

**ANNUAL REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR WORTHING 4 REFUGEES
THE YEAR ENDED
31-Mar-21**

CHARITY REGISTRATION No: 1169912

Independent Examiners Ltd
Unit 2
The Broadbridge Business Centre
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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

CHARITY NUMBER	1169912
START OF FINANCIAL PERIOD	1 April 2020
END OF FINANCIAL PERIOD	31 March 2021
TRUSTEES AT 31 MARCH 2021	<p>R J Legg G P M Jacklin (Chair) R E Sellens A A Fadoju S Kronda Appointed on (10/10/2020) T R Ransley</p>
CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS	<p>Worthing 4 Refugees c/o Maybridge Community Church 77 The Strand Worthing BN12 6DR</p>
GOVERNING DOCUMENT	CIO - FOUNDATION Registered 26 Oct 2016
BANKERS	<p>Barclays 1 Churchill Place London E14 5HP</p>
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	<p>Daryl Martin Independent Examiners Ltd Unit 2 The Broadbridge Business Centre Delling Lane Bosham West Sussex PO18 8NF</p>
OBJECTS	<p>The objects of the CIO are:</p> <p>(a) The relief of financial hardship amongst those granted refugee status and those seeking asylum and their dependants living (temporarily or permanently) in Worthing and the surrounding area.</p> <p>(b) To preserve and protect the physical and mental health of those granted refugee status and those seeking asylum and their dependants. (c) To advance the education and training of those granted refugee status and those seeking asylum and their dependants in need thereof so as to advance them in life and assist them to adapt within a new community.</p> <p>(d) The provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life of those persons who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances.</p>

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Structure, Governance and management:

New trustees are provided with a copy of the charity's Constitution and given access to past meeting minutes which includes financial updating. Trustees are also made aware of the charity's policies including the Safeguarding Policy and procedures (this includes the safe recruitment of volunteers), the Complaints Policy, and the GDPR policy and procedures. The charity is a member of AFVS (Advice for the Voluntary Sector), which supports charities to remain compliant with all aspects of the law relating to charity status.

In April 2020 two trustees attended an online training session hosted by the AFVS organisation considering the role and legal duties of trustees. This information was cascaded to the whole trustee body at a training day in October 2020, and resulted in all trustees having a greater understanding of their legal and financial role and responsibilities in relation to the sound management and provision of the charity.

The trustees hold two planned minuted meetings per year. In addition, email correspondence is used when issues need to be addressed urgently and/or extra meetings arranged. The trustees have appointed a planning group of people with experience relevant to the work and objects of the charity. They have also held minuted meetings approximately every two months throughout the period of this report (April 2020 to end March 2021). This group also includes several trustees, and is empowered to make day-to-day decisions relating to the wellbeing of those being supported by the charity. This includes specific financial expenditure related to providing for the needs of the families being supported. An audit trail is required for any expenditure and this is authorised by at least two of the three bank signatories. The charity lead ensures that all databases and procedures are audited annually to confirm that they are compliant with GDPR law. The charity lead also takes responsibility for the regular monitoring of policies and procedures related to data, ensuring that all new trustees are aware of these policies. Reporting on GDPR is a standing agenda item at all trustee meetings.

Since the inauguration of the charity in October 2016 two Syrian refugee families have been resettled in the Worthing area arriving in May 2017 and June 2018 respectively. The charity works under a two-year contract for each family with the Home Office for Community Sponsorship under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. In order to fulfil this role, the charity works closely with West Sussex County Council, and Adur and Worthing Borough Council. The partnership with WSCC and WBC has been so successful that the charity was asked to provide social support for a family brought to Worthing by the Home Office Resettlement Scheme in November 2019. Arabic speaking volunteers and general befrienders were recruited to work alongside one W4R caseworker and one WSCC caseworker. Their work has facilitated these refugee families to settle into the local area, engage in speaking English and making social connections with others.

The Home Office contracts for the first family sponsored by the charity ended in the spring of 2019, and for the second family in the summer of 2020. Nevertheless, the charity plans to continue support for the duration of the families' 5-year visas, particularly in relation to housing, employment and independence. This work has therefore taken place during the timespan of this current annual report and will be outlined further in the report.

The charity was set up originally by church leaders from across the town of Worthing, and therefore works closely with many local churches and other people of goodwill in the surrounding area. This includes many voluntary groups, other faith groups, and local businesses. The charity lead undertakes speaking roles at local churches to encourage the congregations to participate in and financially contribute to the work of the charity. The charity is connected to the national charities For Refugees, Citizens UK and City of Sanctuary. W4R has been part of groups specifically set up to support Syrian refugees by West Sussex County Council.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

Objects and Activities

The trustees of the charity have had due regard for the guidance on public benefit as issued by the Charity Commission when making decisions or exercising any powers in relation to the Objects of the Charity. The trustees have agreed the following statement: "We the Trustees of W4R have had due regard to the Commission's Public Benefit Guidance when preparing this report".

The main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to fulfilling the objects of the charity are as follows:

a) The relief of financial hardship

From the outset of the inauguration of the charity trustees were required to source housing and support the housing costs of the families as part of the Home Office sponsorship scheme agreement. The charity therefore initially committed to providing a monthly top-up to the rent for the families for two years (or until employment is secured, whichever comes first) as their housing benefit does not completely cover the cost of their rent in the Worthing area.

After their 2-year tenancy came to an end in June 2019, the first family sponsored by W4R relocated into another part of the town and to a larger house to accommodate their growing family (a new baby born in 2018 means the family now consists of three children and three adults in a multi-generation household). The trustees of the charity helped to secure the new rental property for the family by providing a guarantor and by committing to continue to subsidise their rent until such time as the family can become more financially independent. The father of this family was financially supported by the charity to enable him to learn to drive in this country and to pass his driving test. W4R has provided an interest free loan to this family to enable them to buy an automatic car to replace the manual car that the father is no longer able to drive, due to failed surgery on an injury sustained during the conflict in Syria. The father has also been supported by W4R volunteers to search for and gain employment. This employment had to stop however, when he had the unsuccessful operation. Benefits were reduced for this family when the father commenced working, but when it became clear that he was not able to continue with the work W4R family workers supported him to make a successful claim for a Personal Independence Payment (PIP) to help to provide for the family's needs. W4R trustees took the decision to continue to make a financial contribution to support the family's housing costs until such time as the family was able to budget for and manage these costs independently which was achieved in November 2020.

The second family supported by W4R is also financially helped by the charity with a monthly subsidy being paid towards their rent. W4R trustees have also agreed to continue this monthly support beyond the 2-year time span required by the Home Office agreement in order to enable the family to have a more secure financial basis before they take on full responsibility for their living costs. The father of this family was encouraged and supported by W4R volunteers to gain work experience at a local international shop, which led to him gaining some part-time employment in September 2020. Unfortunately, this employment ended after 6 months, and so he is now being supported by W4R volunteers to seek a new job.

Hampers and presents for the children were donated to the families over the Christmas period in December 2020.

Both families have been supported by W4R caseworkers in their applications and subsequent ongoing appointments for relevant benefits, and to create a family budget to enable them to live within their income.

b) To preserve and protect physical and mental health

Two trained and vetted social workers, with experience in supporting refugees, volunteer as caseworkers with the charity. They specifically support the families' practical needs, health and wellbeing, and negotiating aspects such as applying for benefits, registering with GP's and applying for school places for the children. The time span covered by this report (April 2020 to March 2021) has coincided with the Covid 19 pandemic, including two lengthy, and one shorter, periods of national lockdown and home schooling in England. The physical and mental health and welfare well-being of the families has been an ongoing concern for the trustees of the charity during this time of national restrictions and potential threat of illness.

In order to try to mitigate the impact of the social isolation brought about by lockdown requirements, the W4R caseworkers, along with a team of volunteers, undertook regular phone and video calls with the families. Arabic speaking volunteers were particularly helpful in ensuring that the families understood what was happening and what the lockdown rules were at any given time. The oldest member of the families has accessed the Covid vaccine appointments when offered by the NHS.

During the duration of this report, members of two families have had non-urgent and urgent hospital visits which the caseworkers have managed and supported, including emergency hospital care for one of the children of the second family.

During 2019 W4R joined forces with another local charity to start up a monthly drop-in centre for refugees, asylum seekers and their families. Plans for connecting with the local job centre and WSCC were being discussed and a funding bid was successful in obtaining some funding to support the project for twelve months. However, due to the coronavirus outbreak in March 2020 the drop-in centre and planned development of the provision has been suspended, but this is planned to resume once the government relaxes social distancing rules in the summer of 2021.

c) To advance education and training

W4R has supported the education and training of all adults in the families by either providing informal English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) lessons in the home (with childcare support for pre-school children whilst these were taking place), or support to access formal ESOL lessons by local providers. In addition to ESOL classes, volunteer befrienders provide regular opportunities to practice English conversation and reinforce learning. During the months of Covid 19 lockdown restrictions, volunteer ESOL teachers have continued to deliver lessons to the adults in the families via phone and video calls. Other volunteers have also supported ESOL learning through online platforms and information distribution. W4R provided a printer for the second refugee family in order to support and facilitate ongoing ESOL learning through the pandemic. Volunteers have also helped the adult in the third family being supported by W4R by providing specific digital literacy support, recognising that daily living during the lockdowns required a level of digital awareness and engagement in areas such as banking, benefits and information gathering.

The father in the first family supported by W4R started a course at the local FE College in car mechanics in September 2020. He has continued with this course throughout the year, completing work online when in person teaching was suspended, undertaking this studying in addition to ESOL learning. In order to facilitate his learning, and that of the children of the family who were being home schooled, W4R volunteers provided IT support and a second laptop in order to ease the demands being made in the family for access to online learning.

Support was given by W4R volunteers to all three families during the national periods of lockdown home schooling, via online platforms and phone calls by Arabic speaking volunteers, volunteer case workers and volunteers with teaching expertise to help the parents with this process. This support ensured that the school-age children were able to access educational material and that the parents were enabled to a large extent to deliver home education to them. The provision of an additional donated laptop helped the second family with this process. The needs of the younger children in the families were also considered with W4R childcare volunteers providing story videos for them to access at home.

During the first national lockdown in 2020, one of the families with a teenage child was able to access in-person schooling for her on 2 days per week which greatly aided her continuing development with learning English and her academic studies. This family was provided with art and craft materials by W4R volunteers which they appreciated. One of the school aged children in a different family was able to go to school during the winter lockdown as it was decided that his vulnerabilities would be better addressed if he was in school on a regular basis. The W4R caseworker was instrumental in negotiating this school access for the child along with his parents and the school.

In September 2020 the middle child of the second family began Reception at the same school as her older sibling. The parents were supported with completing the application process for this place during the challenging time of the summer lockdown. The child was able to commence school successfully and complete a term before being home schooled during the January to March 2021 lockdown.

Funds were made available to help both families pay for new uniform at the start of the school year in September 2020.

d) The provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life

During the period covered by this report (April 2020 to March 2021) social distancing rules and national lockdown measures have curtailed recreation and leisure provision for the families to a very large extent. Worthing is a town on the south coast of England and so coastal and park walks are within the vicinity of the families. Those who are able have tried to sustain regular walks for their physical and mental health and well-being, although older and more infirm members of the families have had to remain at home for much of the time.

In the Autumn of 2020, an online English Language Conversation Club was started by W4R volunteers in order to provide a social setting for refugees and asylum seekers in the Worthing area to develop their language skills. This initiative has been supported by local agencies that also support refugees and asylum seekers in the local area. It is intended to make this an in-person provision once social distancing restrictions have been eased.

It is hoped that as social distancing measures ease in the coming months that the members of the families will be able to re-engage with social activities that they had started in the previous year. One of the mothers was attending a women only gym. She was made aware of this facility by others in an international women's hub that she attended. She was able to arrange for membership of this gym independently of any help from the W4R volunteers, and really enjoyed the experience of being able to go to such a leisure environment where she could relax and take off her headscarf to exercise.

Mothers with pre-school children were attending a local toddler group before the social distancing restrictions were introduced. Again, it is hoped that these facilities will become available in the spring of 2021 as these sessions added to the social interaction experiences of both the mothers and the children.

The men of the families have made social connections with other Syrian men in the town, and value friendship from male volunteer befrienders. These contacts have been continued to some extent via online platforms during the pandemic, with a view to face to face meetings being able to re-start in the spring of 2021.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

Achievements and Performance

The first family supported by W4R have now been in the country for four years. They have successfully settled into a house and locality and the older children have integrated well into their schools. The father of this family started a Level 1 Car Mechanic course at the local FE College in September 2020 which he has continued through the months of lockdown. Becoming a car mechanic is one possible route to employment, and a means of financial security to support the family in the future.

The parents of this family have learned English at an impressive rate, and are continuing to develop their English skills. The grandmother of the family is continuing to be supported by volunteers to develop her English vocabulary and speaking and listening skills.

It can be justifiably claimed that one of the main achievements of W4R has been to support this family to settle into an entirely new culture, learning a new language and adapting to new societal norms including a different education system for their children, within a few years. That this family is now nearing full independence, and often has the confidence to navigate their way independently through many of the requirements of life in the UK including benefits, health and education systems, and that they remained focussed on their family's learning through the months of lockdown, is a testament to the hard work of both the family members and the dedication of the volunteers who have supported them.

Likewise, the second refugee family who have been in the town for nearly three years continue to integrate well into the local area, with the children developing within their school settings with additional support from the school and W4R volunteers. The adults in the family are learning English well and have continued with their language learning through most of the lockdown periods. The father of this family gained invaluable experience as an employee at a local shop for several months, and is now looking for further employment. The family have navigated the health system, including emergencies, to ensure all their health needs are met. The family has been willing to accept additional help in order to address some of the lasting impact from their experiences in Syria and as refugees. Again, this family has remained focussed on their learning, development and employment pathway through this difficult year of the Covid pandemic and months of lockdown, which also is a significant achievement both for them as individuals and the W4R volunteers who are supporting them.

The work of the charity is well regarded by West Sussex County Council. The charity was therefore asked to partner with the local authority to support another Syrian refugee family that was resettled in Worthing. This family has been supported by W4R since September 2019 by providing Arabic interpreters and general volunteers to enable them to understand the requirements of the lockdown periods this year, to be able to use digital platforms to keep daily life going, to support English learning, and to provide social contact.

The development of an online English Language Conversation Club for refugees and asylum seekers during the autumn of 2020 is a significant achievement, given that this has been set up and supported by W4R volunteers and local authority agencies during the Covid pandemic which has limited any in-person meetings. It is hoped that this good start will continue and flourish when more social interaction is allowed in the summer of 2021.

The charity runs a website which encourages supporters to sign up for news and prayer updates. These are created and sent out by the project lead and prayer co-ordinator approximately every two months with GDPR compliance ensured. Seven news updates and eight prayer updates have been sent out during the period of this report. These have been well received by supporters. They have prompted donations, and have been very successful when used to source specific donations (e.g., baby equipment, furniture, IT equipment). The website has been successful in generating interest in the work of the charity and recruiting volunteers which has continued through the last year and the months of lockdown.

A pleasing aspect of the operation of W4R has been the way in which a good number of local churches have cooperated for the benefit of Syrian refugees: Maybridge Community Church continues to host this initiative; the trustee board includes representatives from Elim Church Worthing, Redeemer Church and Maybridge Community Church; and the regular planning group meetings have benefitted from the addition of representatives from English Martyrs Catholic Church and Offington Park Methodist Church. Other local churches remain very supportive. They have requested talks and/or updates for their congregations and in some cases have then donated regularly or one-off gifts to the work of the charity.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

Financial review

The charity has a reserves policy in operation. The Home Office requirement for Community Sponsors is for financial reserves to be held of £4,500 per refugee adult per year for the period that the Home Office scheme is operational (i.e., 2 years from the date that the family entered the country), so W4R has adopted this figure. At the expiry of the 2-year period, the minimum reserves to be held will be the maximum of £5,000 or the total budgeted expenditure for the previous financial year.

The W4R Reserves Policy is as follows: "A reserves policy will be in operation. Annually, the trustees will review the figure required to be in reserves, depending on the situation at hand and bearing in mind projected budgets"

The main source of funds for the charity this year has been regular giving, mainly through standing order and cash donations. The charity relies on the giving of local people who are in tune with the charity's key objectives, that is to create a culture of welcome, safety, integration and justice for refugees and displaced people in the Worthing area.

Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the trust. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the trust and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Date 4-10-21

Signature Gay Jacklin

PRINT NAME CAY P M JACKLIN

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Conduit Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2021 £	TOTAL 2020 £
RECEIPTS						
Voluntary Receipts	1a	3,670	0	1,745	5,415	20,845
Rent Conduit Funds	1b	0	13,750	0	13,750	0
TOTAL		3,670	13,750	1,745	19,165	20,845
PAYMENTS						
Charitable Activities	2a	6,504	0	0	6,504	22,267
Governance Costs	2b	310	0	0	310	300
Rent Conduit Funds	2c	0	13,750	0	13,750	0
TOTAL		6,814	13,750	0	20,564	22,567
NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)		-3,144	0	1,745	-1,399	-1,722
Total Funds Brought Forward		37,715	0	0	37,715	49,066
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		34,571	0	1,745	36,316	47,344

All of the organisation's operations are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 12 to 14 form part of these accounts.

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AS AT 31 MARCH 2021**

ASSETS	Notes	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	31-Mar-21 Total £	31-Mar-20 Total £
Cash Funds:					
Bank and Cash		30,818	0	30,818	37,715
Prepayments		459	0	459	580
Loan	3	5,000	0	5,000	0
Creditors falling due within one year		0	0	0	-310
		36,277	0	36,277	37,985
Liabilities:					
Independent Examiners Fee		300	0	300	0

TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which comply with the regulations set out in the Charities Act 2011. The Trustees have elected to take advantage of the provisions that apply to small charities and have prepared a Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities which are set out on pages 5 and 6.

Signed on their behalf by, Trustee

Signature:

Print Name:

Date of approval:

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Basis of preparation:

The accounts have been prepared under the Receipts and Payments basis of accounting as prescribed by the Charity Commission and they meet the appropriate legal requirements.

1. RECEIPTS	Unrestricted Funds £	Conduit Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2021 £	TOTAL 2020 £
a) Voluntary Receipts					
Donations and Legacies	3670	0	1745	5415	20,845
	3670	0	1745	5415	20,845
b) Rent Conduit Funds					
	0	13,750	0	13750	0
	0	13750	0	13750	0

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

2. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds £	Conduit Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2021 £	TOTAL 2020 £
a) Charitable Activities					
Housing Costs	5473	0	0	5,473	9,661
Support Costs	911	0	0	911	8,799
Stationary	48	0	0	48	0
Website Costs	72	0	0	72	0
Other	0	0	0	0	3807
	6,504	0	0	6,504	22,267
b) Governance Costs	310	0	0	310	300
	310	0	0	310	300
c) Rent Conduit Funds	0	13,750	0	13,750	0
	0	13,750	0	13,750	0

3. LOAN

This loan was made to a refugee family and will be repaid along similar lines to student loan repayments.

	31-Mar-21
	£
Loan Amount	5000
	<u>5,000</u>

4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Gay Jacklin is the landlord of a property that a refugee family live in.
For this period the charity paid top up rent for the refugee family, because they were unable to afford the full rent.
The conflict of interest logged at trustee meetings and delt with according to the constitution.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

5. TRANSACTIONS WITH TRUSTEES AND OTHER RELATED PARTIES

No payments were made to trustees or any persons connected with them during this financial period. No material transaction took place between the organisation and a trustee or any person connected with them.

6. EVENTS AFTER THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD

No events occurred after the end of the reporting period.

7. RISK ASSESSMENT

The trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining the free reserves stated, combined with the annual review of the controls over key financial systems carried out on an annual basis will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The trustees have also examined other operational and business risks which they face and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

8. RESERVES POLICY

The trustees have considered the level of reserves they wish to retain, appropriate to the charity's needs. This is based on the charity's size and the level of financial commitments held. The trustees aim to ensure the charity will be able to continue to fulfil its charitable objectives even if there is a temporary shortfall in income or unexpected expenditure. The trustees will endeavour not to set aside funds unnecessarily.

9. PUBLIC BENEFIT

The charity acknowledges its requirement to demonstrate clearly that it must have charitable purposes or 'aims' that are for the public benefit. Details of how the charity has achieved this are provided in the Trustees report. The trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit before deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity WORTHING 4 REFUGEES for the year ended 31/03/2021.

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").

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report in respect of my examination of the charity'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.

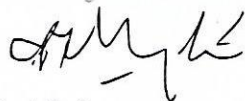
Independent examiner's statement

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



Name Daryl Martin

Date: 16/09/2021

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