

REFUGEES WELCOME

Westminster Road Macclesfield SK10 1BX

Annual Report and Accounts 2024

REFUGEES WELCOME

Westminster Road Macclesfield SK10 1BX

Trustees' Annual Report for the Year ended 31 December 2024

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">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.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.
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>In February 2024 our contracts with Cheshire East council came to an end. They are no longer able to fund us, but we still maintain a close relationship with their Communities Team. We 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 a refugee family in the Nantwich area of Cheshire East. The family who lived in Alsager has now moved to Macclesfield. Since September 2021 we are also supporting 5 Afghan refugee families under the ARAP scheme. A further 3 Afghan families arrived in September 2024 and a family from the Chagos Islands, with a different status, arrived in October 2024. Since March 2022 we have worked as an umbrella organisation alongside Cheshire East Council, to support Ukrainian refugees under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. We work with CVS to recruit, select and manage more than 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. 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 younger children attend either school or college and ESOL tuition has resumed. Older children are either working or looking for work. Many of the Syrians have applied for British citizenship and some of them – especially the under 18s, have achieved this.</p> <p>CS (VPRS) Cheshire East – Nantwich</p> <p>We continue to support the family in Nantwich who are now well integrated in the community. All the family have become British citizens.</p>
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	<p>CS (VPRS) Cheshire East – Macclesfield</p> <p>This family is now well settled in Macclesfield. The children were accepted into school in Macclesfield. The father is seeking work.</p> <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. Three more Afghan families arrived in Macclesfield and Bollington in September 2024. The younger children have settled well in school. Older children and fathers are working. There are medical problems in all 3 families, but they are being treated appropriately.</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. Cheshire East council has been responsible for matching guests and hosts and for rematching if necessary. Many of the Ukrainians are moving to independent accommodation. They are aided by an organisation formed as Congleton Area Ukraine Support Network (CAUSN), which in December merged with us.</p>
Achievements against objectives set	<p>In spite of our independence from Cheshire East, we have continued to work successfully with all our refugee groups. Cheshire East still value our input and we have found our merger with CAUSN to be of benefit to both organisations. All our refugee groups continue to thrive. We started a new sequence of long term planning in October 2024, which will be of benefit to everything we do.</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. We are working hard to find one or more major sponsors.</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 £38,101.
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.
Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	All our policies appear on the charity's website: https://www.refugeeswelcome.co.uk/
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 (Council of Voluntary Services, Cheshire East)

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Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office	Dates acted if not for whole year
Mrs Nicola Campbell	Chair	
Dr Gillian Appleton	Trustee	Resigned July 2025
Mrs Judith Mayer	Trustee	Resigned June 2025
Mrs Anne Towers	Trustee	
Mr Anthony Smith	Trustee	
Mr David Raines	Trustee	
Mr Paul Nixon	Trustee	Appointed April 2024
Mr Michael Buttle	Trustee	Appointed November 2024
Mrs Susan Lord	Trustee	Resigned February 2024

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

Robert Alan Brown BA FCA	Treasurer
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Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signatures		
Full Names	Nicola Ann Campbell	Anne Towers
Position	Chair	Trustee
Date	4 September 2025	

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REFUGEES WELCOME Receipts and Payments account

Year Ended 31 December 2023		Year Ended 31 December 2024		
£		General Fund £	Restricted Fund	Total £
	RECEIPTS			
18,000	Grants	250	6,980	7,230
3,121	Gift Aided Donations	3,641		3,641
1,853	CAF giving	901		901
13,086	Other Donations	14,656		14,656
3,071	Fund Raising	170		170
	Misc Income	3,204		3,204
<u>39,131</u>		<u>22,822</u>	<u>6,980</u>	<u>29,802</u>
	PAYMENTS			
2,513	Insurance	2,453		2,453
12,583	CVS	3,251	6,180	9,431
571	Travel	171	71	242
132	Printing, Stationery & Computer	164		164
435	Translation	0		0
21,036	Rent Support & Council Tax	11,962		11,962
4,738	Tuition	307	1,450	1,757
3,303	Home set-up	0		0
4,513	Expenses	2,569	680	3,249
<u>49,824</u>		<u>20,877</u>	<u>8,381</u>	<u>29,258</u>
(10,693)	SURPLUS/(SHORTFALL)	1,945	(1,401)	544
48,250	BANK BALANCE at 1 January 2023	29,306	8,251	37,557
<u>37,557</u>	BANK BALANCE at 31 December 2023	<u>31,251</u>	<u>6,850</u>	<u>38,101</u>
	STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES			
	at 31 December 2024			
	Monetary Assets			
37,557	Cash at Bank	31,251	6,850	38,101
	Non-Monetary Assets & Liabilities			
—	None	—	—	—
<u>37,557</u>	Total Assets and Liabilities	<u>31,251</u>	<u>6,850</u>	<u>38,101</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 4 September 2025

Nicola Ann Campbell
Chair of Trustees

Anne Towers
Trustee

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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 2024

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 2024.

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:

31 August 2025

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