

**REFUGEES WELCOME**

*Westminster Road Macclesfield SK10 1BX*

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# Annual Report and Accounts 2023

# REFUGEES WELCOME

*Westminster Road Macclesfield SK10 1BX*

## Trustees' Annual Report for the Year ended 31 December 2023

Charity registration number: 1169909

### Objectives and Activities

Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To advance the education and training, in the area of Cheshire East, of those granted Refugee Status and their dependents in need thereof, so as to support them in life and assist them to adapt within a new community.</li><li>2. To provide relief from financial hardship and unemployment amongst those who have been granted refugee status and their dependents within the area of benefit.</li></ol>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	<p>The main activities we have undertaken in this period have been to contract with Cheshire East Council to continue to provide volunteers to support Syrians who came to the UK through the VPRS scheme, as laid out by the Home Office, even though this scheme has now finished. We also contract directly with the Home Office to provide Community Sponsorship to refugee families in the Nantwich and Alsager areas of Cheshire East. We are also supporting 5 Afghan refugee families who came in September 2021 under the ARAP scheme. Since March 2022 we have worked as an umbrella organisation alongside Cheshire East Council, to support Ukrainian refugees under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.</p> <p>We work with CVS to recruit, select and manage 50 volunteers, who work with our families. The roles of the volunteers and the scope of their work are defined in role profiles and are one of three roles – Family Support Volunteer, Task Volunteer or English Practice Volunteer. Volunteers working with the Ukrainians also help with our Conversation Cafés and ESOL classes.</p> <p>All the volunteers go through safeguarding training in addition to training to become volunteers on the programme.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	The Trustees have had regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit
Contribution made by volunteers	Volunteers working with Syrians and Afghans are assigned to individual families to carry out roles detailed above. Volunteers working with Ukrainians also help at the cafés and ESOL classes.

### Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	<p>VPRS Cheshire East – Macclesfield and Congleton.</p> <p>We have continued to support 5 families. The mother and 2 children of one family have moved to Luton, leaving the father in Macclesfield. The children attend either school or college, where appropriate, and ESOL tuition has resumed. Several of the Syrian youngsters have completed formal education. Cheshire East has withdrawn from most of the family support since April 2022. The Syrian family, which experienced delay in receiving their "Leave to Remain" documentation received it in Spring 2023.</p> <p>CS (VPRS) Cheshire East – Nantwich</p> <p>The family in Nantwich continues to be supported through Community Sponsorship.. The father and mother of the family are in employment.</p> <p>CS (VPRS) Cheshire East – Alsager</p> <p>A Syrian family moved into Alsager in September 2021. The father of the family is in employment. Their rental accommodation was no longer available to them from December 2023. They have relocated to Macclesfield and the children are in school there.</p>
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	<p>ARAP scheme for AFGHAN refugees. Two families live in Crewe, one in Wistaston, one in Macclesfield and one in Alsager. The children all attend school regularly and adults in all 5 families have some type of paid employment. The Afghan families have settled very well and continue to thrive.</p> <p>Most of the Ukrainian families are guests living within sponsor or host households in Cheshire East. The vast majority of the relationships have worked very well. A small number have been rehoused. Most of the guests and hosts were matched by a variety of private local and national organisations, with Cheshire East communities team stepping in to help with rematching if necessary. Gradually the Ukrainians are finding independent accommodation. This process has accelerated throughout 2023.</p>
Achievements against objectives set	<p>We have continued to work alongside Cheshire East to support the Syrian families. They are all making progress. One family had to move because their accommodation was required by the Church of England. However, they have been assisted in their search for alternative accommodation and have now settled in their new accommodation. The Afghan families have settled well. The children are regularly in school or college and the parents are working.</p> <p>Many of the Ukrainians are working. Their children attend school. ESOL provision has remained a challenge, but it is being provided.</p>
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	<p>Boundless has been a successful fundraising scheme. We have received donations from other individuals and from organisations such as Rotary and local churches. In November 2023 Refugees Welcome organised a Cultural Event in the main shopping centre in Macclesfield. The objective was to raise awareness of the talents of our refugees. Representatives of all our refugee groups provided arts, crafts and music and the event was well attended by the Macclesfield public.</p>

## Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	At the end of the year, the charity had monetary assets of £37,557.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Our policy is to hold 6 months running costs in reserve.

## Structure, Governance and Management

Type of governing document	Constitution
How is the charity constituted?	Refugees Welcome is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Appointed by interview and vote of members of the board.

## Additional information

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	All our policies appear on the charity's website: <a href="https://www.refugeeswelcome.co.uk/">https://www.refugeeswelcome.co.uk/</a>
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	The charity is run by a board of trustees. Our volunteers are organised by a paid member of CVSCE (Community and Voluntary Services, Cheshire East)

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## 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)
Mrs Nicola Campbell	Chair		
Dr Gillian Appleton	Trustee		
Mrs Judith Mayer	Trustee		
Mrs Anne Towers	Trustee		
Mr Anthony Smith	Trustee		
Mr David Raines	Trustee		
Mr Michael Eccleston	Trustee	Resigned January 2024	
Mrs Susan Lord	Trustee	Resigned February 2024	
Mr Paul Nixon	Trustee	Appointed April 2024	

## Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members

Robert Alan Brown BA FCA

Treasurer

## Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>NA Campbell</i>	<i>a Towers</i>
Full name(s)	Nicola Ann Campbell	Anne Towers
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Trustee
Date	19 September 2024	

# REFUGEES WELCOME

## Westminster Road Macclesfield SK10 1BX

### REFUGEES WELCOME

#### Receipts and Payments account

Year Ended 31  
December 2022

Year Ended 31 December 2023

£		General Fund £	Restricted Fund	Total £
	RECEIPTS			
21,890	Grants		18,000	18,000
6,226	Gift Aided Donations	3,121		3,121
4,032	CAF giving	1,853		1,853
11,382	Other Donations	13,086		13,086
3,443	Fund Raising	3,071		3,071
2,507	Misc Income			
<u>49,480</u>		<u>21,131</u>	<u>18,000</u>	<u>39,131</u>
	PAYMENTS			
2,515	Insurance	2,513		2,513
8,763	CVS	7,932	4,651	12,583
1,258	Travel	511	60	571
479	Printing, Stationery & Computer	132		132
385	Translation	435		435
8,069	Rent Support & Council Tax	21,036		21,036
3,750	Tuition	1,881	2,857	4,738
658	Home set-up	2,872	431	3,303
4,384	Expenses	1,965	2,548	4,513
<u>30,261</u>		<u>39,277</u>	<u>10,547</u>	<u>49,824</u>
19,219	SURPLUS/(SHORTFALL)	(18,146)	7,453	(10,693)
	ADJUSTMENT (See Note below)	7,117	(7,117)	
29,031	BANK BALANCE at 1 January 2023	41,133	7,117	48,250
<u>48,250</u>	BANK BALANCE at 31 December 2023	<u>30,104</u>	<u>7,453</u>	<u>37,557</u>
	Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2023			
	Monetary Assets			
48,250	Cash at Bank	30,104	7,453	37,557
	Non-Monetary Assets & Liabilities			
—	None	—	—	—
<u>48,250</u>	Total Assets and Liabilities	<u>30,104</u>	<u>7,453</u>	<u>37,557</u>

The Restricted Fund is a grant from Cheshire East Borough Council for the support of refugees in the Homes for Ukraine scheme. The restriction on the grant for the support of Afghan refugee families has been removed and the funds are held in the General Fund.

Adopted by the Trustees on 19 September 2024

Nicola Ann Campbell  
Chair of Trustees

*NA Campbell*

Anne Towers  
Trustee

*ATowers*

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## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Report to the trustees/ members of

Refugees Welcome

On accounts for the year ended

31 December 2023

Charity no

1169909

Set out on pages

1 to 4

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2023.

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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination 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.

Signed:



Date:

25/9/2024

Name:

Bryan John Coghlan

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Address:

379, Crewe Road, Wistaston, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6NW