2021 Total £
Companies and trusts	104,546	91,900	196,446
Individuals	701	99,595	100,296
Gift aid	-	8,421	8,421
Coronavirus job retention scheme	-	10,554	10,554
Total income from donations and legacies	105,247	210,470	315,717

4. Income from charitable activities

	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Rental income	9,287	7,200

All income from charitable activities is unrestricted.

5. Government grants

The charitable company receives government grants, defined as funding from Bristol City Council and South Gloucestershire Council to fund charitable activities. The total value of such grants in the period ending 31 March 2022 was £64,580 (2021: £34,970 from Bristol City Council and the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme). There are no unfulfilled conditions or contingencies attaching to these grants in 2021/22.

Borderlands (South West) Limited**Notes to the financial statements****For the year ended 31 March 2022**

6. Total expenditure

	Raising funds £	Charitable activities £	Support and governance costs £	2022 Total £
Staff costs (note 8)	9,010	100,753	4,915	114,678
Other staff costs	-	-	455	455
Destitution payments	-	20,205	-	20,205
Drop-in costs	-	13,905	-	13,905
Mentoring consultancy	-	2,703	-	2,703
Premises costs	-	-	28,057	28,057
Insurance	-	-	1,303	1,303
Accountancy	-	-	6,388	6,388
Consultancy	-	-	9,681	9,681
Legal expenses	-	650	2,400	3,050
Admin costs	-	4,281	16,353	20,634
Depreciation	-	-	9,790	9,790
Other project costs	-	1,459	-	1,459
Sub-total	9,010	143,956	79,342	232,308
Allocation of support and governance costs	-	79,342	(79,342)	-
Total expenditure	9,010	223,298	-	232,308

Total governance costs were £1,920 (2021: £1,800).

Borderlands (South West) Limited**Notes to the financial statements****For the year ended 31 March 2022****6. Total expenditure (continued)****Prior year comparative**

	Raising funds £	Charitable activities £	Support and governance costs £	2021 Total £
Staff costs (note 8)	9,080	51,885	42,805	103,770
Other staff costs	-	154	1,399	1,553
Destitution payments	-	27,896	-	27,896
Drop-in costs	-	5,537	-	5,537
Mentoring consultancy	-	8,137	-	8,137
Premises costs	-	-	22,500	22,500
Insurance	-	-	1,769	1,769
Advertising	-	-	24	24
Accountancy	-	-	5,854	5,854
Consultancy	-	-	6,946	6,946
Legal expenses	-	9,762	1,237	10,999
Admin costs	-	1,340	8,002	9,342
Depreciation	-	-	5,470	5,470
Sub-total	9,080	104,711	96,006	209,797
Allocation of support and governance costs	-	96,006	(96,006)	-
Total expenditure	9,080	200,717	-	209,797

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

7. Net movement in funds

This is stated after charging:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Depreciation	9,790	5,470
Trustees' remuneration	Nil	Nil
Trustees' reimbursed expenses	Nil	292
Independent examiner's remuneration		
▪ Independent examination (including VAT)	<u>1,920</u>	<u>1,800</u>

8. Staff costs and numbers

Staff costs were as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Salaries and wages	107,711	97,614
Social security costs	4,551	3,255
Pension costs	<u>2,416</u>	<u>2,901</u>
	<u>114,678</u>	<u>103,770</u>

No employee earned more than £60,000 during the year.

The key management personnel of the charitable company comprised the Trustees and Director. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel were £19,896 (2021: £18,360).

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
Average head count	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>

9. Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Furniture & equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2021	238,500	6,487	244,987
Additions in year	<u>-</u>	<u>20,413</u>	20,413
At 31 March 2022	<u>238,500</u>	<u>26,900</u>	265,400
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2021	23,850	4,991	28,841
Charge for the year	<u>4,770</u>	<u>5,020</u>	9,790
At 31 March 2022	<u>28,620</u>	<u>10,011</u>	38,631
Net book value			
At 31 March 2022	<u>209,880</u>	<u>16,889</u>	<u>226,769</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>214,650</u>	<u>1,496</u>	<u>216,146</u>

11. Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Prepayments	391	1,139
Other debtors	18,871	18,488
Accrued income	<u>10,000</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>29,262</u>	<u>19,627</u>

12. Creditors : amounts due within 1 year

	2022 £	2021 £
Loans	25,000	25,000
Trade creditors	203	426
Accruals	4,561	7,167
Pensions payable	475	244
Other taxation and social security	<u>3,212</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>33,451</u>	<u>32,837</u>

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

13. Creditors : amounts due after 1 year

	2022 £	2021 £
Loans	<u>93,750</u>	<u>118,750</u>

The loan is a 10 year loan from a Trustee for purchase of a residential property, secured by a legal mortgage over the property. The loan commenced in 2017 and is repayable at £25,000 per annum. No interest is charged.

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	226,769	226,769
Current assets	93,340	126,223	219,563
Current liabilities	-	(33,451)	(33,451)
Non-current liabilities	-	(93,750)	(93,750)
Net assets at 31 March 2022	<u>93,340</u>	<u>225,791</u>	<u>319,131</u>
Prior period comparatives			
	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	216,146	216,146
Current assets	32,071	219,654	251,725
Current liabilities	-	(32,837)	(32,837)
Non-current liabilities	-	(118,750)	(118,750)
Net assets at 31 March 2021	<u>32,071</u>	<u>284,213</u>	<u>316,284</u>

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

15. Movements in funds

	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	At 31 March 2022 £
Restricted funds					
Drop-in fund	-	66,287	(82,161)	15,874	-
Future Project fund	7,500	-	-	-	7,500
Mentoring Project fund	16,000	62,229	(29,797)	-	48,432
Beach Trip fund	2,972	-	(934)	-	2,038
Covid-19 support	-	16,600	-	-	16,600
IT Centre	5,599	-	(5,599)	-	-
Internet Cafe	-	3,000	-	-	3,000
Outreach work	-	10,000	(1,430)	-	8,570
Health Activities	-	9,000	(3,000)	-	6,000
Legal fund	-	1,200	-	-	1,200
Total restricted funds	32,071	168,316	(122,921)	15,874	93,340
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	284,213	66,839	(109,387)	(15,874)	225,791
Total unrestricted funds	284,213	66,839	(109,387)	(15,874)	225,791
Total funds	316,284	235,155	(232,308)	-	319,131

Purposes of restricted funds

Drop-in fund The Drop-in was funded by Bristol City Council through the Bristol Impact Fund 2 (part of a 4-year partnership with four other organisations), TNL Awards for All (towards running specific activities on an extra day per week) and a Trust who wish to remain anonymous who gave £20,000. Burges Salmon also gave £2,000 towards a Food for Eid celebration.

Future Project fund This is a restricted donation fund made to enable the charity to pursue a specific project, as and when one is identified and is approved by the donor.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

15. Movements in funds (continued)

Mentoring Project fund	The Mentoring Project was funded by the Albert Gubay Foundation, John James Bristol Foundation, Dame Violet Wills Trust, Harold Hood Trust, the Plater Trust and Wessex Water Community Fund.
Beach Trip fund	This is supported by a private restricted donation so that Borderlands can offer an annual trip to members to the beach and give them an opportunity to get outside of Bristol and enjoy nature. It's an opportunity to build relationships and support wellbeing.
Covid-19 support	Two grants from Bristol City Council to provide practical and emotional support to members self-isolating and for communities facing the greatest barriers during Covid-19 pandemic.
IT Centre	This fund is to create a IT Centre dedicated to providing technical services for members funded through the Lloyds Foundation.
Internet Cafe	This was funded with a grant from Quartet Community Foundation Express Fund.
Outreach work	Funding from South Gloucestershire Council to provide outreach and support for asylum seekers in an Initial Accommodation hotel in Filton.
Health Activities	A grant from BNSSG Clinical Commissioning Group to deliver activities aimed at reducing health inequalities taking place in our Drop-in space.
Legal fund	

Transfers between funds

Transfer between funds for the Drop-in fund represent a contribution to the project from the charity's unrestricted general reserves.

Borderlands (South West) Limited**Notes to the financial statements****For the year ended 31 March 2022**

15. Movements in funds (continued)**Prior period comparatives**

	At 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	At 31 March 2021 £
Restricted funds					
Drop-in fund	-	60,267	(71,545)	11,278	-
Future Project fund	7,500	-	-	-	7,500
Mentoring Project fund	19,000	33,100	(36,100)	-	16,000
Beach Trip fund	2,972	-	-	-	2,972
Covid-19 fund	2,533	-	(2,533)	-	-
IT Centre	-	11,880	(6,281)	-	5,599
	<u>-</u>	<u>11,880</u>	<u>(6,281)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>32,005</u>	<u>105,247</u>	<u>(116,459)</u>	<u>11,278</u>	<u>32,071</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>170,394</u>	<u>218,435</u>	<u>(93,338)</u>	<u>(11,278)</u>	<u>284,213</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>170,394</u>	<u>218,435</u>	<u>(93,338)</u>	<u>(11,278)</u>	<u>284,213</u>
Total funds	<u>202,399</u>	<u>323,682</u>	<u>(209,797)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>316,284</u>

16. Related party transactions

The total aggregate donations from trustees during the year were £1,500 (2021: £25,300).

Included within the charity's creditors at the year end is a 10 year loan from a Trustee for the purchase of a residential property, secured by a legal mortgage over the property. The loan commenced in 2017 and is repayable at £25,000 per annum. No interest is charged on the loan. The balance outstanding on the loan at the year end is £118,750 (2021: £143,750).

BORDERLANDS (SOUTH WEST) LTD

England & Wales - Charity number 1143313

Accounts

Company no. 07607693
Charity no. 1143313

Borderlands (South West) Limited
Report and Unaudited Financial Statements
31 March 2021

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Reference and administrative details

For the year ended 31 March 2021

Company number 07607693

Charity number 1143313

Registered office and operational address
The Assisi Centre
Lawfords Gate
Bristol
BS5 0RE

Trustees Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the period and up to the date of this report were as follows:
Andrew Bent
Peter Browne
John Flannery (resigned 17 October 2020)
Mary Hopper
Motcha Mary (appointed 17 October 2020)
Richard McKay
Cynthia Ochieng (appointed 17 October 2020)
Antonio Stavrou
Nicholas Tarr
Robert von Hawrylak

Bankers

Co-operative Bank PO Box 250 Delf House Southway Skelmersdale WN8 6WT	CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
Aldermore Bank Western House Lynch Wood Peterborough PE2 6FZ	

Independent examiners Godfrey Wilson Limited
Chartered accountants and statutory auditors
5th Floor Mariner House
62 Prince Street
Bristol
BS1 4QD

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2021

Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities (effective from January 2019).

Structure, governance and management

Structure

Borderlands (South West) Limited is constituted as a registered charity and company limited by guarantee.

Nature of governing document

The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

New trustees are recruited by invitation from the networks of existing trustees, by recommendation, and occasionally by advertising. Following a detailed selection process approved by the Board, and the appropriate background checks, they are formally appointed after discussion at a meeting of the trustees.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

To relieve asylum seekers and refugees in need, hardship and distress by reason of their social and economic circumstances by such charitable means as the trustees shall determine including the advancement of education, relief of poverty and the preservation and protection of good health.

To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society.

For the purpose of this clause 'socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one or more of the following factors: unemployment; financial hardship; youth or old age; ill health (physical or mental); substance abuse or dependency including alcohol and drugs; discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, disability, ethnic origin, religion, belief, creed, sexual orientation or gender re-assignment; poor educational or skills attainment; relationship and family breakdown; poor housing (that is housing that does not meet basic habitable standards; crime (either as a victim of crime or as an offender rehabilitating into society); sexual exploitation.

To advance the education of the public in the subject of those groups mentioned above with the aim of increasing community cohesion and to inform public policy. For the purpose of this clause, community cohesion is a term to describe how everyone in a geographical area lives alongside each other with mutual understanding and respect.

To promote general charitable purposes for the benefit of the community of Bristol and the surrounding area, and to provide relief from financial hardship and social and/or economic disadvantage. and to advance the education of its residents of all ages; and in particular to provide opportunities for the aforementioned residents to participate fully in the life of their community in ways which address and alleviate social and economic disadvantage.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2021

Main activities

Drop-in centre

Run within government restrictions and guidelines throughout the year.

Our Drop-in is a safe space where asylum seekers and refugees can receive a warm welcome, a hot meal and support to rebuild their lives. It runs at the Assisi Centre in Easton two days a week for 51 weeks per annum. We offer:

- a compassionate welcome and a free hot meal;
- English classes;
- signposting and problem solving, e.g. booking an appointment with a GP or dentist, housing or benefits access, referrals to specialised services, correspondence or questions;
- expert advice from external agencies that attend our Drop-in to deliver their services in a place that our beneficiaries know and feel safe in;
- distribution of food bags and toiletries, which help people to survive from one week to the next;
- health experts such as The Haven (primary healthcare), an osteopath and a masseuse attend regularly to provide support with physical and mental health problems. Other workshops such as Somatic movement classes are also regularly held;
- recreational activities e.g. arts and crafts, table tennis, creative writing, acting, and occasional trips e.g. to the seaside;
- additional creative workshops are also held, often through partnerships such as with The Royal Literary Fund and the Arnolfini; and
- training and support to become volunteers in our charity and others e.g. at Windmill Hill City Farm.

Response to current Covid restrictions: The Drop-in was unable to offer all the above but did remain open in a reduced way throughout Covid restrictions, offering destitution payments, a hot take-away meal and food parcels (including a delivery service). There was regular telephone contact with members. An IT suite was set up in January to respond to a variety of needs for members with poor IT devices and connections.

Mentoring project

The project provides asylum seekers and refugees with one-to-one support through creating a safe relationship with a local 'mentor' to support them to achieve an agreed personal goal. Relationships aim to span 6 months, but this may be longer or shorter if needed. As well as practical support, emotional support is also often provided. Mentors meet mentees once a week for an hour of face-to-face contact and are available by phone or social media at agreed times for more support if needed.

The project aims to:

- build the knowledge and confidence of refugees and asylum seekers to access opportunities, systems and services in Bristol that could improve their lives;
- train and support volunteer mentors to provide practical and emotional support to asylum seekers and refugees living in Bristol;
- build the skills and knowledge of local people in Bristol to support refugees and asylum seekers and enhance community capacity, understanding and inclusion; and
- enable refugees to make their own way in life and help them to lead independent, productive, fulfilled lives and have a greater understanding of UK culture.

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Mentors and mentees are matched based on the needs (linguistic, practical and/or emotional) of the mentee and the skill set and experience of the mentor (some mentors were refugees and asylum seekers themselves). Volunteers are trained in the personal and practical skills necessary to be an effective mentor for refugees and asylum seekers e.g. improving their English, finding local places of worship, registering with a GP, dealing with culture shock and with fear and uncertainty, opening a bank account and getting a National Insurance number. Borderlands runs follow-on monthly training, information and advice sessions for volunteers and provides them with one-to-one support through team leaders and an 'escalation' service to the Mentoring Project Manager. All volunteer mentors have enhanced DBS checks.

The Peer Mentoring Project also falls under the Mentoring Project. This consists of a small team of member (beneficiary) mentors (4 to 6). This service looks to provide a friendly welcome and thorough introduction to Borderlands for new members, from a fellow asylum seeker or refugee who has experienced the same process. Support includes:

- a friendly face of an asylum seeker or refugee to welcome new members (beneficiaries);
- registration of new members, often in the member's native language;
- orientation of Borderlands available services; and
- orientation of available services in Bristol.

Response to current Covid restrictions: The Mentoring Project continued remotely via mobile, Facetime and IT connections etc, and supervision continued to be provided. As lockdown was eased, some one-one mentoring took place safely distanced and outdoors.

Cross Bridge House

In 2016 Borderlands acquired a four bedroom house in Stapleton, Bristol. The house was bought with the intention of providing accommodation for refugees. Tenants can live in the house for an initial six month period, with the idea being to provide the stability and security that is necessary to become independent, if that is through finding a job, beginning training or pursuing further education. All tenants are also offered a mentor. If needed and if it seems suitable, the duration of stay in the house can be extended to 12 months.

Response to current Covid restrictions: Crossbridge continued to offer a safe place for our tenants. Pastoral care and support was provided by telephone rather than in person.

Legal fund

A designated fund established by the trustees, this provides assistance with legal costs to enable asylum-seekers and refugees to seek justice when public funds are not available.

Destitution fund

A designated fund established by the trustees, this provides small sums to support those in destitution or experiencing a sudden financial emergency.

Travel fund

A designated fund established by the trustees, this provides financial support for members (beneficiaries) to travel to their solicitor and to court cases when needed.

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Campaigning and awareness

Borderlands regularly gives talks in schools, colleges, churches and community groups to raise awareness of the issues facing asylum seekers and refugees in the UK, as well as giving TV and radio interviews and participating in national campaigns such as Refugee Week and local events. We seek to counteract the negative stereotyping of asylum seekers and refugees presented in the media, and to present a more factual and informed insight into their lives in Bristol. By challenging prejudice and changing attitudes, we aim to contribute to better integration and improve social cohesion.

Response to current Covid restrictions: This was restricted to on-line campaigns and zoom meetings with councilors and partners in the sector - public meetings etc. were not possible.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

The charity delivers public benefit both directly to users of its activities, listed above, and to the wider public through increased community cohesion and inclusion, and by increasing general awareness and understanding of issues relating to asylum-seekers and refugees.

Achievements and performance

Our beneficiaries

This has been a most unusual year and the support we provide to the asylum and refugee sector in Bristol has been needed more than ever.

We are the only charity in this sector who remained open during the three lockdowns and continue to do so. Of course, what we offer had to be adapted (with considerably less face to face contact) but we were still able to provide food and destitution payments. Our mentoring service also continued.

It has been a great challenge to keep going this year but we have fed 5,514 people since the first lockdown either by giving out takeaway meals and food bags or by delivering to people's homes where they have felt unsafe to leave. In addition, we have supported 154 regular people with destitution payments through the year.

In the year, 65.3% of those coming to the door have been male and 25.4% female. The remainder did not want to provide the information. 10.2% listed themselves as LGBT+. Those with disabilities were 8.5% of the total.

We have seen a huge rise in those coming from Sudan this year and also Pakistan.

At the start of the first lockdown we had no idea if we would be able to keep open and what the future for the charity would be. We have however benefited from a large rise in donations from individuals and local companies who have supported our work during the pandemic.

The destitution payments offered at £10 a week are the best we can provide – we are a small charity. We are however aware that this is a minimal amount especially as there is little other support for these people.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

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For the year ended 31 March 2021

We have allocated additional sums in the budget for the coming financial year to support those who are destitute and are putting together a dedicated team to offer more than the money – time. Time to listen, hear the life stories and then refer for more professional help where we can.

The majority of our members live in BS5 (Easton & Lawrence Hill), some live in St Paul's (BS2) and Fishponds (BS16), a significant number live further out, such as Knowle (BS4) and Kingswood (South Gloucestershire / BS16). Increasingly asylum seekers are dispersed to areas outside of Bristol, meaning that some of our members now come from towns such as Avonmouth, Weston-Super-Mare and Severn Beach.

Our approach

Borderlands aims to build the resourcefulness, resilience and capacity of asylum seekers and refugees so that they can help themselves and each other through sharing information, non-specialist advice, experiences and friendship. Approximately 39% of our volunteers in the Drop-In are seeking asylum or are former asylum seekers who have gained the right to remain in the UK permanently and can offer appropriate advice and support to more recent arrivals based on their own personal experience.

One of our key principles is that our beneficiaries ('members') have a key role in designing our services based on their own needs and experiences. There are two monthly Members' Forums, a General Forum and a Women's Forum, which all Borderlands members are encouraged to attend and voice any concerns or feedback they may have. The Director of Borderlands facilitates the groups, ensuring that the members voices guide our services to evolve and respond in reaction to emerging needs. Along with other volunteers, member-volunteers take part in quarterly volunteer consultation meetings and weekly morning briefings, which gives them an opportunity to shape the services provided and a sense of ownership and influence. Trustees meetings are attended by an asylum seeker who has been involved with the charity since the early days.

Borderlands works in partnership with a range of other charities and agencies, in particular Bristol Refugee Rights and Bristol Hospitality Network, both of whom have similar charitable aims and run a drop-ins on the week days when Borderlands drop-in is not available.

We work with Bristol City of Sanctuary, a network of council, business, educational and community as well as asylum/refugee organisations and the Bristol Refugee Forum, which brings together all the local agencies working with asylum seekers and refugees, to co-ordinate our services and identify issues and common problems and joint strategies for responding to them.

Response to current Covid restrictions: Borderlands has been successful in creatively maintaining personal contact and support with our members and also engaging our volunteers during lockdown and other restrictions. While as described elsewhere our provision has had to be limited, nevertheless we have been able to continue to serve our members and also to plan expansion of services when Covid restrictions are lifted.

Outcomes

We aim to achieve the following outcomes for our beneficiaries:

- build the knowledge and confidence of refugees and asylum seekers to access opportunities, systems and services in Bristol that could improve their lives;
- train and support volunteer mentors to provide practical and emotional support to asylum seekers and refugees living in Bristol;

Borderlands (South West) Limited

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- build the skills and knowledge of local people in Bristol to support refugees and asylum seekers and enhance community capacity, understanding and inclusion; and
- enable refugees to make their own way in life and help them to lead independent, productive, fulfilled lives and have a greater understanding of UK culture.

Our impact

Borderlands regularly carries out monitoring and evaluation of our service delivery. The results are analysed and then reviewed by the staff, Members' Forum and Board of Trustees to inform our future service. The evaluation methods we use include:

- registration forms to identify the needs of new service users;
- volunteer consultation meetings and weekly morning briefings;
- a monthly Members' Forum and Women's Member's Forum;
- an annual survey of our beneficiaries; and
- the Mentoring Project has its own feedback forms, and this information is compiled into evaluation reports.

Drop-in

The feedback we receive demonstrates that our Drop-In service has a huge impact on the lives of asylum seekers and refugees, pre and post Covid, from providing a safe space where they feel welcome, to helping them through the asylum application process, learn English, volunteer with other charities, secure local jobs, find somewhere to live, and get signposting to much needed legal advice.

Over the last year, during Covid, 320 asylum seekers and refugees benefited from our reduced Drop-in service from April 2020 to March 2021. The reduction on last year was due to the pandemic as many of our members were concerned about leaving their homes. Over this period English classes could not take place on a face-to-face basis but we continued online and over social media. We also continued our signposting service online, or by phone where trained volunteers spoke one-to-one with a service user and worked towards resolving their problem. Actions taken included making phone calls to landlords, healthcare providers etc., referrals to other organisations, and information about services available in Bristol.

Below are some examples of how the Drop-in has helped participants:

"I have met a lot of people and I've become good friends with them and I enjoy coming to Borderlands, meeting new people and socialising. Borderlands is a place for people who are lonely and they don't know anyone and have nowhere to go for socialising." S, Member (beneficiary)

"Borderlands is very important to me. Borderlands is my school. For now, I didn't start college. Before I came here, I didn't speak or write English. I learn English here. I learn speaking and writing here. I meet friends here. I have good connection for everyone at Borderlands. When I came to Borderlands I relax. Best thing is having lunch together. We have good English teacher, they give time to explain everything. Today, I am very happy." Anonymous, member (beneficiary).

"It's like a family, home. It's always nice to be introduced to other people and to learn about their culture...finding out which things they have that's different and what's the same. I think that's how friendships start." F, Borderlands member (beneficiary) and volunteer.

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"At Borderlands we feel supported. We...have someone to talk to if we have a problem and people working here are really welcoming - they make us feel safe and not worried." J, Borderlands member (beneficiary) and volunteer.

Mentoring Project

Through extensive outreach to partner organisations, the Mentoring Project receives referrals from many partner organisations, such as Bristol Refugee Rights, Bristol Hospitality Network, Red Cross, medical and wellbeing practices such as Womankind, the Haven and other GPs, social services and solicitors and law firms. The mentees include asylum seekers (living in Bristol or South Gloucestershire), refugees, partners of refugee who arrived through family reunion route, unaccompanied asylum seeking children (16 yrs old and over), single mothers and pregnant women, including trafficked women and Syrian refugees as part of the resettlement program.

342 refugees and asylum seekers have taken part in our Mentoring Project to date, and they have all reported improvements to their lives. This includes 52 over the period of 2020-21.

Partnerships are intended to last for 6 months, with an extension if it is deemed this would be appropriate and of benefit to the mentee. In 2020-21 almost all partnerships lasted longer than 6 months. This was primarily due to the pandemic and delays or adjournments in asylum court hearings and delays in refugees receiving their Biometric Residence Permits, with knock effects on setting up universal credit accounts. The pandemic slowed all of the key services down which our members rely on.

The topics covered in sessions in 2020-21 mostly included advice on the pandemic, isolating and how to get the vaccine. Also, emotional support before and after asylum court hearings (which continued during the pandemic).

Below are some examples of how the mentoring project has helped participants:

- Dominique mentored J. for 6 months. Throughout this time J. improved his interview skills and Dominique assisted him with job applications and CV writing. After 5 months J. got a job at Starbucks and is now living in London doing an internship with a finance company;
- Natalie mentored a member (beneficiary) of Cross Bridge House, N. The goal was to support N. in becoming a taxi driver in Bristol. N. and they went through the complicated application and registration process together, applied for N.'s DBS and now N. is a registered taxi driver with the taxi company Uber;
- Sophie is helping S. to become confident enough to navigate the train system and overcome her fear of travelling alone. S. is now taking the train by herself to attend appointments with her solicitor in Newport;
- Sophia helped S. increasing her confidence in making phone calls and attending meetings by herself. Now S. has a place in college, feels strong enough to make phone calls by herself and to attend meetings with the city council without the mentor's support; and
- Andrew supported S. with different aspects of S.' life. Through the mentoring project, S. got a part time job he enjoyed, found a house and passed his theory test.

Feedback from asylum seeker and refugee mentees:

"I feel more confident now in speaking English, I have started school and my friends have noticed an improvement in my English! I'm very happy. I have also started volunteering in a cafe in town thanks to Alex's help." (Phim, mentee)

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"I received help with English practice and support through the asylum process and age dispute claim. I feel that I have achieved so much. Jess has helped me through the asylum process, helped with housing and college. Everything is very positive! It is very good to have someone there who is by your side and helping you. Thank you so much to Borderlands for everything." (Luwam, Eritrea)

Volunteer mentors also report positive outcomes for themselves from participating in the project:

"It was a pleasure to work with Mohamed. I enjoyed planning the sessions with the help of appropriate language materials and I always gave a paper copy to Mohamed. I also learned a lot about Sudan and Darfur in particular and Mohamed introduced me to his favourite author (Abdel Aziz Baraka Sakin) which I read (in English)." (Dominique, mentor)

"The programme itself is very well run and I felt very supported by Borderlands throughout, attending regular training and meetup sessions and having the chance to share ideas and stories with other mentors." (Phoebe, mentor)

In an anonymous survey to our partnership organisations, the following feedback was given:

"Massive benefits to refugee families arriving in the UK who are extremely vulnerable and feel isolated. The mentors provide reassurance, friendship and additional support to other agencies."

"As a counsellor I am unable to go to meetings with clients. It is so helpful to clients to have someone on their side with complex and vitally important meetings about benefits, accommodation, work placements etc. It is also really helpful that the therapeutic boundaries are different and that asylum seekers and refugees are able to feel that a Borderlands Mentor has more flexibility to help them as a friend and mentor."

"In our situation, i.e. when someone is already being supported by Unseen, but we know that the support will end, it's a really nice back up - we know that there will be someone looking out for them besides just us."

"This is a fantastic service and it has helped the very vulnerable, socially excluded persons in Bristol."

"Every vulnerable *person* needs a service like yours."

The mentoring project has been extremely successful in meeting its aims and objectives, reducing social isolation and encouraging integration and inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers in Bristol. The continuation of the project will make use of this valuable resource of trained mentors as well as continue to offer support vital to the wellbeing of asylum seekers and refugees in Bristol.

Cross Bridge House

Crossbridge house has had a total of twelve refugees live in the house from when it first opened to tenants in June 2017. This project financially helps refugees through the early days of renting, when they have not yet opened a bank account, or received an NI number. Unlike most private landlords, there is no deposit charged for the rooms. Furthermore, if benefits do not come in on time, the tenants are not penalised and Borderlands will cover the shortfall if the benefits are not backdated.

Every tenant is also offered a mentor. Mentors can help tenants to access any housing benefit they are entitled to if they do not have work, to ensure that they can pay the rent.

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In providing a safe home, the tenants have reported feeling more relaxed and secure, and so can focus on working towards an independent and self-sufficient future in the UK.

Below are some positive examples of how providing a stable room in Cross Bridge House have helped tenants:

- J was successfully granted a university placement in Winchester;
- J secured an internship in London and has moved on to work there;
- A qualified as a taxi driver, opening up his career path in the UK;
- N started a taxi business, purchased a car and saved a deposit in order to move on to new rented accommodation; and
- S, who was previously street homeless, has been granted contact with his daughter now that he has a stable home.

Quotes from some of the tenants who have moved on:

"Being in the house has really helped me as I was homeless. Thanks to Borderlands I was offered a room in the house and to be part of the nice community there. Since I have been in the house I have been able to get my taxi business going and it is going very, very well. I have saved money and will use it to pay the deposit to rent a flat. I am looking for one now." N. B.

"Cross Bridge house helped me to focus on getting on with life. This was further aided by the support from Borderlands charity (staff and volunteers) who were always ready to help. It was a pleasure to get to know my housemates as well in this time." J. M.

"While I was going through my asylum process, I was fortunate to live with wonderful individuals from whom I grasped a bit of the British culture and lifestyle. Moving in to Cross Bridge House increased my self-confidence and for the first-time in a very long time, I felt like finally I was spreading my wings and only had the sky as the limit. For instance, mowing the grass in the front garden made me feel like an ordinary person, just like my neighbours. More importantly, the little community we formed on the "Bridge" was simply outstanding. Despite, our different backgrounds, we mingled harmoniously and held each other's backs, whether that was for domestic tasks, job hunting, medical appointments or just listening compassionately to someone else's hardship. The best thing was probably sharing foods from all horizons with other mates. When you jump from one plate to another and a savoury explosion is taking place in your mouth, you are reminded of your humanity." Y. P.

Achievements

Since starting the charity, we have:

- helped reduce poverty and social isolation and improved mental health and wellbeing through our Drop-In for 1,300 refugees and asylum seekers, helping them to feel part of their communities (this continued through the pandemic in a restricted manner);
- provided one-to-one emotional and practical support for 342 asylum seekers and refugees through our Mentoring project;
- started a Peer Mentoring Project to support new members to integrate into the Borderlands community (this continued from January 2021);
- have offered classes and workshops in maths, computer skills, arts and crafts, creative writing and acting (online in the pandemic and in our IT Centre opened in January 2021);

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- begun a housing project for new refugees, which has so far provided a home for 16 people. This accommodation provides a place of security for the short to medium term, helping to ease the transition from dependency on the Home Office to independent living, and employment or study;
- expanded our team of member volunteers in the Drop-In (even during the pandemic) promoting community integration and reducing social exclusion;
- increased our partnership working with other local organisations including Bristol Refugee Rights, Bristol City of Sanctuary, the Asylum Support Project, Bristol Hospitality Network, the Red Cross, Crisis Centre Ministries, Ashley Community Housing, Up Our Street, Aid Box Community, Prince's Trust, CHAS, Refugee Women of Bristol, Project MAMA and the Haven; and
- given our beneficiaries the opportunity to showcase their artwork and photography, and for local people to learn more about the lived experience of refugees and asylum seekers in Bristol with our 'Rise' exhibition in 2016. Alongside the exhibition a series of events were held including a world music night, a film screening, and a launch opened by the Mayor.

Response to current Covid restrictions: Perhaps our main achievement has been to continue a measure of face-to-face support with our members in the midst of lockdown and other restrictions, expanded food provision to members, the establishment of the IT suite, and planning expanding services as Covid restrictions are relaxed.

Financial review

Like most charities we had great concerns about the potential impact of the pandemic at the start of the financial year. We were concerned that individual donors would reduce their donating due to their own financial circumstances and that Trusts and Foundations may not be able to function as normal and the outcomes of applications delayed. In fact, individual donations continued as normal and we saw an increase in grants and donations income.

Our income was considerably up on budget and our costs down on budget.

We took advantage of the government furlough scheme for three members of staff.

The charity made a surplus in the year of £113,885. This was a testament to the dedicated work of the trustees and staff to ensure the stability of the charity enabling us to be able to continue to care for our members.

At the year end, and looking towards the relaxing of the government restrictions, the trustees are discussing the re-opening of the Drop-in and the measures required to ensure it is a safe place for our members, staff and volunteers. At present we see a target date of 1 October 2021 for resuming face to face contact.

Policy on reserves

General reserves

In respect of the Charity Commission's guidance on charity reserves and the need to create resilience in order to meet unforeseen financial difficulties, the Trustees established a General Reserves Policy which protects our operations and essential services from the potential risk of disruption at short notice due to a lack of funds, while at the same time ensuring that Borderlands does not retain income for longer than required.

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The Reserves Policy also provides parameters for future strategic planning and contributes towards decision-making. It determines an appropriate target level for general reserves, taking into account the following factors:

- the operating expenses of the charity and maintenance of essential services in the event of a downturn in income and/or unforeseen increases in costs; and
- the costs of closure or wind-down of the core operations of the charity.

This approach provides a target base level of general reserves of £90,000. The basis of determining the target reserves level is kept under periodic review and will be adjusted as perceptions of risk and other factors change.

General reserves are not restricted to or designated for a particular purpose.

General reserves are represented by net current assets and are equivalent to approximately six months' committed expenditure at budgeted 2020-21 levels which the Trustees feel is an appropriate general reserves level for Borderlands.

Designated and restricted funds

The trustees designated funds throughout the year from our unrestricted income to be used for the operation of the Legal and Destitution funds. These were fully spent at the year end. Subject to continued funding, this work has become an important aspect of the charity's service delivery.

Restricted funds are held separately within the charity's financial accounts and are spent within the time-frame indicated by the donor which may cover more than one financial year.

Principal funding sources

During the period under review, Borderlands continued to receive funding from a wide range of sources. Principal among these are individual giving, both regular and one-off, faith groups and community organisations, and charitable trusts and funds. The Drop-In's main funders continue to be Bristol City Council. The Mentoring Project has received funding from various smaller funding bodies, including the John James Foundation.

Investment policy and objectives

All funds are held in the bank current accounts and are immediately available.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees (who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

Borderlands (South West) Limited

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For the year ended 31 March 2021

- state whether applicable UK accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Members of the charitable company guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The trustees are company members but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

Independent examiners

Godfrey Wilson Limited were re-appointed as independent examiners to the charitable company during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

Approved by the trustees on 4 November 2021 and signed on their behalf by

Richard McKay

Richard McKay, Chair

Independent examiner's report

To the trustees of

Borderlands (South West) Limited

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Borderlands (South West) Limited (the charitable company) for the year ended 31 March 2021, which are set out on pages 16 to 30.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charitable company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charitable company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charitable company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charitable company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), which is one of the listed bodies.

Godfrey Wilson Limited also provides bookkeeping and payroll services to the charitable company. I confirm that as a member of the ICAEW I am subject to the FRC's Revised Ethical Standard 2016, which I have applied with respect to this engagement.

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 charitable company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Independent examiner's report

To the trustees of

Borderlands (South West) Limited

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.

Alison Godfrey

Date: 8 November 2021

Alison Godfrey FCA

Member of the ICAEW

For and on behalf of:

Godfrey Wilson Limited

Chartered accountants and statutory auditors

5th Floor Mariner House

62 Prince Street

Bristol

BS1 4QD

Borderlands (South West) Limited**Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)****For the year ended 31 March 2021**

	Note	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	105,247	210,470	315,717	135,585
Charitable activities	4	-	7,200	7,200	5,787
Other trading activities		-	-	-	130
Investments		-	765	765	8
Total income		<u>105,247</u>	<u>218,435</u>	<u>323,682</u>	<u>141,510</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		-	9,080	9,080	22,311
Charitable activities		<u>116,459</u>	<u>84,258</u>	<u>200,717</u>	<u>190,538</u>
Total expenditure	6	<u>116,459</u>	<u>93,338</u>	<u>209,797</u>	<u>212,849</u>
Net income / (expenditure)		(11,212)	125,097	113,885	(71,339)
Transfers between funds		<u>11,278</u>	<u>(11,278)</u>	-	-
Net movement in funds	7	66	113,819	113,885	(71,339)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		<u>32,005</u>	<u>170,394</u>	<u>202,399</u>	<u>273,738</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u><u>32,071</u></u>	<u><u>284,213</u></u>	<u><u>316,284</u></u>	<u><u>202,399</u></u>

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 15 to the accounts.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Balance sheet

As at 31 March 2021

	Note	£	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets	10		<u>216,146</u>	<u>220,381</u>
Current assets				
Debtors	11	19,627		10,071
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>232,098</u>		<u>147,257</u>
		251,725		157,328
Liabilities				
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	12	<u>(32,837)</u>		<u>(31,560)</u>
Net current assets			<u>218,888</u>	<u>125,768</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			435,034	346,149
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than 1 year	13		<u>(118,750)</u>	<u>(143,750)</u>
Net assets	14		<u>316,284</u>	<u>202,399</u>
Funds	15			
Restricted funds			32,071	32,005
Unrestricted funds				
General funds			<u>284,213</u>	<u>170,394</u>
Total charity funds			<u>316,284</u>	<u>202,399</u>

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to the audit of the financial statements for the period by virtue of section 477(2), and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) ensuring that the Company keeps proper accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act; and
- (ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the trustees on 4 November 2021 and signed on their behalf by

Richard McKay

Richard McKay, Chair

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

1. Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Borderlands (South West) Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b) Going concern basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the charity is able to continue as a going concern, which the trustees consider appropriate having regard to the current level of unrestricted reserves and having considered the impact of the ongoing Covid pandemic. There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

c) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from the government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

d) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity: this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

e) Funds accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

f) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

g) Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity, including the costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements and any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities. These costs have been allocated in full to the cost of charitable activities this year, on the basis that the charity has not expended any significant resources towards fundraising this year, outside of the staff time already allocated.

h) Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Freehold property	50 years
Furniture and equipment	4 years

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £100.

i) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

j) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

k) Creditors

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

l) Concessionary loans

The charitable company is in receipt of concessionary loans for furtherance of their charitable activities. Concessionary loans are recognised when the commitment is entered into and the relevant loan documentation has been completed. The loans are initially recognised and measured at the amount received, with the carrying amount adjusted in subsequent years to reflect repayments and if necessary any accrued interest.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

m) Financial instruments

The charitable company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently recognised at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

n) Pension costs

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees. There are no further liabilities other than that already recognised in the SOFA.

o) Accounting estimates and key judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The key sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are described below.

Depreciation

As described in note 1h to the financial statements, depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

2. Statement of financial activities: prior period comparatives

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2020 Total £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	54,764	80,821	135,585
Charitable activities	-	5,787	5,787
Other trading activities	-	130	130
Investments	-	8	8
Total income	<u>54,764</u>	<u>86,746</u>	<u>141,510</u>
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	-	22,311	22,311
Charitable activities	<u>122,593</u>	<u>67,945</u>	<u>190,538</u>
Total expenditure	<u>122,593</u>	<u>90,256</u>	<u>212,849</u>
Net expenditure	(67,829)	(3,510)	(71,339)
Transfers between funds	<u>33,049</u>	<u>(33,049)</u>	-
Net movement in funds	<u>(34,780)</u>	<u>(36,559)</u>	<u>(71,339)</u>

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2021 Total £
Companies and trusts	104,546	91,900	196,446
Individuals	701	99,595	100,296
Gift aid	-	8,421	8,421
Coronavirus job retention scheme	-	10,554	10,554
Total income from donations and legacies	105,247	210,470	315,717

Prior period comparative:

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2020 Total £
Companies and trusts	49,907	-	49,907
Individuals	4,857	72,149	77,006
Gift aid	-	8,672	8,672
Total income from donations and legacies	54,764	80,821	135,585

4. Income from charitable activities

	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Rental income	7,200	5,787

All income from charitable activities is unrestricted.

5. Government grants

The charitable company receives government grants, defined as funding from Bristol City Council to fund charitable activities and the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. The total value of such grants in the period ending 31 March 2021 was £34,970 (2020: £nil). There are no unfulfilled conditions or contingencies attaching to these grants in 2021/20.

Borderlands (South West) Limited**Notes to the financial statements****For the year ended 31 March 2021**

6. Total expenditure

	Raising funds £	Charitable activities £	Support and governance costs £	2021 Total £
Staff costs (note 8)	9,080	51,885	42,805	103,770
Other staff costs	-	154	1,399	1,553
Destitution payments	-	27,896	-	27,896
Drop-in costs	-	5,537	-	5,537
Mentoring consultancy	-	8,137	-	8,137
Premises costs	-	-	22,500	22,500
Insurance	-	-	1,769	1,769
Advertising	-	-	24	24
Accountancy	-	-	5,854	5,854
Consultancy	-	-	6,946	6,946
Legal expenses	-	9,762	1,237	10,999
Admin costs	-	1,340	8,002	9,342
Depreciation	-	-	5,470	5,470
Sub-total	9,080	104,711	96,006	209,797
Allocation of support and governance costs	-	96,006	(96,006)	-
Total expenditure	9,080	200,717	-	209,797

Total governance costs were £1,800 (2020: £1,530).

Borderlands (South West) Limited**Notes to the financial statements****For the year ended 31 March 2021****6. Total expenditure (continued)****Prior year comparative**

	Raising funds £	Charitable activities £	Support and governance costs £	2020 Total £
Staff costs (note 8)	18,111	59,921	37,320	115,352
Other staff costs	-	-	1,170	1,170
Destitution payments	-	26,345	-	26,345
Drop-in costs	-	11,956	-	11,956
Mentoring consultancy	-	3,490	-	3,490
Meetings and travel	-	-	786	786
Premises costs	-	4,992	11,371	16,363
Insurance	-	-	1,519	1,519
Advertising	-	-	190	190
Accountancy	-	-	3,138	3,138
Consultancy	4,200	-	72	4,272
Legal expenses	-	10,987	-	10,987
Admin costs	-	2,753	9,706	12,459
Depreciation	-	-	4,822	4,822
Sub-total	22,311	120,444	70,094	212,849
Allocation of support and governance costs	-	70,094	(70,094)	-
Total expenditure	22,311	190,538	-	212,849

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

7. Net movement in funds

This is stated after charging:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Depreciation	5,470	4,822
Trustees' remuneration	Nil	Nil
Trustees' reimbursed expenses	Nil	292
Independent examiner's remuneration		
▪ Independent examination (including VAT)	<u>1,800</u>	<u>1,530</u>

8. Staff costs and numbers

Staff costs were as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Salaries and wages	97,614	106,817
Social security costs	3,255	5,275
Pension costs	<u>2,901</u>	<u>3,260</u>
	<u>103,770</u>	<u>115,352</u>

No employee earned more than £60,000 during the year.

The key management personnel of the charitable company comprised the Trustees and Director. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel were £18,360 (2020: £32,349).

	2021	2020
	No.	No.
Average head count	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>

9. Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Furniture & equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2020	238,500	5,252	243,752
Additions in year	<u>-</u>	<u>1,235</u>	<u>1,235</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>238,500</u>	<u>6,487</u>	<u>244,987</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2020	19,080	4,291	23,371
Charge for the year	<u>4,770</u>	<u>700</u>	<u>5,470</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>23,850</u>	<u>4,991</u>	<u>28,841</u>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2021	<u>214,650</u>	<u>1,496</u>	<u>216,146</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u><u>219,420</u></u>	<u><u>961</u></u>	<u><u>220,381</u></u>

11. Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors	-	400
Prepayments	1,139	999
Other debtors	<u>18,488</u>	<u>8,672</u>
	<u>19,627</u>	<u>10,071</u>

12. Creditors : amounts due within 1 year

	2021 £	2020 £
Loans	25,000	25,000
Trade creditors	426	1,115
Accruals	7,167	3,482
Other taxation and social security	-	1,435
Pensions payable	<u>244</u>	<u>528</u>
	<u>32,837</u>	<u>31,560</u>

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

13. Creditors : amounts due after 1 year

	2021 £	2020 £
Loans	<u>118,750</u>	<u>143,750</u>

The loan is a 10 year loan from a Trustee for purchase of a residential property, secured by a legal mortgage over the property. The loan commenced in 2017 and is repayable at £25,000 per annum. No interest is charged.

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	216,146	216,146
Current assets	32,071	219,654	251,725
Current liabilities	-	(32,837)	(32,837)
Non-current liabilities	-	(118,750)	(118,750)
Net assets at 31 March 2021	<u>32,071</u>	<u>284,213</u>	<u>316,284</u>
Prior period comparatives			
	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	220,381	220,381
Current assets	32,005	125,323	157,328
Current liabilities	-	(31,560)	(31,560)
Non-current liabilities	-	(143,750)	(143,750)
Net assets at 31 March 2020	<u>32,005</u>	<u>170,394</u>	<u>202,399</u>

Borderlands (South West) Limited**Notes to the financial statements****For the year ended 31 March 2021****15. Movements in funds**

	At 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	At 31 March 2021 £
Restricted funds					
Drop-in fund	-	60,267	(71,545)	11,278	-
Future Project fund	7,500	-	-	-	7,500
Mentoring Project fund	19,000	33,100	(36,100)	-	16,000
Beach Trip fund	2,972	-	-	-	2,972
Covid-19 fund	2,533	-	(2,533)	-	-
IT Centre	-	11,880	(6,281)	-	5,599
Total restricted funds	<u>32,005</u>	<u>105,247</u>	<u>(116,459)</u>	<u>11,278</u>	<u>32,071</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>170,394</u>	<u>218,435</u>	<u>(93,338)</u>	<u>(11,278)</u>	<u>284,213</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>170,394</u>	<u>218,435</u>	<u>(93,338)</u>	<u>(11,278)</u>	<u>284,213</u>
Total funds	<u><u>202,399</u></u>	<u><u>323,682</u></u>	<u><u>(209,797)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>316,284</u></u>

Purposes of restricted funds

Drop-in fund	Restricted Drop-In funds comprise funding provided by Bristol City Council alongside funding provided by The People's Health Trust and Quartet Community Foundation (New Beginnings Fund), in order to support, welcome and integrate refugees and asylum seekers into the local community.
Future Project fund	This is a restricted donation fund made to enable the charity to pursue a specific project, as and when one is identified and is approved by the donor.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

15. Movements in funds (continued)

Mentoring Project fund	The Mentoring Project has been funded through the following trusts: John James Bristol Foundation; The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust; The Charles Plater Trust; and also a couple of smaller donations. Funds must be used exclusively to support the Mentoring Project.
Beach Trip fund	This is supported by a private restricted donation so that Borderlands can offer an annual trip to members to the beach and give them an opportunity to get outside of Bristol and enjoy nature. It's an opportunity to build relationships and support wellbeing.
Covid-19 fund	This fund is supported by emergency grants for Covid-19 and funds response projects to the Covid-19 Crisis; providing weekly hot meals and food parcels to over 120 members a week by collection and delivery and providing weekly solidarity calls to over 70 of the most vulnerable members to check on welfare, provide latest government/NHS advice and refer to practical support if needed. It is also used to support members with digital inclusion by providing IT equipment, data and credit where necessary to reduce digital exclusion during the crisis.
IT Centre	This fund is to create a IT Centre dedicated to providing technical services for members funded through the Lloyds Foundation.

Transfers between funds

Transfer between funds for the Drop-in fund represent a contribution to the project from the charity's unrestricted general reserves.

Borderlands (South West) Limited

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

15. Movements in funds (continued)

Prior period comparatives

	At 1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	At 31 March 2020 £
Restricted funds					
Directors salary	2,922	-	(2,922)	-	-
Drop-in fund	-	29,072	(80,990)	51,918	-
Future Project fund	7,500	-	-	-	7,500
Mentoring Project fund	55,809	19,000	(36,940)	(18,869)	19,000
Other funds	554	-	(554)	-	-
Beach Trip fund	-	4,159	(1,187)	-	2,972
Covid-19 fund	-	2,533	-	-	2,533
Total restricted funds	66,785	54,764	(122,593)	33,049	32,005
Unrestricted funds					
<i>Designated funds:</i>					
Destitution and emergency fund	-	-	(8,430)	8,430	-
House fund	28,727	5,787	(11,645)	(22,869)	-
Legal fund	-	3,678	(11,572)	7,894	-
<i>Total designated funds</i>	28,727	9,465	(31,647)	(6,545)	-
General funds	178,226	77,281	(58,609)	(26,504)	170,394
Total unrestricted funds	206,953	86,746	(90,256)	(33,049)	170,394
Total funds	273,738	141,510	(212,849)	-	202,399

16. Related party transactions

The total aggregate donations from trustees during the year were £25,300 (2020: £25,000).

Included within the charity's creditors at the year end is a 10 year loan from a Trustee for the purchase of a residential property, secured by a legal mortgage over the property. The loan commenced in 2017 and is repayable at £25,000 per annum. No interest is charged on the loan. The balance outstanding on the loan at the year end is £143,750 (2020: £168,750).