

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date
From 1 1 2022 To 31 12 2022

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name CHARIS

Other names charity is known by Christian Help and Action for Refugees in Somerset

Registered charity number (if any) 1169400

Charity's principal address 16/17 Hammet Street

Taunton

Somerset

Postcode TA1 1RZ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Ralph Bullock	Chair		
2	Phil Hindle	Treasurer		
3	Rathika Chinnadurai		Resigned 31 st October 2022	
4	Gordon East			
5	Tobie Osmond			
6	Richard Austin			
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Gordon East, CEO

Georgia Willcocks, Operations Director

Dave Mann, Communications and External Affairs Director

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

CIO – Foundation Registered 28/9/2016

How the charity is constituted
(trust, association, company)

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed, elected by, selected by)

Approved

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

CHARIS has a number of governing policies in addition to its constitution that are approved by the Trustees and in place. These include the Safeguarding policy, Data Protection policy, Confidentiality Policy, Volunteer Management and Recruitment policy, Social Media policy, Media policy, Health and Safety policy and Complaints procedure. These policies are reviewed and updated by the Board on a regular basis.

Training procedures and vetting/reference procedures exist for all volunteers.

A formal risk assessment for the activities of the charity and its governance is conducted by the Trustees annually.

Section C Objectives and activities

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

For the public benefit and in accordance with Christian principles, to provide relief to those granted refugee status and their dependents being resettled in Taunton, Somerset and the rest of the UK by providing support services so as to advance them in life and assist them with the adaption within a new community, with the objects of: -

1. Preserving and protecting their physical and mental health
2. Advancing their education and training; and
3. Relieving them from financial hardship and unemployment.

CHARIS supports and resettles refugees and asylum seekers providing them with the skills they need to integrate into the community and become independent. Founded in 2016 we work primarily in Somerset but also across the South-West. We support refugees and asylum seekers from all nations and have five main areas of activity:

1. Our main Welcome Centre in Taunton, Somerset, open to all displaced people, provides English classes, employment support, drop-in, benefits and budgeting support, social activities, activity classes, signposting and referral, mental health support and training in new skills.
2. We partner with five other organisations and charities to run a programme of additional Welcome Hubs, open to all displaced people, across Somerset.
3. We sponsor and support the resettlement of vulnerable refugee families through the UK Government's Community Sponsorship Scheme, working in Somerset and with local community groups across the South-West.
4. We work with newly arrived asylum seekers in our area to help them with English and provide them with integration support.
5. We use our voice regionally and nationally to share good practice, learning, and help improve the resettlement and support of displaced people in the UK.

CHARIS seeks to support each refugee family, individual or asylum seeker, and in particular their integration into local communities and gaining independence. Through this CHARIS works with local community groups and organisations to enable a greater understanding, education and acceptance, ultimately aiming to create better social cohesion and transforming communities for the better. CHARIS has seen multiple positive examples of this already from working with refugee families and asylum seekers in Somerset and across the South-West over the past five years.

The Trustees have reviewed the aims, objectives and impact of the charity's activities with regards to the statutory guidance on public benefit and are satisfied that these are in line with guidance.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

During 2022 CHARIS received income from a number of sources including individual and corporate donations, local authority contracts and various grants.

At the end of 2022, CHARIS employed 9 members of staff and was working with 84 active volunteers.

The contribution of both staff and volunteers in terms of time, energy and expertise has been enormously valuable and is recognised and significantly appreciated by the Trustees.

This continues to mean that only a small proportion of funds raised goes towards administration of the charity, namely insurance, accounts inspection etc, allowing the majority of funds to go directly to support refugees and asylum seekers, increase awareness, and help improve integration within their communities.

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

1. Taunton Welcome Centre

This became operational in July 2022 and now provides a broad spectrum of services to support refugees and asylum seekers.

These include:

- English language tuition
- Benefits and welfare support
- Welcome area and drop-in
- Budgeting support
- Employment assistance
- Activities
- Welfare checks

The numbers of visitors to the centre has been growing rapidly over the past six months and the centre is now open five days per week.

2. Welcome Hubs across Somerset

CHARIS partners with five other locally based organisations to operate Welcome Hubs for refugees and asylum seekers in Bridgwater, Yeovil, Wells, Frome and Watchet.

These hubs operate under a contract from the local authority and provide a welcoming and safe space for refugees, English classes, employment and one to one support, a range of social activities and signposting for additional services.

All five hubs are now fully operational.

3. Community Sponsorship

CHARIS has continued its programme of resettling vulnerable refugee families through the UK Government's Community Sponsorship scheme. In 2022, we supported the resettlement of new families in Dorset, Devon and Cornwall, whilst continuing the support of existing families across the South-West. With the help of our partner Green Pastures, two new residential properties were also purchased and leased for new refugee families due to arrive in 2023.

4. Asylum Seekers

Our work with asylum seekers grew considerably in 2022 with the arrival of increased numbers in Somerset. CHARIS supports a number of individuals and families from multiple nationalities, resident within Taunton and the surrounding area.

5. Using our Voice

CHARIS uses its voice and experience regionally and nationally to improve refugee resettlement in the community and support for asylum seekers. We do this through sharing learnings and good practice and helping find solutions to overcoming barriers and challenges.

Summary

As CHARIS reflects at the end of 2022, it has been a privilege to be a part of the local, regional and national response to new refugee and asylum challenges, including the response to the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

It has been truly encouraging to see resources both in terms of funding, staffing and volunteers come together to enable CHARIS to undertake and complete its mission.

The Trustees have reviewed the work of CHARIS and are pleased to be able to report that all the activities are in line with the objectives and aims of the charity.

Each day, CHARIS sees the real transformation of vulnerable refugee families, individuals and all those displaced, the volunteers that work with them and significantly the communities in which they are resettled.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Board of Trustees have reviewed the status of the accounts and confirm that CHARIS has sufficient reserves to cover all commitments. The Trustees will continue to monitor the accounts in this respect.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

CHARIS received income of £422,576 in the reporting period (an increase of 370% over 2021 due to contracts from the local authority, Somerset County Council) and increased grant funding). Donations and corporate giving were largely in line with the previous year.

Total expenditure for 2022 was £280,092 an increase of 518% from 2021. The increase is due the start-up of operations for our main Welcome Centre in Taunton and the operation of five other Welcome Hubs run by partners across Somerset.


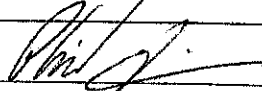
At the close of 2022, CHARIS had a closing balance of £235,262.

Section F Other optional information

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Ralph Bullock	Phil Hindle
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Treasurer
Date	10/05/23	

**CHARIS
(CHRISTIAN HELP & ACTION FOR
REFUGEES IN SOMERSET)**

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

Registered Charity: 1169400

CHARIS
(CHRISTIAN HELP & ACTION FOR REFUGEES IN SOMERSET)

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
RECEIPTS		
Per Schedule 1	371,625	72,476
PAYMENTS		
Per Schedule 2	254,110	54,116
	_____	_____
NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)	117,515	18,360
CASH BALANCE AT 1 JANUARY 2022	92,778	74,418
	_____	_____
CASH BALANCE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022	210,293	92,778
	_____	_____

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

CASH FUNDS		
Per Schedule 3	235,263	92,778
LIABILITIES		
VAT	24,970	-
	_____	_____
	210,293	92,778
	_____	_____

Signed as approved by the Trustees on 10/05/2023

Signature R Bullock

Name: RALPH BULLOCK

Office held: CHAIR

Signature P.H. Hindle

Name: P.M. HINDLE

Office held: TREASURER

CHARIS
(CHRISTIAN HELP & ACTION FOR REFUGEES IN SOMERSET)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

SCHEDULE 1 – RECEIPTS

		2022	2021
	£	£	£
Churches	4,148		3,350
Grants	87,829		59,372
Contract income	239,000		-
Donations	10,895		7,656
Coffee Scheme	1,038		1,092
Corporate	26,833		1,765
Bank interest	79		-
Community Settlement Funding	16,421		3,136
Less Payment to Community Settlement Partners	(14,618)		(3,895)
		<u>371,625</u>	
Total Receipts		<u>371,625</u>	<u>72,476</u>

CHARIS
(CHRISTIAN HELP & ACTION FOR REFUGEES IN SOMERSET)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

SCHEDULE 2 - PAYMENTS

		2022	2021
	£	£	£
Clients			
Rent Subsidy	2,130		1,959
Interpretation and Translation	381		1,771
Housing costs	504		3,048
Grants to Family	495		555
Welcome pack	-		216
Transport costs	-		379
		3,510	<u>7,927</u>
Charity			
Insurance	3,311		683
Fundraising	2,361		1,852
Professional Fees	22,720		1,668
Payments to Hubs	57,221		-
SCC Small Grants	8,500		-
		94,113	<u>4,203</u>
Offices			
Rent	12,850		-
Refurbishment	14,629		-
Office Supplies	5,903		1,614
Utilities and other costs	9,108		-
		42,490	<u>1,614</u>
Volunteers			
Travelling and Subsistence	1,337		1,012
Training	959		1,206
		2,296	<u>2,218</u>
Staff Costs			
Telephones	1,961		942
Salary	102,660		25,248
Pension	2,450		1,361
		107,071	<u>27,551</u>
ESOL Course			
Teaching		3,752	7,937
Support			
Drop In Centre		797	2,570
Balance carried forward		254,029	54,020

CHARIS
(CHRISTIAN HELP & ACTION FOR REFUGEES IN SOMERSET)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

SCHEDULE 2 – PAYMENTS (CONTINUED)

	2022	2021
	£	£
Balance brought forward	254,029	54,020
Finance		
CAF Bank Charges	81	<u>96</u>
Total Payments	<u>254,110</u>	<u>54,116</u>

CHARIS
(CHRISTIAN HELP & ACTION FOR REFUGEES IN SOMERSET)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

SCHEDULE 3 – CASH FUNDS

	2022	2021
£	£	£
CAF Bank - Cash Account	235,263	92,778
	<u>235,263</u>	<u>92,778</u>
Represented by:		
General Fund	74,816	42,375
Designated Funds		
SCC Educational Grant	15,219	15,714
SCC Welcome Hubs	99,704	-
SCC Microgrants	13,000	-
Lottery 2022	27,564	-
HPC Safe Days	4,960	-
ESOL Program Grants	-	21,163
Reset Grant	-	13,526
	<u>235,263</u>	<u>92,778</u>
Total Funds	<u>235,263</u>	<u>92,778</u>

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
CHARIS (CHRISTIAN HELP & ACTION FOR REFUGEES IN SOMERSET)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

We report on the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 1 to 4.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

As Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of S144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply and that an Independent Examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act and to follow the procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under S145 (5) (b) of the Act, and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.


Basis of Independent Examiners' Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiners' Statement

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

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act;have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


.....
Rev Geoff Bowyer FCA CTA
Geela Accountancy Limited
36 Bakers Close
Bishops Hull
Taunton
TA1 5HD

Date: 13 April 2023

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Rev Geoff Bowyer FCA CTA
Geela Accountancy Limited
36 Bakers Close
Bishops Hull
Taunton
TA1 5HD

Date: 13 April 2023