

Charity annual report prepared by Claire McCorquodale 5th March 2025

Including Treasurers Report and Independent Examiner's Report

objectives and activities: To support refugees and asylum seekers in West Berkshire. This has involved providing English classes and support sessions for asylum seekers and for refugees in the community.

achievements and performance: From September to December 2023 WBAR organised support for asylum seekers at a hotel in Thatcham. The hotel housing asylum seekers closed in December 2023, WBAR continued to work in West Berkshire with refugees (both individuals and families) who received leave to remain, asylum seeker families who are housed in dispersal accommodation locally, and other refugees who have arrived independently in West Berkshire.

Supporting the asylum seekers in the hotel required a large numbers of volunteers; specific volunteers to support the dbs process and the production of id cards were in place to ensure that these processes ran smoothly.

Refugees and asylum seekers are initially offered English classes organised by WBAR and then encouraged to enrol for classes at Newbury College once they are eligible. A class for women only is run to encourage those who are unable to attend college classes to improve their English.

WBAR volunteers have encouraged and facilitated refugees and asylum seekers in gaining useful skills to support their search for employment when they receive leave to remain. As Asylum seekers gained Leave to remain volunteers supported finding employment, accommodation and all the other necessary paperwork in settling into the UK.

The charity has established a role as an informed partner working with other local agencies to support refugees and asylum seekers locally.

financial review; The bank account remains healthy; the bank balance on 22nd September 2024 was £38,250.33. The charity had secured funding of £22,209.72 to employ a part-time case worker and as at September 2024 the Trustees are actively recruiting. This funding will be carried forward to the new financial year when it is anticipated that recruitment will take place.

Smaller grants totalling £7,215.50 and donations of £1,620.65 were secured to support the refugees and asylum seekers. Much of this was spent on practical items such as winter coats, underwear, socks and sports shoes, and notebooks, pens, backpacks and water bottles for college. In addition, the Global kitchen project involved purchasing food and equipment food for cooking sessions, and the low cost transport project involved bicycle locks for the many donated bikes. At September 2024 the charity allocated reserves (excluding the £22,209.72 funds for the caseworker) are £8,730.79 and the charity unallocated reserves at September 2024 are £7,309.82. The Trustees are confident that there are funds to continue to support our work in the coming year. Although fundraising for the caseworker for a further 12 months will be a priority.

structure, governance and management; West Berkshire Action for refugees was registered as a charity in 2016. The committee remains small but there are plans to actively seek more Trustees in the coming year. Decision making is by consensus using electronic means with timely meetings for major decisions requiring more detailed input.

The volunteers are led by an experienced team leader who ensures that information provided is accurate and support is offered fairly to all who require our services.

reference and administrative details:

The charity's registered name in West Berkshire Action for Refugees. Charity number 1169329. The registered address is The Firs, Post Office Rd, Inkpen, Hungerford, RG17 9PU.

The Charity Trustees are: Moyra Blake, Fiona Coulam and Claire McCorquodale. Waheeda Soomro was named as a Trustee on the charity website, she resigned in Spring 2025. Her name will be removed from the charity information at the Charity Commission.

exemptions from disclosure; There are no known exemptions from disclosure

funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others: There are no funds held as a custodian trustee or on behalf of others.

West Berkshire Action for Refugees Treasurer's Report

Income and Expense Report for September 2023-2024

		Income	Expense
Income			
	Donations	1,620.65	
	Grants	30,025.22	
	Total	31,645.87	
Expense			
	Celebrations and Outings		734.99
	Direct Support		1173.21
	Skills and Learning for refugees		3,337.74
	Charity Running Coss		1046.99
	Volunteer Expenses		487.04
			6775.97

Assets and Liabilities report for September 2023-2024

Assets at Bank at 23 Sept 2024			38,250.33
Comprising			
	Restricted Reserves including Grant Funds	30,941.01	
	Unrestricted Funds including donations	7,309.82	
Liabilities	There are no outstanding liabilities		

Grants of £21,209.72 for the case worker were received in 2023-24 and a case worker was successfully recruited in November 2024.

We would like to record our thanks to the following organisations who supported us with grants, donations and fundraising opportunities.

Greenham Parish Council
Albert Hunt Trust
Newbury Town Council
Thatcham Town Council
Peter Baker Trust
Greenham Trust Community Grants

Incantata Choir
St Nics Church, Newbury
Thatcham Rotary Club
Plus several individual donors

C McCorquodale

5th March 2025



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

WEST BERRIS ACTION FOR REFUGEES

On accounts for the year
ended

22 SEPT 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1169329

Set out on pages

Charity annual report & Treasurer's Report 2023-2024

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

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

Independent
examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete {} if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) 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 no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

5th March 2025

Name:

S SHIPSON

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

(if any):

✓

Address:

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S. GLOUCESTERSHIRE

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Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.