

DURHAM CITY OF SANCTUARY

England & Wales · Charity number 1168523

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2016-08-01

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

Contact

Address St. Aidans College
Windmill Hill
Durham
DH1 3LJ

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Website durham.cityofsanctuary.org

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE EDUCATION, RELIEVE FINANCIAL HARDSHIP AND DISTRESS AMONGST ASYLUM-SEEKERS AND THOSE GRANTED REFUGEE STATUS IN DURHAM, AND TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE ISSUES RELATING TO REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY:A) PROMOTING THE INCLUSION, INTEGRATION AND WELFARE OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS, BY ENCOURAGING A PUBLIC COMMITMENT TO BECOMING A PLACE OF WELCOME AND SAFETY THROUGH THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION, ADVICE AND SUPPORT AS SHALL BE THOUGHT FIT;B) ENCOURAGING, SUPPORTING AND LIAISING WITH DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL, OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS, LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH ORGANISATIONS IN WELCOMING AND ASSISTING REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS; ANDC) PROVIDING ACCURATE AND UP TO DATE INFORMATION TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY ON THE SITUATION OF LOCAL REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS AND TO PUBLICISE AND CELEBRATE THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES, AND TO UK SOCIETY AND CULTURE, AND TO CHALLENGE HOSTILITY AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THEM.

Activities: We are part of the nationwide City of Sanctuary movement. Based in County Durham, we work to build opportunities for introductions and friendship between sanctuary seekers and local people, helping new arrivals to integrate into our communities. Our aim is to create a culture of welcome for people seeking sanctuary from war and persecution.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Services
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Durham

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-05	£27,641	£36,095	-	-
2024-04-05	£19,713	£32,893	-	-
2023-04-05	£59,619	£25,716	-	-
2022-04-05	£18,398	£19,785	-	-
2021-04-05	£7,849	£11,532	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr SUSAN FRANCES FRENK	Chair	2016-04-19
Amna Al Ali		2018-10-15
Edwin Herbert Simpson		2018-07-01
Fadia Faqir		2022-06-17
Iman Hafez Malouhi		2018-07-01
Irene Wilkinson		2022-06-17
Julius Radziunas		2025-04-01
Nelli Stavropolou		2017-01-01
TANYA PATRICIA DEVEREUX		2016-04-19

DURHAM CITY OF SANCTUARY

England & Wales - Charity number 1168523

Accounts

DURHAM CITY OF SANCTUARY

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 5 April 2025

Charity Number 1168523

DURHAM CITY OF SANCTUARY

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 5 April 2025

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Durham City of Sanctuary (Charity Registration 1168523)

Annual Report December 2025

Durham City of Sanctuary, a member of the national Cities of Sanctuary movement, came into being in response to the decision by Durham County Council to participate in the government-funded resettlement scheme to receive and support Syrian refugees in the region. Durham City of Sanctuary has now completed 10 years as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The designation of County Durham as a dispersal site for people categorized by the government as 'asylum seekers', relocation policies to provide adequate housing for Afghan refugees in temporary accommodation, the continuing wars in Ukraine and Sudan mean that the voluntary sector has again been asked to meet increasing need. Public sector pressure on services following years of diminishing funding continues to affect our regional communities. As ever, the commitment shown by our volunteers, fellow Trustees and partnership organizations, is valued beyond words.

The regional networks run by the national City of Sanctuary movement and the work of countywide bodies like the Durham Community Foundation and Durham Community Action continue to be invaluable for the exchange of information and good practice and they have increased their offer of valuable online resources, including safeguarding and other key training modules. Face to face training for Trustees and volunteers, alongside regular updates on key developments in both government policy and the Charity Commission requirements enable small NGOs to be established, survive and flourish.

We hold our AGM, in person, in one of the locations we cover, hosted by locally based refugee Trustees.

The quarterly Trustee meetings continue to be virtual to enable good attendance, given the geographical distances and caring responsibilities of Trustees.

In 2025 we have continued to find the Coordinator and Communications post an excellent investment, but our highly skilled refugee stepped down from the role in September 2025, with several months' notice, to take up a fully funded Masters course. After a lengthy recruitment process, we now have a new Coordinator, also a refugee but from a different cultural background, working 30 hours a week.

We have also recruited one of our refugee Trustees to carry out a one-year, part-time, paid project, to explore the needs and aspirations of our refugee groups across County Durham, with due attention to how these may differ by age, gender, and background. This began in late November and is already bearing fruit, gathering both requests that can be met quickly and longer-term project ideas.

Current Activities:

The drop-ins now meet needs across a wide geographical area and continue to respond to local and specific circumstances. Social opportunities and signposting to advice sit alongside children's activities, informal reading, writing, and other targeted support. Educational support for young people preparing for GCSEs and A levels, with Durham University student volunteers

led by an adult volunteer, continues to be popular. The Taste of Syria cultural exchange and fundraising events and outings organized by refugee Trustees or other responsible refugee adults are well attended and in one location provide a source of income for four refugees whose food licensing was funded by DCoS. We support/co-fund Eid celebrations, Christmas parties and other get togethers, although finding suitable venues for the growing numbers continues to be challenging. Nonetheless, our outgoing coordinator organized a hugely successful summer gathering, with participants from all refugee backgrounds, volunteers from drop-ins and projects and other supporters, to celebrate a decade of DCoS.

We have also funded specific educational support, such as transport, registration fees and contributions to costs to enable professional qualifications/certification and employability opportunities, through careful due process and sometimes with one-off fundraisers.

Young people continue to enjoy fitness opportunities we have funded (gym membership; karate clubs; basketball) but the desire for safe youth club spaces and workshops on sex and relationship education has increased. We hope that the recent government announcement of investment in these kinds of community facilities will enable us to collaborate in finally achieving access in 2026. Enhancing cultural awareness and exchange are also still viewed as gaps, often by older refugees and new arrivals, despite the dedicated work of DCC staff. NEMP and other bodies produce very useful pamphlets across a range of areas, but face to face sessions would be the preferred model.

Impact of Coordinator Role:

In addition to invaluable administrative work and drop-in support, the Coordinator and Communications role holder initiated and/or developed further activities and networking in 2025:

DU Fresher's Fair – promoting volunteering with DCoS, engages students as volunteers. The new coordinator is working to encourage student participation in drop-ins held in more remote parts of the county.

Local Heritage information sessions – organised sessions to educate sanctuary seekers about local heritage

Amazon, Bowburn – volunteer days, employment opportunities and gifts for children

We continue to arrange and fund DBS checks for volunteers but are grateful to the University for arranging and funding these checks for student volunteers.

We have also continued to successfully raise funds for a range of emergency requests, which include perennials such as bicycles, PE equipment, school uniform and other essentials for schoolchildren where they cannot be sourced elsewhere. Smart TVs are essential for language consolidation and cultural access, so we continue to fund those for new arrivals. Volunteers continue to support families applying for indefinite right to remain to study for the Citizenship test.

There is concern amongst both more settled refugees and recent arrivals about proposed legal changes to the timescales and pathways to apply for Indefinite Right to Remain and to Citizenship.

Student groups from Durham University continue to be hugely supportive, both with volunteering and fundraising. We received a donation of £30,000 from a Student-run Fashion Show, which has been earmarked for a wide range of activities and projects.

We celebrate the resilience, creativity and talent of our diverse groups. Once again, we have witnessed this year people gaining employment and professional qualifications, against difficult odds, exercising leadership and providing emotional support in their communities, raising multilingual children, with rich cultural awareness and practice. All this against a backdrop of hostile activity by a vocal and visible minority but also damaging rhetoric from some politicians. This has impacted on everyday lives, making many refugees feel less safe and meaning that some leave their homes less often, generating social isolation.

Plans for 2026

As set out in last year's report, we now have one of our Trustees carrying out a strategic review of what we provide and what refugees would like us to enable, wherever possible. The funding landscape has deteriorated for the third sector, but most projects that have already been suggested by refugees are eligible for existing or new funding streams. They include youth clubs, arts projects, voices/narratives (through creative writing, video/podcasts) and music projects like the Songs of Sanctuary project (2017-2020), devised and led by Sam Slatcher.

We have postponed the Skills and Employment Aspirations Audit, due to the turnover in the coordinator role. However, we still hope to initiate it in 2026, once the coordinator has been fully inducted, with two Trustees and a representative from the SIEF Enterprise Forum.

We will also look to recruit additional refugee trustees, with the goal of having representation from all the cultural groups with whom we work. Another goal is to successfully return to the co-chair model, with a refugee co-chair. Wider leadership development opportunities could include a local version of the Sanctuary in Politics programme. The diaspora communities in the North East have valuable life experience, a humane approach, value ethical integrity and active community development, so co-creating pathways to leadership is an exciting aspiration.

Dr S F Frenk

December 2025.

The trustees are pleased to present their annual trustees' report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 5 April 2025.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2022, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)

Financial review

Review of the year

The results for the year and the charity's financial position at the end of the year are shown in the attached financial statements.

During the year the Charity had income of £27,641 (2024: £19,713) of which £14,712 was restricted (2024: £13,000) and expenditure of £36,095 (2024: £32,893) of which £12,427 was restricted (2024: £32,148). There was an operating deficit of £8,454 (2024: deficit of £13,180) of which a surplus of £2,285 was restricted (2024: deficit of £19,148).

At 5 April 2025 the Charity had net assets of £29,557 (2024: £38,011) of which £28,439 was restricted (2024: £26,154).

Reserves policy/Going concern

The Trustees consider the level of reserves, £1,118 (2024: £11,857), prudent for the Charity at this time taking into account potential liabilities in the event that the charity ceased. Our Reserves Policy is reviewed annually.

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

Registered charity name	Durham City of sanctuary
Charity number	1168523
Registered office	St Aidans College Windmill Hill Durham DH1 3LJ
Trustees and Members of the Board	Dr S F Frenk (Chair) I Wilkinson F Faqir A Al Ali I H Malouhi E H Simpson N Stravropolou T P Devereux J Radziunas
Independent Examiner	Doug Maltman FMAAT Connected Voice Business Services One Strawberry Lane Newcastle upon Tyne. NE1 4BX.

Recruitment and Appointment of the Board

Board Induction and Training

New Board Members are introduced to the work of the organisation and informed of their legal roles and responsibilities at an induction meeting. The induction and training programme for new Board Members includes:

- A briefing by the Chair or Chief Executive
- An explanation of roles and responsibilities as a Board Member
- Copies of the main charity documents including the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Financial Statements
- Copy of the business plan and most recent evaluation report
- Copies of recent board papers including budgets and management accounts
- A copy of the Charity Commission publication "How to be an Effective Trustee"
- A copy of the governance structure.

Statement of Trustee Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Charity SORP 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 incoming resources and application of resources, including the receipts and payments of the charity for that year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- 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 accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. They 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.

Approved by the Trustees on 12/01/26 and signed on their behalf by:



Dr S F Frenk
Chair

DURHAM CITY OF SANCTUARY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

For the year ended 5 April 2025

I report on the financial statements of Durham City of Sanctuary for the year ended 5 April 2025, which are set out on pages 7 to 16.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2022 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- h examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- h to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- h to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- h the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- h the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- h the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

I 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.

Doug Maltman FMAAT
Fellow Member of the Association of Accountancy Technicians
Connected Voice Business Services
One Strawberry Lane
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 4BX
Date: 15.01.2026

D J Maltman

DURHAM CITY OF SANCTUARY

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENT

For the year ended 5 April 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Receipts from:					
Donations and legacies	5	11,900	2,212	14,112	6,713
Charitable activities					
Grants and contracts	6	-	12,500	12,500	13,000
Other trading activities	7	1,029	-	1,029	-
Total receipts		12,929	14,712	27,641	19,713
Payments on:					
Charitable activities					
Operation of the charity	8	23,668	12,427	36,095	32,893
Total payments		23,668	12,427	36,095	32,893
Reconciliation of funds					
Net of receipts/payments		(10,739)	2,285	(8,454)	(13,180)
Cash funds brought forward		11,857	26,154	38,011	51,191
Cash carried forward		1,118	28,439	29,557	38,011

The Receipts and Payments Statement includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All receipts and payments derive from continuing activities

The notes on pages 9 to 16 form an integral part of these accounts.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

As at 5 April 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Cash funds					
Cash at bank and in hand	16	1,118	28,439	29,557	38,011
Assets: amounts receivable within one year	15			3,762	1,200
Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year	17			522	360
Funds of the charity					
Unrestricted income funds				1,118	11,857
Restricted income funds				28,439	26,154
Total funds				29,557	38,011

The notes on pages 9 to 16 form an integral part of these accounts.

These financial statements were approved by the Board on: 12/01/26

and are signed on its behalf by:
Dr S F Frenk Chair



DURHAM CITY OF SANCTUARY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 5 April 2025

1 Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

2 Basis of accounting

2.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis. An audit is not required by the charity's constitution and has not been requested by the trustees.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Durham City of Sanctuary meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

2.2 Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The charity reported total unrestricted funds at the year end of £1,118 and has already secured a significant amount of funding for the current year. The trustees are of the view that the immediate future of the charity for the next 12 to 18 months is secure and that on this basis the charity is a going concern.

3 Receipts

3.1 Recognition of receipts

Receipts are recognised when the charity has received the resources, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of receipt have been met.

3.2 Offsetting

There has been no offsetting of receipts and payments, unless required or permitted by SORP.

3.3 Grants and donations

Receipts from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has received the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met.

3.4 Volunteer help

The value of volunteer help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

3.5 Fund 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.

DURHAM CITY OF SANCTUARY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 5 April 2025

4 Expenditure and liabilities

4.1 Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised when it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

4.2 Charitable activities

Payments on charitable activities includes the costs of work and other activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

4.3 Governance and support costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance cost and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

4.4 Irrecoverable VAT

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

4.5 Liabilities

The charity has liabilities which are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts.

4.6 Provisions for liabilities

A liability is measured on recognition at its historical cost and then subsequently measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

DURHAM CITY OF SANCTUARY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 5 April 2025

Analysis of receipts

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
5 Donations and legacies				
Donations and gifts	11,900	2,212	14,112	5,200
Gift Aid	-	-	-	1,513
	<u>11,900</u>	<u>2,212</u>	<u>14,112</u>	<u>6,713</u>
6 Charitable activities				
<u>Income from grants</u>				
Sir James Knott Trust	-	-	-	12,000
Ballinger	-	-	-	1,000
Durham County Council	-	10,000	10,000	-
Broom Hill	-	2,000	2,000	-
Durham University	-	500	500	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>12,500</u>	<u>12,500</u>	<u>13,000</u>
7 Other trading activities				
Membership	1,029	-	1,029	-
	<u>1,029</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,029</u>	<u>-</u>

Receipts were £27,641 (2024: £19,713) of which £12,929 was unrestricted or designated (2024: £6,713) and £14,712 was restricted (2024: £13,000)

DURHAM CITY OF SANCTUARY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 5 April 2025

Analysis of payments on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
8 Charitable activities				
<u>Direct costs</u>				
Coordinator and Communications Administrator	11,025	10,000	21,025	3,717
Consultancy	700	-	700	-
Drop in kids club	2,527	392	2,919	954
Gym membership	776	-	776	5,943
Educational support	1,224	655	1,879	3,831
Sports Day at Maiden Castle	-	-	-	467
Other direct costs	790	15	805	939
<u>Support costs</u>				
Rents - Hire of hall and storage	2,195	-	2,195	5,886
Insurance	362	-	362	302
Bank charges	96	-	96	112
Just Giving charges	216	-	216	216
Sundry expenses	1,389	200	1,589	349
Accountancy fee	540	-	540	35
Transport and travelling expenses	517	100	617	4,618
TV and licences	804	1,065	1,869	3,737
Refreshments	-	-	-	965
DBS checks	160	-	160	192
Payroll fees	347	-	347	-
<u>Governance costs</u>				
Governance training	-	-	-	630
	<u>23,668</u>	<u>12,427</u>	<u>36,095</u>	<u>32,893</u>

Payments on charitable activities were £36,095 (2024: £32,893) of which £23,668 was unrestricted or designated (2024: £745) and £12,427 was restricted (2024: £32,148)

9 Fees for examination of the accounts

	2025 £	2024 £
Independent examiner's fees for reporting on the accounts	420	360
	<u>420</u>	<u>360</u>

DURHAM CITY OF SANCTUARY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 5 April 2025

10 Analysis of staff costs and the cost of key management personnel

	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries and wages	21,025	3,717
	21,025	3,717

No employee received remuneration above £60,000 (2024: £nil)

The key management personnel of the charity, comprise the trustees and the charity manager . The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £0.

11 Staff numbers

The average monthly head count was 1 staff (2024: 1 staff) and the average monthly number of full-time equivalent employees during the year were as follows:

	2025	2024
	Number	Number
The parts of the charity in which the employee's work		
Governance	1.0	1.0
	1.0	1.0

12 Transactions with trustees

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with their charity or a related entity.

Trustees' expenses

The following detail the expenses incurred by the trustees.

	2025	2024
	£	£
Travel	102	-
	102	-

Transaction(s) with related parties

The Chair and a trustee made the following unrestricted donations to the charity during 2024-25:

Name of the trustee or related party	Relationship to charity	Description of the transaction	Amount	Balance at period end	Amounts written off
			£	£	£
T P Devereux	Trustee	Donation	565	565	-
Dr S F Frenk	Chair	Donation	1,600	1,600	-

DURHAM CITY OF SANCTUARY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 5 April 2025

13 Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

The employer's pension costs represent contributions payable by the charity to the fund and amount to £1,363 (2024: £0). There was £0 outstanding as at 05 April 2025 (2024: £0)

14 Corporation Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objectives.

15 Assets (receivable within 1 year)

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other debtors	3,762	1,200
	3,762	1,200

16 Cash at bank and in hand

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	29,557	38,011
	29,557	38,011

17 Liabilities (payable within 1 year)

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trustee expenses	102	-
Accruals		
Independent examination of accounts	420	360
	522	360

18 Events after the end of the reporting period

No events (not requiring adjustment to the accounts) have occurred after the end of the reporting period but before the accounts are authorised which relate to conditions that arose after the end of the reporting period.

DURHAM CITY OF SANCTUARY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 5 April 2025

19 Analysis of charitable funds

Analysis of movements in unrestricted funds

	balances balances brought forward £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Fund balances carried forward £
Unrestricted funds					
General unrestricted fund	4,150	11,773	(23,668)	-	(7,745)
Designated funds					
Long term expenditure	7,707	1,156	-	-	8,863
Totals	11,857	12,929	(23,668)	-	1,118

Purpose of unrestricted funds

General unrestricted fund	The 'free reserves' of the charity
Designated funds	15% contribution to long term expenditure contingency

Analysis of movement in restricted funds

	balances balances brought forward £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Fund balances carried forward £
Restricted funds					
Coordinator and Communications Administrator	12,000	10,000	(10,000)	-	12,000
Non-core Costs	13,621	-	-	-	13,621
Sporting Activities	533	-	-	-	533
Calendar donations	-	292	(292)	-	-
Broom Hill	-	2,000	(100)	-	1,900
Durham University	-	500	(115)	-	385
Theatre donations	-	200	(200)	-	-
Exam fees donations	-	655	(655)	-	-
TV donations	-	1,065	(1,065)	-	-
Totals	26,154	14,712	(12,427)	-	28,439

Purpose of restricted funds

Restricted funds represent income resources used for a specific purpose within the charity as identified by the donor.

Coordinator and Communications Administrator	Grant for core costs for Coordinator & Communication Administrator position
Non-core Costs	Drop ins and educational support session costs
Sporting Activities	Grant for exercise & sporting activities, has to be match funded
Calendar donations	Calendars created by refugee families
Broom Hill	Grant to promote community & refugee activities in Crook, Co Durham
Durham University	Donation to assist with refugee travel expenses

DURHAM CITY OF SANCTUARY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 5 April 2025

Purpose of restricted funds (continued)

Theatre donations	Refugee childrens first trip to a theatre performance, tickets + transport
Exam fees donations	IELTS exam fee assistance, required before starting teaching degree
TV donations	Donations to help provide SmartTVs for newly arrived refugee families

20 Capital commitments

As at 5 April 2025, the charity had no capital commitments (2024 -£nil)

DURHAM CITY OF SANCTUARY

England & Wales - Charity number 1168523

Accounts

DURHAM CITY OF SANCTUARY

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 05 April 2024

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Durham City of Sanctuary (Charity Registration 1168523)

Annual Report 5 April 2024

Durham City of Sanctuary, a member of the national Cities of Sanctuary movement, came into being in response to the decision by Durham County Council to participate in the government-funded resettlement scheme to receive and support Syrian refugees in the region. Durham City of Sanctuary has now completed 8 years as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The designation of County Durham as a dispersal site for people categorized by the government as 'asylum seekers', the action to provide adequate housing for Afghan refugees in temporary accommodation, the continuing wars in Ukraine and Sudan mean that the voluntary sector has been asked to meet increasing need. Public sector decline following years of diminishing funding continues to affect our regional communities. As ever, the commitment shown by our volunteers, fellow Trustees and partnership organizations, is profoundly appreciated.

The regional networks run by the national City of Sanctuary movement and the work of countywide bodies like the Durham Community Foundation and Durham Community Action continue to be invaluable for the exchange of information and good practice and they have increased their offer of valuable online resources, including safeguarding and other key training modules. Face to face training for Trustees and volunteers, alongside regular updates on key developments in both government policy and the Charity Commission requirements enable small NGOs to be established, survive and flourish.

We hold our AGM, in person, in one of the locations we cover, hosted by locally based refugee Trustees.

The quarterly Trustee meetings continue to be virtual to enable good attendance, given the geographical distances and caring responsibilities of Trustees.

In 2024 we have benefited greatly from the Coordinator and Communications post, having recruited a skilled and experienced refugee who started work in January, funded by the Sir James Knott Fund with a contribution from Durham County Council.

Current Activities:

The 6 drop-ins continued to flourish, and a further one has moved to monthly meet-ups at the request of the Afghan participants. These continue to be important opportunities for external support (Social prescribing link workers; CAB advisors etc) as well as children's activities to enable adult socializing and some informal reading, writing and other targeted support. Educational support for young people preparing for GCSEs and A levels, with Durham University student volunteers led by an adult volunteer, has successfully expanded. The Taste of Syria cultural exchange and fundraising events and outings organized by refugee Trustees or other responsible refugee adults continue to be well attended. We support/co-fund Eid celebrations, Christmas parties and other get togethers, although finding suitable venues for the growing numbers continues to be challenging.

The Ukrainian drop-in is flourishing but we would like to bring together all of our families (Syrian, Iraqi, Sudanese, Afghan and Ukrainian) for a celebration event in the summer of 2025. These number several hundreds of adults and children, so will require significant planning.

We have also funded one to one tutoring in subjects like Maths and English where the need and appropriate provider are demonstrated; materials for craft/knitting workshops, work experience, internships and sponsoring of fees, transport costs and sundry needs for the pursuit of professional qualifications.

Young people have taken up fitness opportunities we have funded (gym membership; karate clubs; basketball) but continue to express a strong desire for safe youth club spaces and workshops on sex and relationship education. Broader forms of cultural awareness and exchange are also still viewed as gaps, often by older refugees.

Impact of Coordinator Role:

In addition to invaluable administrative work across all activities, the Coordinator and Communications role holder has initiated and/or developed a number of projects:

Youth group – weekly gathering for teenagers, 30+ teenagers attend regularly

Informal educational support – 37+ secondary school students attend weekly (term time) for 1:1 and 2:1 support with school work, all volunteers DBS checked

Cultural Integration programs – Dragon Boat racing with National Trust, 20 participants; Lantern making with RT Projects for “Lanterns of Hope”, 27 participants; Cooking sessions with Jack Drum Arts, 20-25 participants.

Investing in Children partnership projects – Feeding Hub (preparing & serving hot meals), Dog Shelter – creating a stimulating environment, 10 participants

Summer Picnic at Wharton Park with Communities Together Durham, 75 participants

Afternoon Tea fundraiser at Radisson Hotel, 35 participants

DU Fresher’s Fair – promoting volunteering with DCoS, engaged 50+ DU students

Soroptimist International – introducing DCoS, working together on projects to support sanctuary seekers

Local Heritage information sessions – organised sessions to educate sanctuary seekers about local heritage

Amazon, Bowburn – volunteer days, employment opportunities and gifts for children

We continue to arrange and fund DBS checks for volunteers but are grateful to the University for arranging and funding checks for student volunteers.

We have also continued to successfully raise funds for a range of emergency requests, bicycles, PE equipment, school uniform and other essentials for schoolchildren where they cannot be sourced elsewhere. Smart TVs are essential for language consolidation and cultural access, so we continue to fund those for new arrivals. Volunteers continue to support families applying for indefinite right to remain to study for the Citizenship test.

Student groups from Durham University continue to be hugely supportive, both with volunteering and fundraising.

We celebrate the resilience, creativity and talent of our diverse groups. The numbers gaining employment and professional qualifications, and exercising leadership in their communities is impressive, as are the efforts made to enable children to sustain their mother tongues, thanks to dedication in offering Arabic classes of two of our refugee Trustees. Other language groups rely on using the mother tongue in the home, so we need to investigate how full literacy can be supported.

Plans for 2025-26

To address the project needs expressed by refugees, we have asked one of our Trustees to carry out a strategic review. The funding landscape is complex and fragmented, but most of the projects that refugees have expressed an interest in are eligible for one or several funding streams. They include youth clubs, arts projects, voices/narratives (through creative writing, video/podcasts) and music projects like the Songs of Sanctuary project (2017-2020), devised and led by Sam Slatcher.

The coordinator has established a link with a larger, successful regional charity and we are now part of a joint funding bid.

We will also carry out our long-awaited Skills and Employment Aspirations Audit. The coordinator will be involved, as will two Trustees and a representative from the SIEF Enterprise Forum.

We will also look to recruit additional refugee trustees, with the goal of having representation from all the cultural groups. Another goal is to successfully return to the co-chair model, with a refugee co-chair, and eventually that all chairing will be carried out by refugees. Wider leadership development opportunities could include a local version of the Sanctuary in Politics programme that sits in the national City of Sanctuary movement. The diaspora communities in the North East are richly energetic and culturally creative, so leadership initiatives co-created here would be both meaningful and innovative.

Dr S F Frenk

January 2025.

The trustees are pleased to present their annual trustees' report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 5 April 2024.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2022, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective October 2019)

Financial review

Review of the year

The results for the year and the charity's financial position at the end of the year are shown in the attached financial statements.

During the year the Charity had income of £19,713 (2023: £59,619) of which £13,000 was restricted (2023: £21,362) and expenditure of £32,893 (2023: £25,716) of which £32,148 was restricted (2023: £2,850). There was an operating deficit of £13,180 (2023: surplus of £33,903) of which a deficit of £19,148 was restricted (2023: surplus of £18,512).

At 5 April 2024 the Charity had net assets of £38,011 (2023: £51,191) of which £26,154 was restricted (2023: £45,302).

Reserves policy/Going concern

The Trustees consider the level of reserves, £11,857 (2023: £5,889), prudent for the Charity at this time taking into account potential liabilities in the event that the charity ceased. Our Reserves Policy is reviewed annually.

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

Registered charity name	Durham City of sanctuary
Charity number	1168523
Registered office	St Aidans College Windmill Hill Durham DH1 3LJ
Trustees and Members of the Board	Dr S F Frenk (Chair) I Wilkinson F Faqir A Al Ali I H Malouhi E H Simpson N Stravropolou T P Devereux
Independent Examiner	Doug Maltman FMAAT Connected Voice Business Services One Strawberry Lane Newcastle upon Tyne. NE1 4BX.

Recruitment and Appointment of the Board

Board Induction and Training

New Board Members are introduced to the work of the organisation and informed of their legal roles and responsibilities at an induction meeting. The induction and training programme for new Board Members includes:

- A briefing by the Chair or Chief Executive
- An explanation of roles and responsibilities as a Board Member
- Copies of the main charity documents including the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Financial Statements
- Copy of the business plan and most recent evaluation report
- Copies of recent board papers including budgets and management accounts
- A copy of the Charity Commission publication "How to be an Effective Trustee"
- A copy of the governance structure.

Statement of Trustee Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Charity SORP 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 incoming resources and application of resources, including the receipts and payments of the charity for that year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- 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 accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. They 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.

Approved by the Trustees on 20.01.2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Dr S F Frenk
Chair

DURHAM CITY OF SANCTUARY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

For the year ended 05 April 2024

I report on the financial statements of Durham City of Sanctuary for the year ended 05 April 2024, which are set out on pages 7 to 15.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2022 ("the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

I 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.

Doug Maltman FMAAT
Fellow Member of the Association of Accountancy Technicians
Connected Voice Business Services
One Strawberry Lane
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 4BX
Date: 20.01.2025

DURHAM CITY OF SANCTUARY

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENT

For the year ended 05 April 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<u>Receipts from:</u>					
Donations and legacies	5	6,713	-	6,713	47,619
Charitable activities					
Grants and contracts	6	-	13,000	13,000	12,000
Total receipts		6,713	13,000	19,713	59,619
<u>Payments on:</u>					
Charitable activities					
Operation of the charity	7	745	32,148	32,893	25,716
Total payments		745	32,148	32,893	25,716
<u>Reconciliation of funds</u>					
15% Long term payments		-	-	-	(5,739)
Net of receipts/payments		5,968	(19,148)	(13,180)	33,903
Cash funds brought forward		5,889	45,302	51,191	23,027
Cash carried forward		11,857	26,154	38,011	51,191

The Receipts and Payments Statement includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All receipts and payments derive from continuing activities

The notes on pages 9 to 15 form an integral part of these accounts.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

As at 05 April 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<u>Cash funds</u>					
Cash at bank and in hand	16	11,857	26,154	38,011	51,191
Assets: amounts receivable within one year	<u>15</u>			1,200	1,513
Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year	17			360	-
<u>Funds of the charity</u>					
Unrestricted income funds			11,857		5,889
Restricted income funds			26,154		45,302
Total funds			38,011		51,191

The notes on pages 9 to 15 form an integral part of these accounts.

These financial statements were approved by the Board on: 20.01.2025

and are signed on its behalf by: Dr S F Frenk
Chair

DURHAM CITY OF SANCTUARY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 05 April 2024

1 Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

2 Basis of accounting

2.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis. An audit is not required by the charity's constitution and has not been requested by the trustees.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Durham City of Sanctuary meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

2.2 Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The charity reported total unrestricted funds at the year end of £11,857 and has already secured a significant amount of funding for the current year. The trustees are of the view that the immediate future of the charity for the next 12 to 18 months is secure and that on this basis the charity is a going concern.

3 Receipts

3.1 Recognition of receipts

Receipts are recognised when the charity has received the resources, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of receipt have been met.

3.2 Offsetting

There has been no offsetting of receipts and payments, unless required or permitted by SORP.

3.3 Grants and donations

Receipts from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has received the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met.

3.4 Volunteer help

The value of volunteer help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

3.5 Fund 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.

DURHAM CITY OF SANCTUARY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 05 April 2024

4 Expenditure and liabilities

4.1 Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised when it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

4.2 Charitable activities

Payments on charitable activities includes the costs of work and other activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

4.3 Governance and support costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance cost and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

4.4 Irrecoverable VAT

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

4.5 Liabilities

The charity has liabilities which are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts.

4.6 Provisions for liabilities

A liability is measured on recognition at its historical cost and then subsequently measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

DURHAM CITY OF SANCTUARY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 05 April 2024

Analysis of receipts

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
5 Donations and legacies				
Donations and gifts	5,200	-	5,200	47,619
Gift Aid	1,513	-	1,513	-
	<u>6,713</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,713</u>	<u>47,619</u>
6 Charitable activities				
<u>Income from grants</u>				
Sir James Knott Trust	-	12,000	12,000	12,000
Ballinger	-	1,000	1,000	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>13,000</u>	<u>13,000</u>	<u>12,000</u>

Receipts were £19,713 (2023: £59,620) of which £6,713 was unrestricted or designated (2023: £38,258) and £13,000 was restricted (2023: £21,362)

DURHAM CITY OF SANCTUARY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 05 April 2024

Analysis of payments on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
7 Charitable activities				
<u>Direct costs</u>				
Coordinator and Communications Administrator	-	3,717	3,717	-
School Uniforms and vouchers	-	-	-	1,465
Drop in kids club	-	954	954	384
Gym membership	-	5,943	5,943	2,753
London trip - Ukrainians	-	-	-	2,457
Keswick trip	-	-	-	1,450
Tutor online sessions	-	-	-	357
Educational support	-	3,831	3,831	-
Sports Day at Maiden Castle	-	467	467	-
Other direct costs	-	939	939	2,850
<u>Support costs</u>				
Rents - Hire of hall and storage	-	5,886	5,886	4,400
Insurance	302	-	302	302
Church donation made	-	-	-	100
Bank charges	-	112	112	97
Just Giving charges	216	-	216	198
Printing	-	-	-	85
Sundry expenses	-	349	349	183
Accountancy fee	35	-	35	35
Transport and travelling expenses	-	4,618	4,618	6,826
TV and licences	-	3,737	3,737	316
Refreshments	-	965	965	828
DBS checks	192	-	192	-
<u>Governance costs</u>				
Governance training	-	630	630	630
	<u>745</u>	<u>32,148</u>	<u>32,893</u>	<u>25,716</u>

Payments on charitable activities were £32,893 (2023: £25,716) of which £745 was unrestricted or designated (2023: £22,866) and £32,148 was restricted (2023: £2,850)

8 Fees for examination of the accounts

	2024 £	2023 £
Independent examiner's fees for reporting on the accounts	360	-
	<u>360</u>	<u>-</u>

DURHAM CITY OF SANCTUARY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 05 April 2024

9 Analysis of staff costs and the cost of key management personnel

	2024 £	2023 £
Salaries and wages	3,717	-
	<u>3,717</u>	<u>-</u>

No employee received remuneration above £60,000 (2023: £nil)

The key management personnel of the charity, comprise the trustees and the charity manager . The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £0.

10 Staff numbers

The average monthly head count was 1 staff (2023: 1 staff) and the average monthly number of full-time equivalent employees during the year were as follows:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
The parts of the charity in which the employee's work		
Governance	1.0	0.0
	<u>1.0</u>	<u>0.0</u>

11 Transactions with trustees

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with their charity or a related entity.

Trustees' expenses

No trustee expenses have been incurred in the year.

Transaction(s) with related parties

There have been no related party transactions in the reporting period.

12 Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

The employer's pension costs represent contributions payable by the charity to the fund and amount to £0 (2023: £0). There was £0 outstanding as at 05 April 2024 (2023: £0)

13 Corporation Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objectives.

DURHAM CITY OF SANCTUARY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 05 April 2024

15 Assets (receivable within 1 year)

	2024 £	2023 £
Other debtors	1,200	1,513
	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,513</u>

16 Cash at bank and in hand

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	38,011	51,191
	<u>38,011</u>	<u>51,191</u>

17 Liabilities (payable within 1 year)

	2024 £	2023 £
Accruals		
Independent examination of accounts	360	-
	<u>360</u>	<u>-</u>

18 Events after the end of the reporting period

No events (not requiring adjustment to the accounts) have occurred after the end of the reporting period but before the accounts are authorised which relate to conditions that arose after the end of the reporting period.

19 Analysis of charitable funds

Analysis of movements in unrestricted funds

	balances balances brought forward £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Fund balances carried forward £
Unrestricted funds					
General unrestricted fund	(811)	5,706	(745)	-	4,150
Designated funds					
Long term expenditure	6,700	1,007	-	-	7,707
Totals	<u>5,889</u>	<u>6,713</u>	<u>(745)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,857</u>

Purpose of unrestricted funds

General unrestricted fund

The 'free reserves' of the charity

Designated funds

15% contribution to long term expenditure contingency

DURHAM CITY OF SANCTUARY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 05 April 2024

Analysis of movement in restricted funds

Restricted funds	balances balances brought forward £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Fund balances carried forward £
Ukrainian refugees	3,987	-	(3,987)	-	-
Coordinator and Communications Administrator	18,512	12,000	(18,512)	-	12,000
Non-core Costs	22,803	-	(9,182)	-	13,621
Sporting Activities		1,000	(467)	-	533
Totals	45,302	13,000	(32,148)	-	26,154

Purpose of restricted funds

Restricted funds represent income resources used for a specific purpose within the charity as identified by the donor.

Ukrainian refugees	Grant to aid newly arrived Ukrainian families in Co Durham
Coordinator and Communications Administrator	Grant for core costs for Coordinator & Communication Administrator position
Non-core Costs	Drop ins and educational support session costs
Sporting Activities	Grant for exercise & sporting activities, has to be match funded

20 Capital commitments

As at 05 April 2024, the charity had no capital commitments (2023 -£nil)

DURHAM CITY OF SANCTUARY

England & Wales - Charity number 1168523

Accounts

Durham City of Sanctuary

Annual Report 2023

Durham City of Sanctuary, a member of the national Cities of Sanctuary movement, came into being in response to the decision by Durham County Council to participate in the government-funded resettlement scheme to receive and support Syrian refugees in the region. Durham City of Sanctuary has now completed its sixth year as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The designation of County Durham as a dispersal site for people categorized by the government as 'asylum seekers' and the war in Ukraine have brought new challenges in 2023. New strains of Covid and rising levels of social deprivation have also had a profound impact on our regional communities and placed great strain on local services. There is therefore a particular vote of gratitude to our volunteers, fellow Trustees and partnership organisations, for their work under increasingly demanding conditions.

The regional networks run by the national City of Sanctuary movement and the work of countywide bodies like the Durham Community Foundation and Durham Community Action continue to be invaluable sources of spaces to exchange information and good practice; create valuable online resources, including safeguarding and other key training modules; face to face training sessions for Trustees and volunteers and updates on key changes in both government policy and the Charity Commission requirements for charitable organisations.

We held our AGM, in person, in September, in one of the locations we cover, gracefully hosted by one of our Syrian Trustees who has been very active in building relationships both within the refugee community and with the local communities.

The quarterly Trustee meetings continue to be virtual to enable good attendance, given the geographical distances and caring responsibilities of Trustees.

We have finally successfully recruited to our post of co-ordinator, our first paid position. The successful candidate will start in January 2024.

We are grateful to the Sir James Knott Fund and the Durham Community Fund, for agreeing to carry over the unspent grant monies we successfully applied for, due to the lack of success in two earlier recruitment rounds.

Current Activities:

The number of drop-ins has risen to 6 and a further one (specifically requested by recent Afghan arrivals) is in process. These continue to be important opportunities

for external support (Social prescribing link workers; CAB advisors etc) as well as children's activities to enable adult socializing and some informal reading, writing and other targeted support. The Taste of Syria cultural exchange and fundraising events and outings organized by refugee Trustees or other responsible refugee adults continue to be supported or increasingly simply co-funded through ring-fenced funding in our accounts. As are Eid celebrations; Christmas parties and other get togethers, although finding suitable venues for the growing numbers has proven a challenge. The Ukrainian drop-in is flourishing and some of the Afghans have requested their own drop-in, but we would like to bring together all of our families (Syrian, Iraqi, Sudanese, Afghan and Ukrainian) for a celebration event in 2024. These number several hundreds of adults and children, so will require significant planning.

The County initiative to establish Schools of Sanctuary across the region is progressing.

We have also funded one to one tutoring in subjects like Maths and English where the need and appropriate provider are demonstrated; materials for craft/knitting workshops, work experience, internships and sponsoring of fees, transport costs and sundry needs for the pursuit of professional qualifications.

Northern Dance is delivering a ten-week programme of free dance and movement classes to women refugees. Given the popularity of this offer, we will investigate ways to embed a regular offer.

A very well received family sport and wellbeing day towards the end of the school summer holidays was funded by a grant from the Ballinger Trust. Activities were all indoors on the day due to the weather, but this did not dampen the enthusiasm of the participants. The wide range of activities, led by young, trained sports coaches, meant that our 5-16 year olds were all happily engaged.

The remaining funding will support a number of places in a local sport/dance programme during a half-term holiday week, where our refugee young people will mix with others from the local communities.

Young people have taken up fitness opportunities we have funded (gym membership; karate clubs; swimming classes; basketball), but still express a strong desire for safe youth club spaces and workshops on sex and relationship education. Broader forms of cultural awareness and exchange are also still viewed as gaps, often by older refugees.



The Old Oak:

A number of Trustees and families attended the premier of Ken Loach's *The Old Oak*. We were all inspired by the talent of our refugees featured in the film. The film has already been shown in cinemas across the UK and was also generously provided free for a number of community screenings in areas where there has been some hostility towards refugees.

DBS:

uCheck are the company we use for DBS checks.

Durham Support for Muslim women: Dr Mashid Turner, Muslim Chaplain for Durham University has established this group.

We have continued to successfully raise funds for a range of emergency requests, following bereavements or other unexpected events, bicycles, PE equipment, school uniform and other essentials for schoolchildren. Smart TVs are essential for language consolidation and cultural access, so we continue to fund those for new arrivals and the first year of the license fee. Volunteers have also continued to collect clothing and a range of basic household items for people classed as asylum seekers, for which we rent a storage facility. We pay basic delivery costs for furniture and other large items. Volunteers continue to support families applying for indefinite right to remain to study for the Citizenship test. Students and local volunteers have also provided informal one to one tuition in a number of subjects. Refugees would prefer to be tutored by subject specialist teachers where possible, but we expect more to be available in local schools from January, with further government funding.

Student groups from Durham University continue to be hugely supportive, both with fundraising (a total of £33,487 over eighteen months, all banked in 2022) and their committed and creative support of Kids Clubs at some of the Drop-ins.

The success of the Syrian resettlement scheme, in which some cohorts have included a number of Iraqi families, continues. Successive cohorts have completed five years residence and have received support from DCC in applying for indefinite leave to remain. As with our first cohort, there is much to celebrate in their determination and resilience, capacity for joy and spiritual expression; care for one another and for the wider society. The numbers gaining employment and professional qualifications, and exercising leadership in their communities grows apace, while children have been able to grow in a multicultural environment as expert bilingual (or trilingual) speakers, thanks to dedication in offering Arabic classes of two of our refugee Trustees.

Plans for 2024-25

To address the project needs expressed by refugees, we will now advertise for an experienced cultural consultant, funded on a basis of three days per month, to lead a strategic review of project fundraising and to support a range of project bids, based around requests from refugees, including youth club and arts-based projects; voices and narratives; leadership development through the creative arts; Music projects similar to the highly successful Songs of Sanctuary project (2017-19).

This work will be possible thanks to the successful funding and recruitment to the Coordinator role, which will consolidate work in recruiting, inducting and ensuring the training of volunteers.

We will also now prioritise work with the DCC Employability Durham team and the SIEF Enterprise Forum, to carry out a skills and employability audit across all of our groups to focus future work. This is likely to include targeted one to one language learning support, which is still a barrier for some refugees, as well as signposting to training opportunities, internships and work experience. Mentoring from established entrepreneurs for those who want to start their own business or social enterprise remains a key goal, given that many people ran microbusinesses in their countries of origin. While online support and activity is appreciated, all parties continue to value face to face activity above all else.

We await with interest the findings of a healthcare project aimed at understanding the experience of successive cohorts in engaging with NHS provision, and we continue to press for bespoke mental health and wellbeing provision beyond the limited online options currently available, although we are mindful of the strain throughout mental health services across the UK. Should the project's findings support the need for specialized trauma- informed support/training, recruiting people fluent in Arabic, we will lend our voice and contribute to fundraising efforts. We will continue to represent these needs at regional and national Forums and nominate refugee Trustees and other refugee volunteers to be our spokespersons or co-attendees. Enabling leadership opportunities in other ways, for example by supporting a new iteration of the very successful Sanctuary in Politics mentoring initiative, is one of our development goals for 2024.

Our Objects:

To advance education, relieve financial hardship and distress amongst asylum-seekers and those granted refugee status in Durham, and to educate the public

about the issues relating to refugees and asylum-seekers, in particular but not exclusively by:

- a) Promoting the inclusion, integration and welfare of refugees and asylum-seekers, by encouraging a public commitment to becoming a place of welcome and safety through the provision of information, advice and support as shall be thought fit;
- b) Encouraging, supporting and liaising with Durham County Council, other service providers, local communities and voluntary, community and faith organisations in welcoming and assisting refugees and asylum-seekers; and
- c) Providing accurate and up to date information to the local community on the situation of local refugees and asylum seekers and to publicise and celebrate their contribution to their local communities, and to UK society and culture, and to challenge hostility and discrimination against them.

Objects (a), (b) and (c) have been addressed significantly, in part through building a positive, enduring relationship with DCC and with key voluntary groups who have also committed their support to refugees and asylum seekers in the region.

Objects (a) and (c) are most developed in the areas of supplementing Council support and information for the refugees themselves, both directly and through signposting, including to faith and wider cultural communities. The goal of helping to build a culture of welcome in the region is ongoing, including promoting events run by DCoS and others which aim to de-mythify and de-stigmatize, and/or celebrate the rich cultural contribution of, asylum seekers and refugees in the region. In most locations, refugees have now made contacts and friendships which embed them in their new homes.

Wherever possible, refugees with whom we are working participate voluntarily in the organisation and delivery of events and speak from their own experience, directly or with the aid of interpreters.

We continue to enjoy a broad based membership and wider support, including entrepreneurs, community groups, University staff and students, writers, artists, and individual residents from a number of different towns and villages. Durham County is geographically broad and population widely dispersed, so continuing to build engagement is important to us.

Object (b) has been achieved through careful relationship-building and key contributions from our Muslim members, but also thanks to the goodwill of the DCC team, faith organisations and voluntary organisations such as the Durham Diverse Women's Network.

Planning Priorities for 2024:

1. Recruit & embed the two posts and focus on consolidating and expanding our volunteer base, training and feedback.
2. Continue to engage widely, to build all forms of membership and support, across the County, encouraging, participating in and establishing local initiatives around building a culture of welcome.
3. Continue to help to prepare a positive community reception for new arrivals and others.
4. Establish project priorities and scope new cultural projects, in collaboration with local practitioners and charities.
5. Undertake a second mapping exercise of refugee skills and goals, to help focus our activities. (Interface with Enterprise Network and Durham Employability)

Susan Frenk (Co-Chair) 21/12/2023

Durham City of Sanctuary Statement of Financial Activity, April 2023

	Unrestricted funds (UF)	Restricted Funds (RF)	Endowment Funds	Total Fund
	£	£	£	£
Income & Endowments:				
Donations (UF: subs & donations)(RF: NERS targeted fundraising campaign)	38257.50	21361.50	0.00	59619.00
earned from charitable activities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
earned from other activities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
investment & other income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
total	38257.50	21361.50	0.00	59619.00
Expenditure:				
cost of raising funds (JustGiving fee)	198.00	0.00	0.00	198.00
expenditure on charitable activity (UF: TV licences, gifts, educational supplies)(RF: conversation cla	22312.60	2850.00	0.00	25162.60
other expenditure (DBS checks, insurance, accountant)	355.40	0.00	0.00	355.40
total	22866.00	2850.00	0.00	25716.00
Net incoming resources before investment gains	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net gains / losses on investments	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net incoming resources	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transfer between funds				
(15% of UF for long term expenditure in agreement with Trustees decision)	5738.63	0.00	0.00	5738.63
Other recognised gains / losses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gains / losses on revaluations of fixed assets	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other gains	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Reconciliation of funds	9652.88	18511.50	0.00	28164.38
Totals brought forward	-10463.59	26790.35	0.00	23026.75
Totals carried forward	-810.72	45301.85	0.00	44491.14

Durham City of Sanctuary

Durham City of Sanctuary

Income and Expenditure for the year ended 30 April 2023

Balance at Bank as at 1 May 2022	16312
Subscriptions and Donations	47619
Sir James Knott Trust Grant	<u>12000</u>
	75931
Expenditure	
School Uniforms and vouchers	1465
Transport and Travelling Expenses	6826
TV and Licences	316
Drop in Kids Club	384
Rents - Hire of Hall and Storage	4400
Accountants Fee	35
Church Donation	100
Insurance	302
Bank Charges	97
Charge for Just Giving Account	198
Printing	85
Sundry Expenditure	183
Gym Memberships	2753
London Trip - Ukrainians	2457
Keswick Trip	1450
Training	630
Tutor Online Sessions	357
Refreshments	828
Balance at Bank as at 30 April 2023	<u>53065</u> <u>75931</u>

Durham City of Sanctuary

Income and Expenditure for the year ended 30 April 2023

Balance at Bank as at 1 May 2022	16312
Subscriptions and Donations	47619
Sir James Knott Trust Grant	<u>12000</u>
	75931

Expenditure

School Uniforms and vouchers	1465	
Transport and Travelling Expenses	6826	
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Drop in Kids Club	384	
Rents - Hire of Hall and Storage	4400	
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London Trip - Ukrainians	2457	
Keswick Trip	1450	
Training	630	
Tutor Online Sessions	357	
Refreshments	828	
Balance at Bank as at 30 April 2023	<u>53065</u>	<u>75931</u>

The above Income and Expenditure Account has been prepared and from the accounting records and represents a true and fair view of financial position of the Charity for the year ended 30 April 2023

James Connolly

**James Connolly
Accountants and Tax Advisors**

**I audited
the**

DURHAM CITY OF SANCTUARY

England & Wales - Charity number 1168523

Accounts

Durham City of Sanctuary

Annual Report 2022

Durham City of Sanctuary, a member of the national Cities of Sanctuary movement, came into being in response to the decision by Durham County Council to participate in the government-funded resettlement scheme to receive and support Syrian refugees in the region. Durham City of Sanctuary has now completed its fifth year as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). In common with other third sector organisations, the changing environment for seekers of asylum, in terms of both local policy and global crisis, has brought new challenges this year. Covid also continues to affect people and place strain on local services. So, I start by expressing profound gratitude to our volunteers, fellow Trustees and partnership organisations for renewing so many activities while responding to the arrival of refugees from Afghanistan and Ukraine. The regional networks run by the national City of Sanctuary movement and the work of countywide bodies like the Durham Community Foundation continue to be invaluable sources of spaces to exchange information and good practice; create valuable online resources, including safeguarding and other key training modules; and flag changes in both government policy and the Charity Commission requirements for charitable organisations.

Current Activities:

There are now four drop-ins across the county, including one specifically for the Ukrainian community. Social prescribing link workers now arrange visits to the drop-ins, as do the Covid resilience NHS team. Groups in several locations have successfully organized Taste of Syria cultural exchange and fundraising events and trips (eg Auckland Project, Durham City and cathedral, Lightwater Valley, Keswick, with a trip to London planned forthcoming) which we can support/co-fund through ring-fenced funding in our accounts; Eid celebrations; Christmas parties; there is a Trustee representative on the working group for a County initiative to establish Schools of Sanctuary across the region; one to one tutoring in subjects like Maths and English; work experience, internships and sponsoring of fees, transport costs and sundry needs for the pursuit of professional qualifications. Young people have taken up fitness opportunities we have funded (gym membership; karate clubs), but still express a strong desire for safe youth club spaces and workshops on sex and relationship education. Broader forms of cultural awareness and exchange are also still viewed as gaps, often by older refugees.

We have continued to successfully raise funds for a range of emergency requests, following bereavements or other unexpected events, contributions to the generous scheme by local charity, Recyke y' Bike (refurbished bicycles), PE equipment, school uniform and other essentials for schoolchildren. Smart TVs are an essential for language consolidation and cultural access, so we continue to fund those for new arrivals and the first year of the license fee. Volunteers have also collected clothing and a range of basic household items for asylum seekers and we now rent a storage facility to support this and pay delivery costs for furniture and other large items. Volunteers have supported families now applying for indefinite right to remain to study for the Citizenship test. Students and local volunteers have also provided one to one tuition in a number of subjects, but we continue to fund some professional online tutoring at the request of refugees. Refugees would prefer to be tutored by subject specialist teachers where possible and schools do not all have sufficient capacity under the government post-Covid tutoring scheme.

Student groups from Durham University have been hugely supportive in other ways, too, both with fundraising (a total of £33,487 over eighteen months, all banked in 2022) and their committed and creative support of Kids Clubs at Drop-ins.

Some volunteers have supported refugees one to one in preparation for UK driving licences.

The success of the Syrian resettlement scheme can be seen in our second cohort to have completed five years residence, who are receiving support from DCC in applying for indefinite leave to remain. As with our first cohort, there is much to celebrate in their resilience and successes, with some having gained employment and professional qualifications, some are leaders in their communities, while young children have flourished and are growing up bilingual thanks to the Arabic classes run by two of our refugee Trustees.

Plans for 2023-25

To address the project needs expressed by refugees, we are about to advertise for an experienced cultural consultant, funded on a basis of three days per month, to lead a strategic review of project fundraising and to support a range of project bids, based around requests from refugees, including youth club and arts-based projects; voices and narratives; leadership development through the creative arts; Music projects similar to the highly successful Songs of Sanctuary project (2017-19) – whose founder and leader organized a Bede's Anniversary Walk this year in which a number of refugees took part.

Employing the cultural project consultant will also enable us to recast the Co-ordinator role, to which we were recently unable to appoint. Advice from other VCOs, DCC and others suggests that the post needs to be full-time to attract candidates with the requisite experience but also that we need to separate out the project coordination, particularly with the recent designation of County Durham to receive people classed by the government as asylum seekers who do not fall into any of the resettlement schemes, so that we have capacity to respond to the needs of these new arrivals.

We have also started collaborating with the DCC Employability Durham team to run a series of Job Fairs, the first of which took place in November. This is still a challenging area, particularly for older refugees. We continue to work with the SIEF Enterprise Forum, and when we successfully recruit to a Coordinator post, we will carry out a skills and employability audit across our groups to focus future work. This is likely to include targeted one to one language learning support, which is still a barrier for some refugees, as well as signposting to training opportunities, internships and work experience. Mentoring from established entrepreneurs for those who want to start their own business or social enterprise remains a key goal, given that many people ran microbusinesses in their countries of origin. While online support and activity is appreciated, all parties continue to value face to face activity above all else.

We await with interest the findings of a healthcare project aimed at understanding the experience of successive cohorts in engaging with NHS provision, and we continue to press for bespoke mental health and wellbeing provision beyond the limited online options currently available, although we are mindful of the strain throughout mental health services across the UK. Should the project's findings support the need for specialized trauma- informed support/training, recruiting people fluent in Arabic, we will lend our voice and contribute to fundraising efforts. We will continue to represent these needs at regional and national Forums, and nominate refugee Trustees and other refugee volunteers to be our spokespersons or co-attendees. Enabling leadership opportunities in other ways, for example by supporting a new iteration of the very successful Sanctuary in Politics mentoring initiative, is one of our development goals for 2023.

Offers from new volunteers have been very welcome, but establishing, co-ordinating and overseeing many of these activities, across a broad geographical area, depends on a small number of very dedicated, longstanding, volunteers who carry significant responsibility. We have recently built on previous fundraising so that we can now advertise for a full-time coordinator post for three years, whose role will include key elements such as managing recruitment, training and support for our volunteers. The combination of the fulltime Coordinator role and part-time Project consultant

will enable us to carry out a full review of our activity and liaison with other organisations in the region, prioritise our work for the next three years, and distribute volunteer work and responsibility more widely. The coordinator will also carry out a search for a qualified source of wellbeing support for our volunteers, who continue to find themselves at times in situations they cannot resolve, for example where there is clear distress confided to them, but no Arabic-speaking source of qualified support to whom people can be referred. The key workers, employability service and other support provided by DCC have been extended beyond the original timelines very helpfully, for specific cases, but otherwise must taper off to transfer resources to new arrivals.

Our Objects:

To advance education, relieve financial hardship and distress amongst asylum-seekers and those granted refugee status in Durham, and to educate the public about the issues relating to refugees and asylum-seekers, in particular but not exclusively by:

- a) Promoting the inclusion, integration and welfare of refugees and asylum-seekers, by encouraging a public commitment to becoming a place of welcome and safety through the provision of information, advice and support as shall be thought fit;
- b) Encouraging, supporting and liaising with Durham County Council, other service providers, local communities and voluntary, community and faith organisations in welcoming and assisting refugees and asylum-seekers; and
- c) Providing accurate and up to date information to the local community on the situation of local refugees and asylum seekers and to publicise and celebrate their contribution to their local communities, and to UK society and culture, and to challenge hostility and discrimination against them.

Objects (a), (b) and (c) have been addressed significantly, in part through building a positive, enduring relationship with DCC and with key voluntary groups who have also committed their support to refugees and asylum seekers in the region.

Objects (a) and (c) are most developed in the areas of supplementing Council support and information for the refugees themselves, both directly and through signposting, including to faith and wider cultural communities. The goal of helping to build a culture of welcome in the region is ongoing, including promoting events run by DCoS and others which aim to de-mythify and de-stigmatize, and/or celebrate the rich cultural contribution of, asylum seekers and refugees in the region. In most locations, refugees have now made contacts and friendships which embed them in their new homes.

Wherever possible, refugees with whom we are working participate voluntarily in the organisation and delivery of events and speak from their own experience, directly or with the aid of interpreters.

We continue to enjoy a broad based membership and wider support, including entrepreneurs, community groups, University staff and students, writers, artists, and individual residents from a number of different towns and villages. Durham County is geographically broad and population widely dispersed, so continuing to build engagement is important to us.

Object (b) has been achieved through careful relationship-building and key contributions from our Muslim members, but also thanks to the goodwill of the DCC team, faith organisations and voluntary organisations such as the Durham Diverse Women's Network.

Planning Priorities for 2023:

1. Recruit to the two posts and focus on consolidating and expanding our volunteer base, training and feedback.
2. Continue to engage widely, to build all forms of membership and support, across the County, encouraging, participating in and establishing local initiatives around building a culture of welcome.
3. Continue to help to prepare a positive community reception for new arrivals and others.
4. Establish project priorities and scope new cultural projects, in collaboration with local practitioners and charities.
5. Undertake a second mapping exercise of refugee skills and goals, to help focus our activities. (Interface with Enterprise Network and Durham Employability)

Susan Frenk (Co-Chair) 21/12/2022

Durham City of Sanctuary Statement of Financial Activity, April 2022

	Unrestricted funds (UF)	Restricted Funds (RF)	Endowment Funds	Total Fund
	£	£	£	£
Income & Endowments:				
Donations (UF: subs & donations)(RF: NERS targeted fundraising campaign)	6398.00	12000.00	0.00	18398.00
earned from charitable activities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
earned from other activities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
investment & other income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
total	6398.00	12000.00	0.00	18398.00
Expenditure:				
cost of raising funds (JustGiving fee)	198.00	0.00	0.00	198.00
expenditure on charitable activity (UF: TV licences, gifts, educational supplies)(RF: conversation cla	18022.00	1150.00	0.00	19172.00
other expenditure (DBS checks, insurance, accountant)	415.00	0.00	0.00	415.00
total	18635.00	1150.00	0.00	19785.00
Net incoming resources before investment gains	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net gains / losses on investments	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net incoming resources	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transfer between funds				
(15% of UF for long term expenditure in agreement with Trustees decision)	959.70	0.00	0.00	959.70
Other recognised gains / losses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gains / losses on revaluations of fixed assets	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other gains	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Reconciliation of funds	-13196.70	10850.00	0.00	-2346.70
Totals brought forward	2733.11	15940.35	0.00	23026.75
Totals carried forward	-10463.59	26790.35	0.00	16326.76

Durham City of Sanctuary

Income and Expenditure for the year ended 30 April 2022

Balance at Bank as at 1 May 2021		17699
Subscriptions and Donations		6398
Sir James Knott Trust Grant		<u>12000</u>
		36097
Expenditure		
School Uniforms and vouchers	1257	
Transport and Travelling Expenses	3761	
TV Licences	2300	
NERS Support	120	
Rents - Hire of Hall	1200	
Accountants Fee	25	
Expenditure on Bicycle parts and other Equipment	456	
Insurance	302	
Bank Charges	88	
Charge for Just Giving Account	198	
Karate Classes	556	
Sundry Expenditure	190	
Gym Memberships	1820	
Flamingoland Trip	2300	
Just Giving Campaign	1150	
Televisions	2185	
Tutor Online Sessions	1612	
Refreshments	265	
Balance at Bank as at 30 April 2022	<u>16312</u>	<u>36097</u>

DURHAM CITY OF SANCTUARY

England & Wales - Charity number 1168523

Accounts

Durham City of Sanctuary

Annual Report 2021

Durham City of Sanctuary, a member of the national Cities of Sanctuary movement, came into being in response to the decision by Durham County Council to participate in the government-funded scheme to receive and support a number of Syrian refugees in the region. Durham City of Sanctuary has now completed its fourth year as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). In common with other third sector organisations, the ongoing evolution of Covid-19 continues to bring significant challenges. Nonetheless, we have sustained some key activities, initiated new ones and contributed initial support to welcoming recent arrivals of refugees from Afghanistan. The regional groups established by the national City of Sanctuary movement continue to be an invaluable source of online resources, including workshops to exchange practice and monitor the needs of refugees and asylum seekers through Covid.

The reopening of drop-ins from September 2021 has been welcomed by both refugees and volunteers, demonstrating the value of these particular face-to-face forums. At meetings, the most popular requests received for future activities when ftf is easier to arrange on a larger scale, include: resuming the Taste of Syria cultural exchange and fundraising events (and related events for our Iraqi and recent Afghan families); organised trips – for which we have ring-fenced funding in our accounts; new projects based around music, performance or creative writing, which people envisage as face to face rather than online; one to one tutoring in subjects like Maths and English; work experience, internships and sponsoring fees, transport costs and sundry needs for professional qualifications. Young people have taken up fitness opportunities we have funded (gym membership; karate clubs), but still express a strong desire for safe youth club spaces and workshops on sex and relationship education. Broader forms of cultural awareness and exchange are also cited, often by older refugees.

Our first cohort has now completed five years residence and received support from the DCC in applying for indefinite leave to remain. Some have established their own businesses, others are studying for degrees or professional qualifications. However, despite

the excellent efforts of the DCC funded post to support these areas, the need for more opportunities to explore employment paths, refresh existing skills and acquire new ones, find work experience/internships is pressing and will be a focus for our Enterprise contacts this year. The levels of fluency required in written and spoken English continue to be obstacles for some people, particularly the over 40s. While online support and activity is appreciated, all parties echoed what we found last year: refugee families and volunteers alike miss direct human contact above all else.

The use of Whatsapp groups of volunteers and refugees and the provision of informal support and advice from more settled communities to new arrivals have proved even more crucial during the pandemic. We have been able to facilitate recruitment of refugees to a healthcare project aimed at understanding the experience of successive cohorts in engaging with NHS provision, and we hope that some of the ongoing concerns we have about mental health provision will emerge from this and will provide a robust evidence base to bid for funding for specialized trauma-informed support/training, recruiting people fluent in Arabic. We will continue to represent these needs at regional and national Forums, and nominate refugee Trustees and other refugee volunteers to be our spokespersons or co-attendees. Offering leadership opportunities, for example by supporting a new iteration of the very successful Sanctuary in Politics mentoring initiative, (when Covid permits again) is one of our development goals for 2022.

We have continued to successfully raise funds for a range of requests, including fees for professional qualifications, contributions to the generous scheme set up by local charity, Recycle y' Bike (refurbished bicycles), smart TVs and the first year's licence fee for new arrivals (key to both language learning and cultural learning); PE equipment and other essentials for schoolchildren. We have also held a series of successful fundraisers and clothing collections for regional groups that support asylum seekers, whose living conditions continue to be very harsh, while recent legislation has further complicated their circumstances. Some groups have supported families now applying for indefinite right to remain with study for the Citizenship test. Students of Durham University have supported the annual Christmas present project providing gifts/gift vouchers to all the new arrivals from the past eighteen months,

including recent Afghan arrivals; providing volunteers for a kids club at the Durham drop-in; fundraising for us. Students and local volunteers have also provided one to one tuition in a number of subjects but we have moved to funding some professional online tutoring at the request of refugees. Refugees would prefer to be tutored by subject specialist teachers where possible.

Volunteers have also liaised with two drop-in groups in Sunderland, mainly helping asylum seekers; PACT House community centre, Stanley, which has provided food for asylum seekers and refugees and some household items (eg cooker and a fridge) plus transport for large items of furniture; Gilesgate WellBeing Group and Durham Food Bank, who have donated goods and found a qualified PAT tester for donated items; St Cuthbert's Church Community in Crook, which is supporting recent arrivals to County Durham. They have also liaised with EMTAS regarding the needs of children being educated in County Durham schools; organised transport to take donated items to asylum seekers; organised and financed family outings to South Shields and Flamingoland; visited vulnerable single-parent refugee families in Stanley, Chester le Street and Peterlee; helped refugees to practise for the theory section of their driving tests;

Offers from new volunteers have been welcome, but establishing, coordinating and overseeing many of these activities, across a broad geographical area, depends on a small number of very dedicated, longstanding, volunteers who carry significant responsibility. We have passed the first stage of a funding bid to the Sir James Knott Trust, to part-fund a volunteer coordinator, to work in recruitment, training and support for our volunteers. If successful, this will be transformative and enable us to extend and consolidate activity, while distributing volunteer work and responsibility more widely. We have also set ourselves the goal of finding a qualified, source of wellbeing support for our volunteers, who continue to find themselves at times in situations they cannot resolve, for example where there is clear distress confided to them, but no Arabic-speaking source of qualified support to whom people can be referred. The key workers, employment service and other support provided by DCC have been extended beyond the original timelines very helpfully, for specific cases, but otherwise must taper off to transfer resources to new arrivals.

Our Objects:

To advance education, relieve financial hardship and distress amongst asylum-seekers and those granted refugee status in

Durham, and to educate the public about the issues relating to refugees and asylum-seekers, in particular but not exclusively by:

- a) Promoting the inclusion, integration and welfare of refugees and asylum-seekers, by encouraging a public commitment to becoming a place of welcome and safety through the provision of information, advice and support as shall be thought fit;
- b) Encouraging, supporting and liaising with Durham County Council, other service providers, local communities and voluntary, community and faith organisations in welcoming and assisting refugees and asylum-seekers; and
- c) Providing accurate and up to date information to the local community on the situation of local refugees and asylum seekers and to publicise and celebrate their contribution to their local communities, and to UK society and culture, and to challenge hostility and discrimination against them.

Objects (a), (b) and (c) have been addressed significantly, in part through building a positive, enduring relationship with DCC and with key voluntary groups who have also committed their support to refugees and asylum seekers in the region.

Objects (a) and (c) are most developed in the areas of supplementing Council support and information for the refugees themselves, both directly and through signposting, including to faith and wider cultural communities. The goal of helping to build a culture of welcome in the region is ongoing, including promoting events run by DCoS and others which aim to de-mythify and de-stigmatize, and/or celebrate the rich cultural contribution of, asylum seekers and refugees in the region. In most locations, refugees have now made contacts and friendships which embed them in their new homes. We hope to influence Durham's bid for City of Culture, by integrating a range of cultural projects highlighting the diversity brought by our refugee communities, their resilience and entrepreneurial spirit.

Wherever possible, refugees with whom we are working participate voluntarily in the organisation and delivery of events and speak from their own experience, directly or with the aid of interpreters.

We continue to enjoy a broad based membership and wider support, including entrepreneurs, community groups, University staff and students, writers, artists, and individual residents from a number of different towns and villages. Durham County is geographically broad and population widely dispersed, so continuing to build engagement is important to us.

Object (b) has been achieved through careful relationship-building and key contributions from our Muslim members, but also thanks to the goodwill of the DCC team, faith organisations and voluntary organisations such as the Durham Diverse Women's Network.

Future Planning:

1. Consolidate and expand our volunteer base while continuing to build all forms of membership and support, across the County, to encourage local initiatives around building a culture of welcome. Continue to help to prepare a positive community reception for new arrivals and others.
2. Continue our funding bids for a volunteer coordinator as a major priority and, if successful, move to appointment as swiftly as possible.
3. Extend and develop volunteer training and support, embedding wherever possible suggestions from experienced volunteers.
4. Develop the range of cultural and social activities and trips, as and when Covid restrictions permit.
5. Scope new cultural projects, in collaboration with local practitioners and charities.
6. Undertake a second mapping exercise of refugee skills and goals, to help focus our activities. (Interface with Enterprise Network)

SFF 07/01/2021

Durham City of Sanctuary Statement of Financial Activity, April 2021

	Unrestricted funds (UF)	Restricted Funds (RF)	Endowment Funds	Total Fund
	£	£	£	£
Income & Endowments:				
Donations (UF: subs & donations)(RF: NERS targeted fundraising campaign)	4468.30	3080.66	0.00	7548.96
earned from charitable activities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
earned from other activities (Durham Uni Halloween event)	300.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
investment & other income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
total	4768.30	3080.66	0.00	7848.96
Expenditure:				
cost of raising funds (JustGiving fee)	216.00	0.00	0.00	216.00
expenditure on charitable activity (UF: TV licences, gifts, educational supplies)(RF: conversation cla	6787.00	4251.00	0.00	11038.00
other expenditure (DBS checks, insurance, accountant)	278.00	0.00	0.00	278.00
total	7281.00	4251.00	0.00	11532.00
Net incoming resources before investment gains	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net gains / losses on investments	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net incoming resources	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transfer between funds				
(15% of UF for long term expenditure in agreement with Trustees decision)	670.25	0.00	0.00	670.25
Other recognised gains / losses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gains / losses on revaluations of fixed assets	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other gains	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Reconciliation of funds	-3182.95	-1170.34	0.00	-4353.29
Totals brought forward	5916.06	17110.69	0.00	23026.75
Totals carried forward	2733.11	15940.35	0.00	18673.46

Durham City of Sanctuary

Income and Expenditure for the year ended 30 April 2021

Balance at Bank as at 1 May 2020	22995
Subscriptions and Donations	4110
HMRC Gift Aid Reclaimed	<u>2126</u>

29231

Note: The charity also received donations in gifts and vouchers that amounted to 1612

Expenditure

School Uniforms and vouchers	3898	
Transport and Travelling Expenses	98	
TV Licences	1586	
NERS JG Campaign	3000	
Rents	30	
Accountants Fees	25	
Education Course IM	1195	
Insurance	243	
Bank Charges	10	
Charge for Just Giving Account	216	
Donation for Al Dalati	1123	
Sundry Expenditure	108	
Balance at Bank as at 30 April 2021	<u>17699</u>	<u>29231</u>