

RAY (Refugee Action York)

Charitable Incorporated Organisation
(Charity Number: 1154065)

Trustees Annual Report & Financial Statements for the year ended

31 March 2022

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Charity Accounts Independent Examination
Services

RAY (Refugee Action York)

(Charity Number: 1154065)

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Trustees' Annual Report

From: 01/04/2021

To: 31/03/2022

Charity's full name

RAY (Refugee Action York)

Registered Company number

Registered Charity number

1154065

Objectives and activities

Summary of the purposes of the charity set out in its governing document

To advance education and relieve financial hardship amongst migrants, those seeking asylum and those granted refugee status, particularly by the provision of advice and guidance. To advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.

Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts

For a large part of this financial year, Covid restrictions remained in place, so for the first part of the year we continued to offer our services online or by phone. We provided our information, support, and sign-posting services to join up service users with other organisations by phone and video call; English lessons for adults by Zoom, phone, and socially-distanced walks; and Turkish and Arabic lessons and homework help for children by Zoom. Our youth group members also received ongoing support by phone and through volunteer mentors, and our vital weekly coffee mornings continued by Zoom. We have offered hardship support throughout the year for families and individuals facing destitution. We continued to provide support to a large group of asylum seekers temporarily housed in a York hotel for the first few months of the year, and then as they were dispersed to other cities across the region, we offered remote support and referrals to assist them to settle into their new areas and to access appropriate support there.

For the second half of the year, we were able to restart offering our services in-person, and we celebrated this in October with our first Hub session since the pandemic began. We were able to welcome the first of a number of Afghan refugees to York, and invite them to access the various services we offer. We also began to hold our weekly coffee morning in person, hosted once again by York St John University. English conversation small groups began to meet in person rather than online and our Youth Group started to meet again, as well as the fortnightly sports sessions recommencing. We also launched a new project for 18-25's, aimed at helping young people towards education or employment, and reducing isolation.

In March 2020 significant numbers of Ukrainian refugees began to arrive in York, and RAY has been working in close partnership with other agencies in York to ensure that they receive the support they need, and to make sure they are also able to access and benefit from all of the services we offer.

The trustees consider that they have complied with their duties to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.

This has been another year of unprecedented challenges. It began with Covid restrictions still very much in place, and all our services being online, but by the end of the summer we were able to move towards reopening face to face services, with certain measures in place. By December, regional and then national restrictions were back in place, and we had to cancel our face-to-face activities at very short notice, and move back on-line for a couple of months. Then in February, we moved back to providing services in-person again.

As Covid restrictions lessened over the summer, the Home Office moved all of the men seeking asylum, who had been housed in a hotel in York, into other accommodation across the North of England. This all happened very quickly, and we had to cease the services we had been able to offer them, and instead try to support them remotely as they adjusted and settled into new areas.

In October we were delighted when York Castle Museum hosted an art exhibition of work created by some of the asylum seeking men who had been in the hotel in York. We invited the artists to the opening of the exhibition, where they were very proud to see their work on display.

In August, refugees from Afghanistan began to arrive in York, and then in March significant numbers from Ukraine began to arrive. Having been forced to leave their homes with very little notice, and in very traumatic circumstances, there is a great need for support for both their physical and mental wellbeing. RAY has worked in close partnership with other key agencies in York throughout this year, to ensure that everyone can access the support they need. We have worked to identify gaps in available support, and then to provide new services and support to meet those needs.

At the same time, we maintained a high level of service delivery to our regular service users. We could not deliver any of the services we do without the commitment and dedication of our volunteers. This year their support and hard work has been even more remarkable, considering the flexibility that has been needed, with a lot of last minute changes and urgent requests for support. We are more aware than ever of how fortunate we are to have such a committed and dedicated team of volunteers.

An external evaluation report this year found that:

A key outcome for many of the refugees and asylum seekers was enhanced confidence, especially in interacting with the wider community. A service user said:

"We need encouragement and I got it through RAY. Through my befriender I got plenty of that. Just encouragement. Just that someone to believe in you, because I had a lack of confidence speaking with people".

"If there was no RAY, it would have been a very difficult time for me... As well as help with solving practical problems, they also signposted me to access mental health provision as I personally feel stress and anxiety sometimes."

Despite being a small Organisation, in terms of staff capacity, RAY is "incredibly quick to respond to need, whatever that happens to be at the time"

The personal nature of connections is unique and has a massive impact on service users in terms of reducing isolation, and building self-esteem and confidence. It has a "real impact on real people's lives".

RAY's "fluid, flexible and agile" approach to work means that it is easily accessible to those who really need our services.

The evaluation reveals that RAY has improved refugee and asylum seeker settlement outcomes. RAY has generated tangible benefits (volunteering and educational opportunities) as well as less tangible benefits (improved cultural understanding, emotional and wellbeing support) to refugees and asylum seekers. Positive outcomes were achieved through case-managing service users, guiding them into a combination of closely integrated components (advice, education and support for mental health), each one essential to refugee social inclusion. RAY has been the difference between social exclusion and successful settlement for some of the most marginalised people in our community.

Further, RAY has demonstrated that it can adapt to challenges that it may face as an organisation without losing the quality of its service provision. The external environment has changed dramatically over the past 18 months and, during this time, RAY has listened to its service users, staff and volunteers and has evolved into an organisation that has the capacity and capabilities to deliver an array of additional and pre-existing services. Service users can and do take the lead and support each other so that things aren't always being done to, or for, them – we work with our service users collaboratively to achieve people-centred outcomes

Financial review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period

RAY is in a strong financial position at the end of 2021-22, with a balance 36% greater than at close of the previous financial year, and with restricted funding to maintain operating costs for 6 months. We've continued to diversify our income to 16 separate funding streams, plus unrestricted public donations, increasing our sustainability by reducing our reliance on a smaller number of larger funders. While there was a small decrease in income, and small increase in expenditure as we streamlined operations during COVID-19 restrictions, we've since successfully increased restricted funding, as we've continued to scale up our in-person services again, planning for growing restricted funding in 2022-23. Further, we've seen a significant increase in our unrestricted funding from the public through donations. This is important because, while we can tailor our approach to restricted funding applications for specific services, the trend for increased unrestricted funding allows us the flexibility to be more agile, rapidly responding to events in the external environment, such as new conflicts that cause people to seek refuge and asylum in the UK and, ultimately, York. It allows us to be more strategic, pivoting our services quickly in the interim while testing approaches, and then applying for longer-term restricted funding for these approaches in the longer term, when service users' emerging needs are better understood. This means that we can meet gaps in need for service users without delay and plan more effectively for future events. Such a significant year-on-year increase in public donations also reflects the successful marketing of our new strategy. The Board of Trustees continues to work hard to secure funding adequate to deliver RAY's services sustainably, while also maintaining reserves at an adequate level. RAY's existence and success is enabled by the generous support of individuals, community groups, businesses and trusts, both within York and from further afield. The Board of Trustees takes this opportunity to recognise and thank everyone who has contributed to RAY's financial position in 2021-22, without whom the services and support provided to service users would simply not be possible.

Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held

The charity relies on funding to meet its objectives and at the end of the current year has a high level of unrestricted reserves in order to be able to meet its commitments should further grants and other funding obtained in the next year not be sufficient to meet these in the short term.

Amount of reserves held

At 31 March 2022, unrestricted reserves were £85,773

Reasons for holding zero reserves
N/A

Funds materially in deficit
N/A

Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern
N/A

Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document Constitution

How the charity is constituted CIO

Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions Appointed at AGM/Trustee meeting

Reference and administration details

Charity's full name RAY (Refugee Action York)

Other names the charity is known by

Charity's principal address c/o Clifton Children's Centre
Kingsway North
York Postcode YO30 6JA

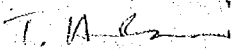
Names of the trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
Thomas Adamski	Chair		
Sarah Nicholls	Treasurer		
Marwa Dorai			
Annette Maas			
Mary McCormack			
Scott Butterworth		22.9.20 - 18.1.22	
Aniko Shepherd			
Stephanie Cooper		15.2.21- 18.1.22	

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature 
Full Name THOMAS ADAMSKI
Position CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Date 23 JANUARY 2023

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of RAY (Refugee Action York)

I report on the accounts of: **RAY (Refugee Action York)**
for the year ended: **31 March 2022** which are set out on pages 7 to 11.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

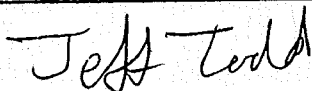
I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

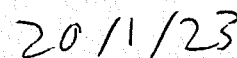
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

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

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



Jeff Todd (FCA)
Outsource Independent Examination
Services
The Hiscox Building
Peasholme Green
York YO1 7PR



Date:

RAY (Refugee Action York)
(Charity Number: 1154065)

Receipts & Payments Accounts for the year ended:				31 March 2022	
	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	2022 Total funds	2021 Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Grants (Note 2)	-	-	110,198	110,198	155,328
Donations	46,790	8,422	6,889	62,101	43,495
Bank interest	11	-	-	11	-
Other income	960	51	119	1,130	8
Total receipts	47,761	8,473	117,206	173,440	198,831
Payments					
Activity costs	-	-	239	239	892
Advertising & promotion	-	-	199	199	-
Asylum seeker costs	-	-	4,744	4,744	25,363
Charitable activities	-	-	1,893	1,893	-
Charitable contribution	-	920	40	960	-
Coffee mornings	1,012	-	41	1,053	-
Evaluation	-	-	750	750	1,000
Governance	72	-	-	72	257
Hardship	2,417	1,044	515	3,976	7,802
Language teaching	-	-	1,006	1,006	3,390
Merchandise	171	-	47	218	-
Office and running costs	1,593	996	11,168	13,757	7,399
Parenting course	193	-	800	993	-
Professional services	-	207	975	1,182	-
Purchases	-	-	1,237	1,237	-
Raising funds	220	-	-	220	-
Refugee week	276	-	580	856	15
Salaries & pensions	19,470	9,902	61,474	90,846	76,263
Staff expenses	200	10	453	663	267
Staff training	20	77	587	684	820
Translation & interpreting	105	339	354	798	1,773
Travel	-	-	120	120	311
Venue hire	612	-	1,572	2,184	207
Volunteer costs	-	-	576	576	284
Volunteer training	500	-	652	1,152	650
Total payments	26,861	13,495	90,021	130,377	126,693
Net of receipts/(payments)	20,900	(5,022)	27,185	43,063	72,138
Transfers between funds	(1,066)	-	1,066	-	-
Balance brought forward	65,939	27,190	26,034	119,163	47,025
Balance carried forward	85,773	22,168	54,285	162,226	119,163

RAY (Refugee Action York)
(Charity Number: 1154065)

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at:				31 March 2022	
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £	
Assets					
Cash at bank and in hand					
Current bank account	87,669	54,285	141,954	98,952	
Savings account	20,019	-	20,019	20,008	
Petty cash	253	-	253	203	
	<u>107,941</u>	<u>54,285</u>	<u>162,226</u>	<u>119,163</u>	
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £	
Liabilities					
Independent Examination Fee	370	-	370	280	
	<u>370</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>370</u>	<u>280</u>	

RAY (Refugee Action York)
(Charity Number: 1154065)

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended:

31 March 2022

1. Basis of preparation

The Trustees have taken advantage of section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 and prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

2. Funds analysis

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are funds that can be used in accordance with the objects of the charity at the discretion of the trustees

Designated funds

Designated funds are unrestricted funds allocated for use on specific projects

Restricted Funds

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they can be used.

Movement of funds:

	Brought forward	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds	65,939	47,761	26,861	(1,066)	85,773
Designated funds					
Hardship	3,969	8,422	1,964	-	10,427
Lloyds Bank	23,221	51	11,531	-	11,741
	<u>93,129</u>	<u>56,234</u>	<u>40,356</u>	<u>(1,066)</u>	<u>107,941</u>
Restricted funds					
The Hub	-	-	-	-	-
Awards for All	982	725	997	-	710
Big Lottery	12,939	25,000	29,594	-	8,345
Brelms	-	4,996	5,481	485	-
BBC Children in Need	-	24,575	15,297	-	9,278
COYC	-	9,480	10,061	581	-
COYC Brexit	-	10,058	3,241	-	6,817
Evan Cornish	872	4,996	5,540	-	328
Geoff Herrington	-	10,147	1,363	-	8,784
Hotel public donations	-	5,119	4,743	-	376
JHRT	62	7,213	4,897	-	2,378
MEX	5,214	-	4,934	-	280
MIND	3,182	1,733	921	-	3,994
Refugee week	135	1,164	916	-	383
Swimming	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
Two Ridings	1,186	2,000	2,036	-	1,150
Jill Franklin	4	-	-	-	4
Bresleff	1,458	-	-	-	1,458
	<u>26,034</u>	<u>117,206</u>	<u>90,021</u>	<u>1,066</u>	<u>54,285</u>
Total	<u>119,163</u>	<u>173,440</u>	<u>130,377</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>162,226</u>

Transfers from restricted funds represent closures of the funded projects.

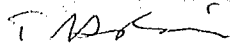
Approval of Accounts for the year ended:

31 March 2022

The report and accounts were approved at a meeting of the Trustees
held on:

10 JANUARY 2023

Date



Signed for and on behalf of the Trustees

23 JANUARY 2023

Date

THOMAS ADAMSKI

Print Name

CHAIR

Position (e.g. Chair etc)