

DARLINGTON ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES

England & Wales · Charity number 1170986

Details

Other names DAR

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2017-01-05

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 33 Linden Avenue
Darlington
County Durham
DL3 8PS

Phone 07979686836

Email hello@darlingtonrefugees.org

Website <https://www.darlingtonrefugees.org/>

Activities

Objects: 1. THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT AMONG PEOPLE WHO ARE REFUGEES LIVING IN DARLINGTON WHO ARE SOCIALLY EXCLUDED ON THE GROUNDS OF THEIR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POSITION, BY PROVIDING:A) EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE;B) VOLUNTEER BEFRIENDERS/MENTORS WHO WILL ASSIST THEM WITH THEIR INTEGRATION INTO THE COMMUNITY OF DARLINGTON BY THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION, ADVICE AND SUPPORT.2. THE RELIEF OF POVERTY FOR REFUGEES DISPLACED FROM, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT LIMITED TO, SYRIA AND OTHER WAR ZONES WHO ARE OR HAVE BEEN RESIDENT IN ANY REFUGEE CAMPS IN EUROPE BY THE PROVISION OF ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT, FURNITURE AND OTHER ITEMS AS MAY BE NECESSARY.

Activities: Welcome Refugees and Asylum seekers to the local area. Offer practical assistance, befriending and Language support. Offer drop ins for Refugees and Asylum seekers. Offer help and advice into employment. Encourage and support involvement in the local community. Have social events and fundraising activities. Collect and distribute donations from the public. Send donations to areas of need world

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Recreation
- **Who:** People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

Geography

- Darlington

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£66,817	£52,110	-	-
2023-12-31	£62,936	£20,921	-	-
2022-12-31	£20,976	£12,615	-	-
2021-12-31	£15,070	£9,546	-	-
2020-12-31	£8,509	£4,613	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew Newens		2019-08-14
Daniel James Gannaway		2025-08-11
Deborah Smith		2026-04-20
Diane Theresa Toner		2023-10-02
Lauren Lovegood		2025-03-10
Simon Christopher Thorley		2024-11-12
Syed Ali Akbar Rizvi		2025-03-10
Tresor Nyembwe BUKASA		2018-03-07

DARLINGTON ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES

England & Wales - Charity number 1170986

Accounts

DAR – Darlington Assistance for Refugees

Annual Report & Financial Statement – 2024

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Registered Charity Number: 1170986

The Board of Trustees of DAR, who are also Directors of the Charity for the purpose of the Companies Act 2006, present their Annual Report and Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The Financial Statement complies with the Companies Act 2006 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)

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REFERENCE & ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

PRINCIPAL OFFICE

33 Linden Avenue
Darlington
DL3 8PS

CEO Fran Wood

TRUSTEES IN 2024

Tresor Bukasa		
Hassan Eisa		Resigned April 2024
Sally Forth		Resigned March 2024
Peter Meek	Chair	
	Acting Treasurer	From April 2024
Andrew Newens		
Fatima Zohra Smaili		From November 2024
Simon Thorley		From November 2024
Diane Toner		

TRUSTEES at the date this report was approved

Tresor Bukasa
Lauren Lovegood
Peter Meek
Andrew Newens
Syed Ali Akbar Rizvi
Fatima Zohra Smaili
Simon Thorley
Diane Toner

COMPANY SECRETARY Andrew Newens

PRINCIPAL FUNDERS

- Barclays Football Foundation (Sported)
- Bauer Radio
- Darlington Borough Council
- Global Giving
- Inner Wheel
- Lloyds Bank Foundation Development
- Postcode Neighbourhood Trust
- Sports England
- Tesco
- The National Lottery

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER Janice Lincoln, FCCA, ACIB

FOREWORD – by the DAR CEO Fran Wood

This year has been transformational for our charity. Our new chair has guided us into a more sustainable organisation with committed hard working Trustees, enabling us to better navigate the storms inflicting the refugee sector. The outrageous riots of the summer and ongoing hostilities to “the other” has strengthened our resolve to be an ever-present force of support for our asylum seekers and refugees.

Our volunteers are our most valuable resource. Their ability to adapt to the changing needs and situations that surround us has amazed me. Their impact on those we support is long lasting and profound which is demonstrated by many returning to “give back” by volunteering with us.

Our gratitude extends to the National Lottery, Sport England, Point North, Ward Hadaway, Barclays Community Football Fund and Tesco Groundworks all of whom have helped us run projects that have kept our clients involved, active, creative and positive. Receiving funding from the Postcode Lottery gave us much needed admin support and core funding. We are looking forward to the continued development support from the Lloyds Bank Foundation. Addressing the Mental Well-being of our asylum seekers and refugees has led us to seek the advice and support of EGW Psychological services who have offered us sound training and consultations which has been funded by a grant from the Darlington Refugee Support team.

There is a core of faithful donors who donate on a monthly basis – they give us the confidence to book church halls for our drop in and teaching sessions. One-off individual donors have given us that extra boost of support. The thoughtfulness of school children and their parents has made Christmas a special time to all of our asylum seekers and refugees. In particular we thank Carmel College for creating 54 hampers, Reid Street Primary School for donations towards our gift bags and St Aidan’s Academy for their generous harvest festival donations.

We are fortunate to have good working relationships with Justice First, the British Red Cross, First Stop, the 700 Club, Darlington CAB, the Darlington Refugee Support Team, Darlington Football Club, Old School Boxing gym, Charlotte Welton fitness coach, Darlington Pilates to name but a few.

OUR CHARITY OBJECTS

Taken from the DAR Constitution dated May 2022:

The objects of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) are:

i). The promotion of social inclusion for the public benefit among people who are refugees and asylum seekers living in Darlington who are socially excluded on the grounds of their social and economic position, by providing:

A education and training in the English Language

B volunteer befriender / mentors who will assist them with their integration into the community of Darlington, by the provision of information, advice and support.

ii). The relief of poverty for refugees and asylum seekers displaced from, in particular, but not limited to, Syria and other war zones who are or have been resident in any refugee camps in Europe by the provision of essential equipment, furniture and other items as may be necessary

OUR MISSION

Being a refugee or asylum seeker means reaching a foreign land after fleeing one's home in fear. It means leaving everything and everyone behind.

At DAR, we want to ensure that those men, women, and children who come to us, not as a choice but in order to save their lives, have the warm welcome they deserve.

We offer them a safe and friendly environment where they can get the support they need to rebuild their lives. We introduce them to our system and community as we would a dear friend who just moved from abroad. We respect their culture and heritage and cherish the richness they bring into our lives.

www.darlingtonrefugees.org

OUR STRATEGY

The DAR Strategy is reviewed and updated by the Board of Trustees working with the CEO on a half-yearly basis, in December and June each year.

The forward Strategy for each calendar year is expressed in terms of specific timed objectives, based predominantly upon the following **strategic themes**:

- DAR is an **independent charity** regulated by the Charities Commission and is completely non-aligned.
- We reach out to **all refugees and asylum seekers** (individuals and families), who arrive in the Darlington dispersal area.
- We anticipate all changes in the **UK Asylum System**, modifying and extending DAR services as appropriate.
- There is a need to explore the provision of **accommodation services** through DAR – possibly necessitating building strategic relationships with established accommodation providers.
- Continuing improvement in **information management** across DAR, supporting compliance with all relevant UK legislation, GDPR rules, and cybersecurity standards.
- Establishing a **DAR fundraising strategy** to achieve sustainable income levels over £60k per annum.
- Aiming to fund and establish a **permanent base** for DAR in Darlington.

OUR PERFORMANCE IN 2024

In total, DAR supported 373 asylum seekers and refugees, including those granted leave to remain, in 2024.

We started the year supporting 171 asylum seekers; this increased by 82 to 253 by the end of the year. During 2024, we assisted approximately 120 people (including 17 families and 34 single men) who were given Leave to Remain by supporting their move from Mears' accommodation to temporary housing, and eventually into more permanent homes. This process involved setting up Universal Credit accounts (with the help of DWP and First Stop), registering with Darlington HomeSearch to bid for social housing, and seeking private rented accommodation (with support from First Stop). The skills and employability agency, Triage, played a key role in training and assisting with job searches. Our mentors also supported families with changes of school and new GP registrations resulting from the moves.

We have made progress in recording the contributions of our 72 volunteers, 45 of whom are actively involved on a weekly basis. We estimate a total of 5,600 volunteer hours in 2024.

Our **drop-in** service delivered 150 hours of support and was attended by Justice First, Triage, the British Red Cross, Mears, and the Darlington Borough Council's Refugee Support Team. We started the year with around 23 asylum seekers attending, peaking at over 70 in August and maintained a steady attendance of 60 for the rest of the year.

Our 13 **mentors** provided over 650 hours of personalised support to asylum seekers and refugees over the year.

Our 10 **language tutors** delivered over 500 hours of language support.

Funding from the Postcode Lottery enabled us to appoint a freelance Office Manager for 2 days per week. We have, as a result, made significant progress in organising policies and practices, managing accounts, and administrative support.

Our **fundraising team** dedicated over 300 hours; organising Refugee Week, quiz nights, participation in Darlington Community Carnival, and funding bids. For Christmas, they coordinated the purchase, collecting donations from Reid Street Primary School, and packing of 270 gift bags and along with the distribution of 54 hampers, generously provided by Carmel College. We received numerous donations from individuals and community groups, including contributions from Jeanette Smith, the Darlington Mother's Union, Charlotte Welton, and Hazel Commene's Darlington Pilates group. It was wonderful to have some children from Reid Street Primary School help the team hand out the gift bags at our Christmas Drop in.

The depth of support we offer is enhanced by our seven volunteers with lived experience of the UK asylum system, including members of our Executive Committee and Board of Trustees.

We have encouraged the development of an Experts by Experience group, which has named itself Refugees and Asylum Seekers Together (RAST). This group is evolving into an independent organisation that will consult with the Board of Trustees on the challenges faced by those seeking asylum and suggestions for how we can improve our support.

The **Guide to Inclusive Practice for Welcoming and Supporting EAL Learners**, available on our website, was developed from our pilot orientation programme for newly arrived asylum students. This initiative involved consultation and collaboration with Darlington schools. Additionally, we worked with schools to re-establish the EAL network and created a Volunteer Interpreter Scheme, enabling schools to communicate effectively with parents who have limited proficiency in English. There are currently 13 volunteer interpreters who speak eight different languages, and we have encouraged them to study the Community Interpreting course at Darlington College to Level 3.

Mental Health and Well-being

The **Illegal Migration Act**, a rising trend in extremist views, and global instability have exacerbated anxiety levels among the asylum seekers we support. We have significant and increasing concerns about their mental well-being. We established a working relationship with senior trauma consultants at **EGW**, who have helped develop support systems for asylum seekers and provided guidance to our volunteers on vicarious trauma. This work is already making a meaningful impact, and we are grateful to the Refugee Support Team for enabling us to pursue this.

To help asylum seekers alleviate some of their anxiety, build routine and physical activity into their lives while awaiting Home Office decisions, we have listened to their needs and provided various activities. These activities were well received as the following comments demonstrate:

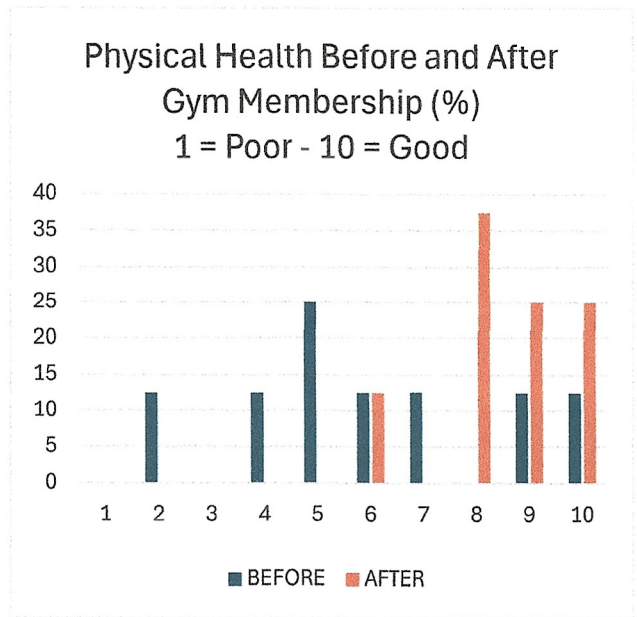
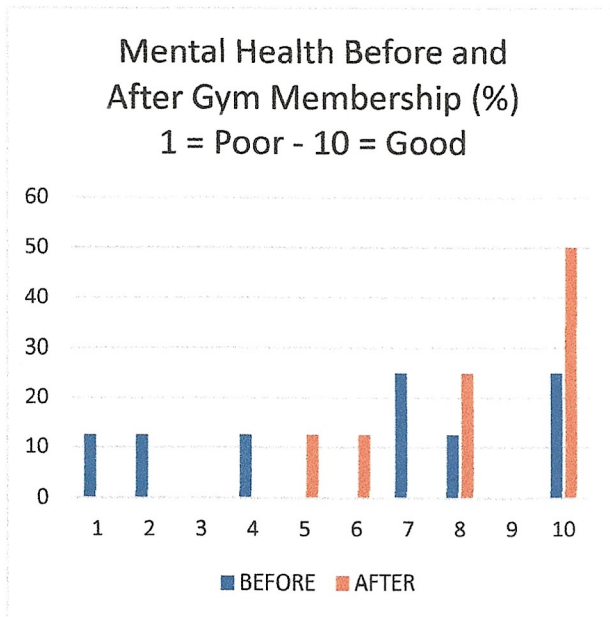
- **Football:** Weekly sessions funded by Sport England and coached by Darlington Football Club. These sessions benefited 20-30 participants, including unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC).
 - *I really enjoyed participating in the football sessions. These sessions not only helped me improve physically but also provided a great opportunity to connect with others and enhance my team skills. The coaches were always professional and supportive, and the atmosphere of the sessions was very positive and motivating. Through these experiences, in addition to improving my sports skills, I was able to strengthen my teamwork and cooperation spirit. I hope these sessions continue so that many more people can benefit from this opportunity." – Alikhan*
 - *" The football sessions are very important to the young people. I am a foster carer, and I have two young people who play and have made new friends from their own countries and from other countries it is an important event and I am very grateful to Dee for organising this - Lucy walker (foster carer for UASC)"*

Barclays Football (Sported) helped us extend our football sessions by 30 minutes during the winter months.

- **Boxing:** Sessions at Old School Boxing, also funded by Sport England, have been crucial for mental well-being and personal discipline.
 - *"When I go to a boxing session It's especially important when you're far from family, uncertain of the future, and grappling with a complex background." – D.H.*
 - *"Shirzad has been coming to us for quite a while now. He was quite shy and quiet at first and kept himself to himself. You could see right from the start that he'd already done a bit of Boxing. It's been great watching him not only improve his Boxing but also see him come out of his shell and start to make friends and watch his English improve. I think the Boxing classes have made him feel part of something and helped him with his confidence and give him a sense of belonging. He's had two Boxing contests with us so far and won both and I'm hoping there's going to be many more to come. He's been a pleasure to work with. - Mike Hall Head Coach at Old School Boxing"*
- **Keep Fit Classes with Charlotte Welton:** These classes have provided asylum-seeking women with community support beyond just fitness and have been sponsored by Sport England.
 - *"I benefited from the sports sessions healthily, psychologically, and socially. As I am a wife and a mother for three children, all in primary school. Sports exercises have increased my ability to perform my daily tasks. Living in a healthy and beneficial way. Psychologically: It has given me more self-confidence. It also it makes me feel satisfied with myself.*

Socially: It has helped me integrate into society and develop my language. I also love their respect and encouragement to me – Seeto

- **Pilates with Darlington Pilates:** Sport England have enabled us have spaces for women within this supportive group where we have seen friendships develop and confidence improve
 - *"Today, one woman was encouraging another, saying her hips had been sore and inflexible before she started, and the classes have made her feel a lot better." – Hazel*
- **Dolphin Centre Gym Membership:** Funded by County Durham Community Fund (now Point North) and the NHS Well-being Fund, this membership supported 26 people suffering from anxiety and declining physical health and exceeded the predicted outcomes as seen by the following charts.



- **Sewing Group:** Originally held in the library with six participants, this group grew to 12 asylum seekers from seven countries and four volunteers. With donations from Point North and Ward Hadaway, they purchased two new sewing machines and repaired existing ones. The group created and sold bunting at community events, made cushion covers, and supplied aprons for the cooking group.
 - *"I get out of hibernation."*
 - *"It helps my stress and situation."*
 - *"It makes me forget for an hour."*
- **Multicultural Cooking Project:** Funded by the National Lottery Awards for All, this weekly initiative encouraged asylum seekers to share cultural recipes while practicing English. Over the year, 28 participants speaking 11 different languages prepared meals for 440 people. Some participants also completed food safety certifications, with five passing Level 1 Food Hygiene and Safety, two passing Level 2 Food Hygiene and Safety for Catering, and one beginning the Level 2 HACCP.
- **Bicycle Project:** DAR continues to source bicycles for asylum seekers. We have partnered with First Stop's weekly café, where asylum seekers can learn to repair and maintain bikes before receiving them.

Through these initiatives, DAR has strengthened its support network, provided essential services, and fostered a sense of community and belonging for those seeking asylum in Darlington. This has been a year of growth and resilience, and we have strengthened our community support. The depth and breadth of services provided have been possible due to the dedication of our volunteers, partners, and the generosity of the Darlington community. Moving forward, we remain committed to advocating for and empowering asylum seekers and refugees as they rebuild their lives in the UK by Supporting refugees and strengthening communities.

Fran Wood CEO

GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP & ORGANISATION

GOVERNANCE

The governance of DAR is set out in the *DAR Constitution – 27 May 2022*, particularly the powers and duties of the Trustees and the Members of the charity.

The Board of Trustees meets regularly with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to set strategy and exercise oversight of operations in line with the charity's Objects.

The *Annual General Meeting* of Members includes the (re)-election of all Trustees, consideration of the Annual Report and Accounts, and the appointment of auditors.

Currently the Board delegates authority to just one standing sub-committee:

The *Finance Sub-Committee* provides guidance, monitoring, and assistance to the CEO in matters relating to financial management and reporting, financial audit and controls, and purchasing.

LEADERSHIP & ORGANISATION

Executive leadership and management of DAR is vested in the role of CEO. The CEO leads the *DAR Executive Team* – the senior leadership team which coordinates all operations and activities across the whole of DAR. Chaired by the CEO, the Executive Team brings together the key leaders across the organisation, and including the leaders of the principal workstreams:

- Mentoring
- Languages
- Projects
- Media
- Fundraising

The Executive also ensures delivery of the DAR Strategy set by the Board of Trustees and oversees any internal DAR change projects.

All of the staff contributing to DAR are part-time volunteers – currently numbering around 60 people. Sourcing volunteers for team leadership roles proves to be very challenging and is particularly affecting the progress of our language team. Delivering services with a completely voluntary workforce can also cause difficulties in service continuity, which can put a strain on our stretched resources.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The CEO and Trustees of DAR have assessed the risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that processes and systems have been established to mitigate them and ensure the continued viability of DAR.

Led by the CEO, Risk Management is a standing item on the Board's agenda. The DAR Risk Register details all risks and mitigations, categorised under the following headings:

Governance	Failure to deliver the charity's Objects / loss of strategic direction / failure of service delivery. Failure of Safeguarding Controls.
Operational	Insufficient appropriately motivated and trained volunteers to deliver quality services / loss of key personnel / failure to manage & report on "restricted" projects. Insufficient and / or inappropriate infrastructure to enable volunteers to deliver quality services – including accommodation, IT systems & hardware, information management systems, etc.
Financial	Insufficient funding income to sustainably support all DAR services & projects. Loss of Financial Control.
External	Changes in UK Immigration laws & regulations which impact needs / nature of DAR services / trends in the UK economy (e.g. Inflation, housing costs) which adversely affect DAR service users.
Compliance	Failure to comply with relevant laws and regulations - charity governance codes / charity financial regulations / health & safety regulations. Failure of cybersecurity measures / Loss of confidential data / Compromise of operational data.


FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2024

Public Benefit - The Trustees have complied with their duty under the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Reserves Policy – DAR aims to maintain sufficient free reserves of unrestricted funds in order to operate the charity for between 3 and 6 months. For the year ahead 2025, this sum is set at £10,000.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 13/5/25

& signed on their behalf by:

Peter Meek – Chair of Trustees 

8 Hillclose Avenue
Darlington
Co Durham
DL3 8BH
01 April 2025

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
DARLINGTON ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES (DAR).**

I report on the accounts for the Year ended 31 December 2024.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner.

As Trustees of the charity of DAR you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (The 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 act and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. 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 seeking explanations from the members concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement.

In accordance with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the members have not met the requirements to:
 - keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - prepare accounts which accord with the accounts records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act
2. or which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mrs Janice Lincoln

FCCA, ACIB

Previous Non- Executive Director of Penrith Building Society (Retired 30 June 2024)

 13/5/25



Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 1/01/2024	To	Period end date 31/12/2024
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Events, DAR Lottery	5,933	-		5,933	7,713
Grants received	548	55,645		56,193	37,938
One off donations	1,832	-		1,832	12,987
Standing Order	2,381	-		2,381	
Other donations	100	-		100	
Appeals	-	-		-	300
Other income	140	-		140	3,998
Earned income	238	-		238	
Bank interest	-	-		-	
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	11,172	55,645	-	66,817	62,936
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	11,172	55,645	-	66,817	62,936
A3 Payments					
Rent, rates, storage, room hire	2,822	1,025	-	3,847	3,748
Summer Activities including football tournament	176	3,551		3,727	5,730
Bicycles/ repairs, equipment and maintenance	1,099	1,063		2,162	1,568
Christmas	1,756	6,980		8,736	770
Translation	-	-		-	242
Language resources	500	-		500	94
Miscellaneous	446	176		622	407
Mentor Family Activities	132	202		334	4,462
Adminiistration - insurance, subs, DBS, etc.	106	-		106	1,298
Publicity inc. webhosting	1,566	169		1,735	152
Resettlement of AS on gaining status	-	-		-	
Employment Support	-	58		58	
Volunteer expenses	660	36		696	
Campaigning / Refugee Week	-	-		-	
Fundraising expenses	344	-		344	878
Coaching/counselling	90	9,460		9,550	
Pitch hire / room hire	169	14,127		14,296	280
equipment	104	4,116		4,220	100
Household goods for new Asylum seekers	132	-		132	1,050
Travel	-	1,045		1,045	142
Sub total	10,102	42,008	-	52,110	20,921
purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	10,102	42,008	-	52,110	20,921
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,070	13,637	-	14,707	42,015
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	31,596	35,677	-	67,273	25,258
Cash funds this year end	32,666	49,314	-	81,980	67,273

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Petty Cash	50	-	-
	Bank Account	32,616	49,314	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	32,666	49,314	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval

DARLINGTON ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES

England & Wales - Charity number 1170986

Accounts



DARLINGTON ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES

CHARITY NUMBER 1170986

ANNUAL REPORT
2023

FRAN WOOD
CEO



Annual Report to the DAR Board of Trustees

This year has been marked by a significant period of transition for us. The Trustees unanimously decided to review and restructure DAR. We actively sought new Trustees and, specifically, a Chair. We are pleased to welcome the following Trustees to join our existing Board:

- Fiona Huddleston
- Dr Hassan Eisa
- Diane Toner
- Dr Peter Meek

Dr Peter Meek was elected as our new Chair of the Board, allowing me to focus more on the operational aspects of DAR and my role as CEO.

The Nationalities and Borders Act, passed in 2022, and the Illegal Migration Act in July 2023 have cast a shadow over the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We are witnessing the repercussions of divisive sound bites and rhetoric, leading to increased division and hate crime in our communities.

Despite these challenges, we consider ourselves fortunate to still be able to welcome and connect with people from around the world who have faced significant hardships and had to leave their homes.

Throughout the year, there has been a growing interest among our sanctuary seekers to engage in volunteer work with us, bringing a fresh dynamic to our operations. This reflects the outstanding efforts of our volunteers in welcoming newly arrived sanctuary seekers, providing support during the prolonged and challenging waiting period marked by uncertainty and anxiety. Receiving decisions from the Home Office initiates a flurry of paperwork and more, depending on the nature of the decision. Our mentors work incredibly hard throughout this process, guiding and supporting our asylum seekers. The impact our mentors have on the lives of asylum seekers and refugees is hard to measure so I will let the asylum seekers say it.

- "I wish that one day I will return all the good and beautiful things you have done for my family. Lucky to have a friend like you."
- "She organised all my hospital visits and got me groceries when I was ill"
- "Thanks for the love and care you showed to me and my daughter"
- "While we were in all the problems, sadness and emotions we experienced in our own country, you became a big brother and a sister to us. You have alleviated our pain, you have solved our problems. That's why we can't thank you enough"
- "...Our mentor supported me through various administrative processes, including opening a bank account, applying for Child Benefit and Universal Credit, scheduling my first Job Centre appointment, and attending my initial municipal assistance appointment."

There are so many expressions of gratitude but it is clear the lasting impact is that our refugees want to be part of our team and are becoming mentors themselves.



Our fundraising team secured a generous grant from Tesco's Community Grants which kick started our football team. Furthermore they secured a grant from Sport England enabling us to expand our sporting activities, beyond our vibrant football team to include boxing, keep fit and pilates

- "I am very grateful to be part of this project. I have been part of this team for almost two years now and I have learned a lot and made many new friends..."
- "I have been receiving boxing sessions since January 2023. It has been a great opportunity to integrate with society. It helped me make positive changes in my lifestyle. However, the most interesting part of the boxing club is the kindness of the staff. They are professional and friendly. I think that it is a family rather than a boxing club."
- "I couldn't sit down and cross my legs two weeks ago; I was too inflexible. Now I can sit on the floor and play with my daughter with my legs crossed thanks to pilates."

The School's Orientation program has evolved into the "Guide to Inclusive Practice for Welcoming and Supporting EAL Learners." This document, crafted by Alison Holland in collaboration with Darlington Schools, Darlington Borough Council, and DAR volunteers, is already being implemented by schools. To compliment this we are in the early stages of an interpreter scheme we are offering to schools and organisations in Darlington. Our Language team has worked with individuals through online lessons, face-to-face conversation classes which are becoming increasingly more popular, and our drop-in sessions.

Each year, the generosity of Carmel College students and parents overwhelms us. At Christmas, we received eighty wonderful hampers for distribution to our families. Thanks to generous donations from the people of Darlington, we were able to provide gift bags for every single sanctuary seeker in Darlington. The dedication of the Mentor and Fundraising teams in sorting, packing, and labelling the gift bags was truly impressive.

Our fundraising team continues to organise a wonderful Quiz night which is becoming a tradition. In addition to hosting enjoyable events, the team has successfully secured grants from the County Durham Community Fund and the Community Grant Fund and the New Arrivals Pathway Grant from the North East Migration Partnership (NEMP). These grants enable us to support new arrivals with basic foodstuffs, toiletries and information about living in Darlington.

Our collaboration with Darlington Borough Council's Refugee support and housing teams, MEARS welfare officers, the Job Centre, the British Red Cross, and Justice First has enhanced the clarity and usefulness of support and advice provided to sanctuary seekers and refugees.

It is heartening to witness the Ukrainian community growing and settling in Darlington, making valuable contributions to schools and other voluntary organizations. We are always pleased to see refugees flourishing in their lives here.

I would like to thank Sally Forth for her incredible work with DAR. Sally was one of the founder members of DAR. She made a point of getting to know all of the Syrian families and quickly became their "go to" person. Sally's passion for cycling meant that she was able to collect donated bikes, fix them, store them in her cellar (along with a blind pheasant!) and distribute them to anyone who needed one. Sally is the sort of person who will do what is needed. She registered us a charity and when we needed a Treasurer Sally was there, albeit reluctantly. She was a mentor and part of the Language team, taking on several families at a time. Sally has been the most consistent person I



know, always dependable and honest but most of all full of optimism and humour. The last few years have been difficult and this makes me even more grateful for Sally's help. We bid her farewell from the Trustee Board so that she can do more of what she loves. Thank you Sally Forth.

Fran Wood

CEO

March 2024

Some interesting facts and figures to look at along with the following appendices which attempt to capture some of what we do in numbers.

- 1000 £ given to Justice First
- 971 hours of contact by 30 Mentors
- 960 hours of English language tuition
- 700 £ raised by the Fundraising team
- 500 £ raised by DAR Lottery
- 169 asylum seekers being supported
- 102 hours of drop in
- 100 volunteers
- 46 bicycles requested and distributed
- 34 asylum seekers given leave to remain
- 30 mentors
- 20 language tutors
- 18 average attendance at drop in
- 18 families receiving regular language teaching
- 18 bicycles donated from Sustrans
- 11 Drop in team
- 8 Executive team
- 7 Trustees
- 6 Fundraising team
- 1 Secretary



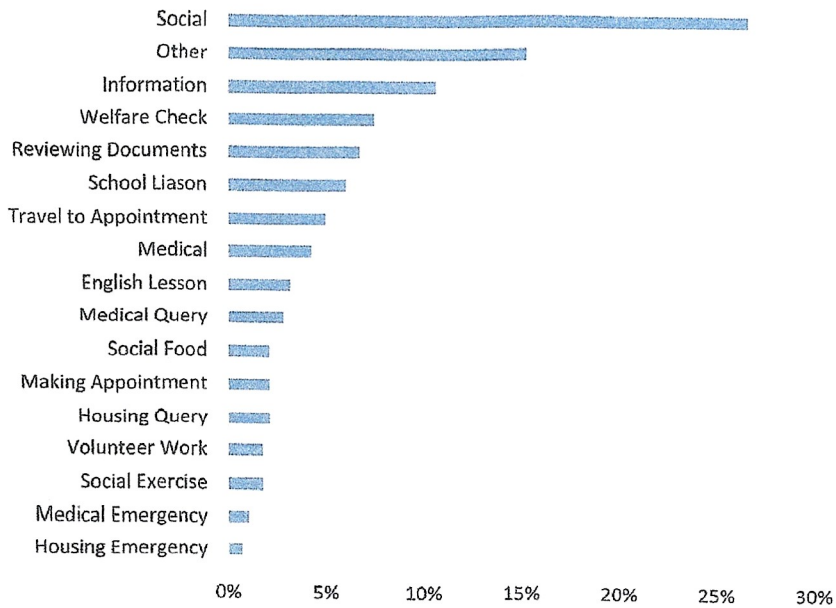
Appendix 1

Time spent with Refugee and Asylum Seeker Households 2023

	HH/Houses	Interactions	Average Interaction per Household	Average Time per Interaction (Hrs)	Total Interaction Time (Hrs)
Asylum Seekers	44	1041	24	0.7	729
Refugees	11	152	14	1.0	152
HMOs	9	225	25	0.4	90
TOTAL	64	1418	22	0.7	971

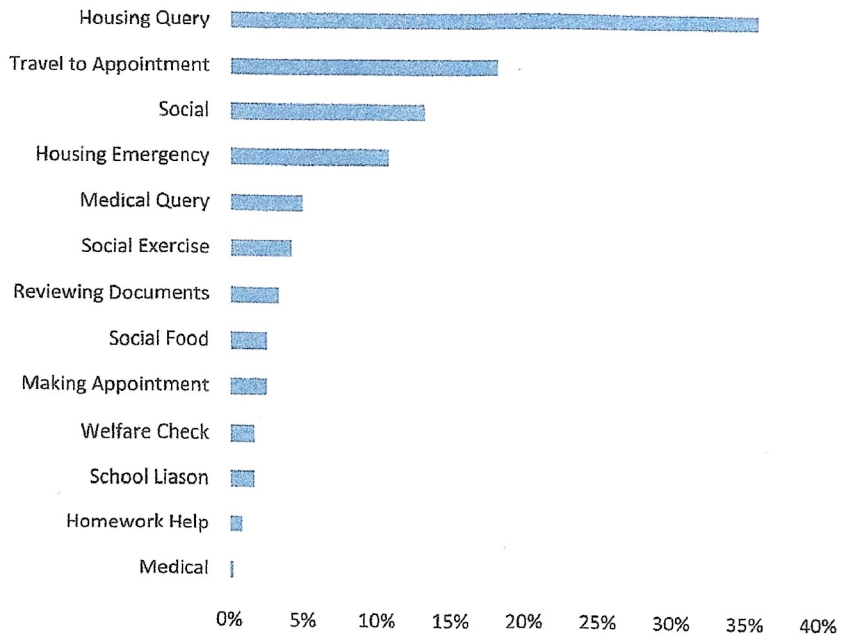
Appendix 2

Asylum Seekers: Reason for Interaction



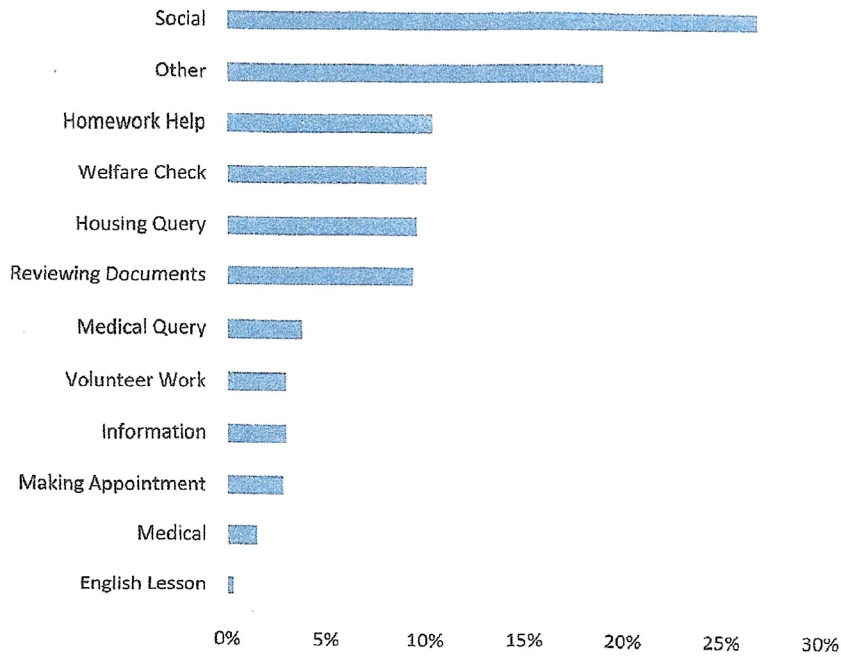
Appendix 3

Refugees: Reason for Interaction



Appendix 4

HMO: Reason for Interaction



Appendix 5

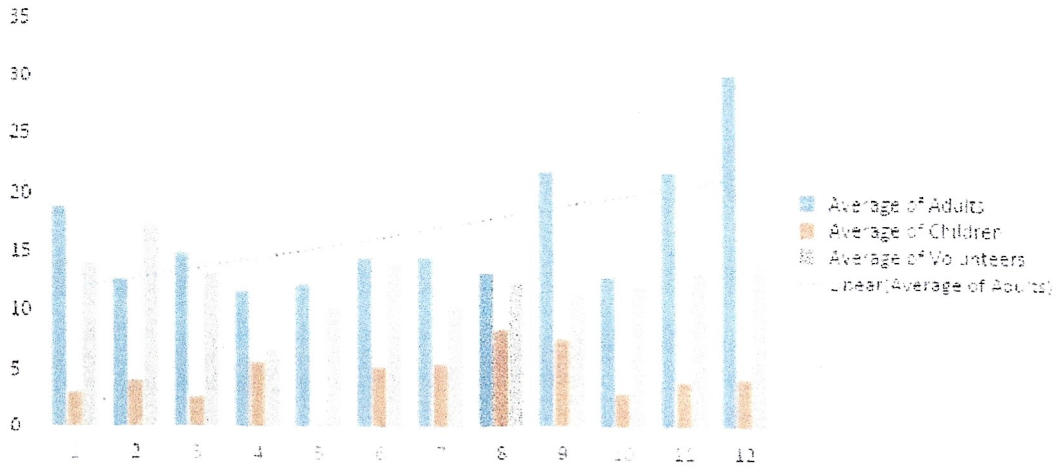
Drop in attendance

	Total attendance	Weekly Average
Adults	1466	18.1
Children	416	5.1
Volunteers	1002	12.4
Red cross	118	1.5
Mears	49	0.6
Justice first	51	0.6

DAR

DARLINGTON ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES

DBC	20	0.2
Triage	16	0.2





Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

1/12/2023

To

31/12/2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	12,987	-	-	12,987	11,669
Fundraising	7,713	-	-	7,713	6,682
Donations bikes for Ukrainians	-	-	-	-	1,589
Interest	-	-	-	-	2
Other	-	-	-	-	700
Donations for use of Ukrainians	-	-	-	-	25
Grant from Roundtable - Ukrainian Hub	-	-	-	-	1,000
Christmas	-	300	-	300	-
Tesco football	-	1,000	-	1,000	-
Global giving - running costs	3,998	-	-	3,998	-
Global Giving - Base	-	1,026	-	1,026	-
ESC Lottery Fund	-	14,872	-	14,872	-
Global Giving - cost of living	-	2,044	-	2,044	-
Football (County Durham Foundation)	-	5,000	-	5,000	-
Other activities project (Teesside University)	-	3,996	-	3,996	-
Trauma counselling project (DBC)	-	10,000	-	10,000	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	24,698	38,238	-	62,936	21,667
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	24,698	38,238	-	62,936	21,667
A3 Payments					
Conversation Club	-	-	-	-	80
Stationery, Printing, Office, Equipment and Postage/admin	361	-	-	361	68
Bus Hire	-	-	-	-	200
Insurance	108	-	-	108	108
Household Goods	1,154	-	-	1,154	1,024
Travel Costs	142	-	-	142	200
Fundraising Expenses	410	-	-	410	386
Donation - for Ukraine from Quiz	-	-	-	-	1,350
ICO fees	35	-	-	35	35
Rent - St Cuthbert's	2,183	-	-	2,183	1,335
NE Regional Employee DBS	79	-	-	79	124
Celebrations, Entertainment and Catering Costs	383	-	-	383	299
NACCOM Membership	30	-	-	30	30
The Well - Ukrainian Hub Rent	850	-	-	850	950
Afghan families	50	-	-	50	487
Storage Unit	715	-	-	715	-
Bikes for Ukrainians	-	100	-	100	918
Other	46	-	-	46	37
Various other activities (Teesside University Grant)	83	3,996	-	4,079	-
Bicycle/repairs/accessories	1,568	-	-	1,568	663

Emergency help e.g. food, phone top-up	1,000	-	-	1,000	130
Christmas gifts/hampers	470	300	-	770	826
Translation	242	-	-	242	124
AS ESOL Provision, Dictionaries etc.	94	-	-	94	448
Football	72	5,000	-	5,072	
CDCF Micro Grant Covid	-	-	-	-	820
Carnival sundries	468	-	-	468	27
IT and Media Costs	152	-	-	152	23
School Orientation Programme	-	-	-	-	727
Summer activities	490	-	-	490	946
Football Tournament	60	-	-	60	100
Other room hire	280	-	-	280	130
Sub total	11,525	9,396	-	20,921	12,595

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)

Assets purchased from Food for Thought	-	-	-	-	200
Sub total	-	-	-	-	200

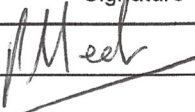
Total payments	11,525	9,396	-	20,921	12,795
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Net of receipts/(payments)	13,173	28,842	-	42,015	8,872
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	18,423	6,835	-	25,258	12,979
Cash funds this year end	31,596	35,677	-	67,273	21,851

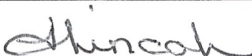
Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Petty Cash	50	-	-
	Bank Account - Darlington Credit Union	13,173	-	-
	Bank Account - Co-Operative	18,373	35,677	-
	Total cash funds	31,596	35,677	-
	<small>(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))</small>			
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	PETER MEEK	27/5/2025
	Chair of Trustees	(revised)

Accounts examined by

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	JANICE LINCOLN	29/5/25
		Revised.

DARLINGTON ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES

England & Wales - Charity number 1170986

Accounts



DAR AGM

Chair's Report 22 June 2022

It has been a bitter sweet year for us all.

The sudden withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan in April and subsequent take-over by the Taliban led to unbelievable chaos and the loss of life. Despite seeing the hopeless situation faced by the Afghan people unfold on various media platforms, it was heart-warming to see the response of the people of the North East. Many felt the need to do something and we saw an increase in our numbers of volunteers, which has now passed. Some of these people have already made substantial contributions to how DAR is functioning. For example, Trish Abbott kindly took on the role of secretary, Yvonne Williams has built a strong mentor team and managed to allocate a mentor to almost every asylum seeker. Karen Parsons and Katie Adam have taken on co-ordinating the Ukraine Hub which is in its early stages. Shelagh Potter has taken on the Safeguarding role. Diane Toner is developing a DAR member induction programme. Danielle Kilpatrick has managed to get a football team together, found funding for entry fees and transport as well as recruiting a coach before the recent and very successful football tournament. Danielle and the team are committed to organising further practice sessions and arranging more matches.

Our language team have continued their hard work with individuals and groups. The Schools Orientation Programme has been run on a monthly basis to accommodate the new arrivals. We are so grateful to the core team who work so hard on this comprehensive 2-day programme.

Carmel College and the Salvation Army provided us with toys and hampers for refugees in Darlington. Our annual appeal for donations towards our gift bags enabled us to provide every asylum seeker with a beautiful bag of gifts; each lovingly prepared and wrapped by Janet Walker.

Six months after the evacuation of the Afghans, we were informed by the council that some Afghan families had been offered places in Darlington through the ARAP scheme. We set about researching their possible needs and it became clear that a separate drop in was required. We are grateful to St Augustine's Church who have generously given us use of their parish centre each week. I know those of us who have been lucky enough to meet and get to know the Afghan families have been impressed with their independence and willingness to try new things.

We also experienced another surge in membership following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Yet again, the scenes we saw in Aleppo and Homs became replicated daily in Ukraine. We have seen again, the brutality of war and its devastating impact on the lives of ordinary people going about their daily lives, trying to do their best for their families. The public response was overwhelming. With the generous support of the people of Darlington and with help from My Lock Up and a number of transport companies we managed to collect and send medical supplies to Poland and directly to Ukraine. The Quiz night, at the Northern Echo arena was organised by our Fundraising team and aided by the wonderful Sanctuary group of students at Carmel College, raised £2600 for the British Red Cross and to support our own activities. The hosting and family reunion schemes for Ukrainians has helped many find sanctuary and safety in our country. The numbers of people coming forward to host strangers, who speak a different language, spoke volumes about how we stand together with refugees. We are trying to respond to the needs of the Ukrainian arrivals through the Hub we have set up at The Well Methodist Church, with the generous support of The



Darlington Round Table and local business Taylor's Pies. The Hub allows us to connect with the families and gives them a space reflect and plan their own programme.

We have been blessed to have the support of the local Ukrainian community who have worked so hard to welcome new arrivals. We are grateful in particular for Oksana, Inga and Dasha who have joined DAR as our Ukrainian interpreters.

In contrast to all this heartening news, however, we are dismayed about the brutality of the Nationalities and Borders Act. As one of our Trustees, Tresor Busaka from the Red Cross, prepared for the Justice First International Football Tournament we heard that 4 of the players had been transported to Yarlswood detention centre where they would be put on the first flight to Rwanda. We, along with many others, lobbied our MPs and voiced our opposition. We are heartened that many other community groups and faith-based groups did likewise and we were relieved about the EHCR decision to stop the flight pending a full judicial review next month.

As a small local charity, we rely exclusively on the generous voluntary contributions of our members. Thank you to Janet Walker, who stepped down as Secretary and Treasurer, for holding things together for five years. We are so pleased that she will continue to devote time to helping at the Asylum Seeker drop-in and with mentoring. A big thank you to Sally Forth who has taken on the Treasurer role. Thank you also to David Walker who made substantial contributions to our Policy and Development Plan for five years before standing down earlier this year. We are hoping to appoint a new member who has a great deal of experience in Policy and Practice for Charities. Thank you also to Chris Taylor for undertaking the very important Safeguarding role over the last four years. We welcome Shelagh Potter who is taking this on. We are grateful to Helen Taylor, who took on the Membership Secretary over 3 years ago, is moving into the fundraising team, and has also taken on the responsibility for producing quarterly newsletters to help everyone know what is going on. We are pleased that Gracie Madzongonye, another new member who has shown a keenness to take the membership secretary role on.

Finally thank you to Bishop Paul for agreeing to speak at this AGM.

Fran Wood



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name Darlington Assistance for Refugees	No (if any) 1170986
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CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2022	To	Period end date 31/12/2022
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donation	11669		-	11669	7106
Fundraising	6682	-	-	6682	-
Donation for bikes for Ukrainians	-	1589	-	1589	-
Book Sales	-	-	-	-	-
Bus Hire	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	2	-	-	2	-
Other	-	-	-	-	700
Celebrations, Entertainment & Catering Costs	-	-	-	-	-
NEMP Project	-	-	-	-	-
Donations for use of Ukrainians	-	25	-	25	-
Grant from the Round Table for rent for Ukrainian hub	-	1000	-	1000	-

Bus Hire	200	-	-	200	-
Insurance	108	-	-	108	108
Household Goods	10 24	-	-	1024	582
Travel Costs	200	-	-	200	-
Fundraising Expenses	386	-	-	386	-
Donation - for Ukraine from Quiz proceeds	1350	-	-	1 350	-
ICO Fees	35	-	-	35	35
Rent - St Cuthbert's Church Hall	1335		-	1 335	338
NE Regional Employee DBS checks	124	-	-	124	96
Celebrations, Entertainment & Catering Costs	299		-	299	188
Naccom membership	30			30	-
The well – Ukrainian hub rent	-	950	-	950	
Afghan families	87	400	-	487	-
For as- craft items	-	-	-	-	- 54
Bikes for Ukrainians	-	918	-	918	-
Other	37			37	- 732
Bicycle / repairs /accessories	663	-	-	663	-
Emergency help e.g. food, phone top ups	130	-	-	130	77

Christmas gifts and hampers	826	-	-	826	428
translation	124	-	-	124	0
AS ESOL Provision Dictionaries etc.	44 8	-	-	448	209
Craft activity material		-	-		54
Laptop Project	-	-	-	-	39 58
CDCF Micro Grant Covid		820		820	147 5
Carnival sundries	27	-	-	27	
IT and Media Costs	23	-	-	23	284
School Orientation Programme		727	-	727	125
Summer activities	94 6	-	-	946	835
Football entry	100		-	100	-
Other room hire	130		-	130	
Sub total	8600	3815	-	12 415	954 6
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Assets purchased from food for thought – charity winding up	200 -	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	200	-	-	-	-

Total payments	8800	381 5	-	12 615	95 46
Net of receipts/(payments)	1348 0	-- ----1201	-	12278	59 77
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	803 1	49 48	-	12 979	74 59
Cash funds this year end	2151 1	37 47	-	25 258	129 79

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Petty Cash	9		-
	Bank Account - Darlington Credit Union	8,52 1		-
	Bank Account - Co-Operative	1225 5	6835	-
	Total cash funds	18423	6835	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval

DARLINGTON ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES

England & Wales - Charity number 1170986

Accounts

DAR Chair's Report 7 April 2021

This will be our second AGM in lockdown. It seems incredible this time last year we had enjoyed our member's event at the Quaker Meeting House where we pulled together ideas from the members, asylum seekers and refugees. How our world has changed since then. Steven Piper, from our drop in team, sadly lost his life. He has left a very large hole in the lives of his asylum friends and those of us who knew him. I have missed the hugs and chats with you all, DAR members, asylum seekers and refugees. For the Trustees and Exec Committee Zoom meetings have become a norm with comments like "you're still on mute" being common! Despite these uncertain times, we have managed to reach out in different ways and adapt along with the rest of the world. It is my hope that we can include our asylum seekers and refugees more in our planning in the coming year.

Our Asylum Team have maintained regular contact with those who came along to the drop in to ensure that they are coping with the situation.

The Language Team continues to provide support and teaching to asylum seekers and refugees. Rebecca White has been a rock to the bereaved Syrian family following the tragedy last August. She has continued to teach them and provide emotional support. The team has broadened its work to include a growing number of asylum seekers alongside their continuing work with refugees. They have also been providing more homework assistance for children and young people. Alison Holland, with the support of Corporation Road Primary school, gained approval from local schools for an orientation programme which will prepare children and young people before they start school and support them when they do. This will start after the May half-term.

We have continued to raise funds through the generous support of our members and the wider public, and from charitable trusts.

One of our Trustees, Paul Hamilton, lead our Laptop Project. We acquired 21 reconditioned laptops from the Turin Trust and purchased data for each of the families with children at school, so that they were more easily able to access their online lessons. This was funded almost entirely by the generosity of our volunteers who responded to pleas for financial support by donating £4,550.

With the help of Clarey Wrightson, we were able to respond to the tragic fire at Moria Camp on Lesbos by collecting toiletries and other donations. Darlington folk donated so much that the Choose Love truck was not able to collect all the items but Clarey kindly delivered them to the Leeds depot.

We welcome Rosie Turner to the Executive team as our Partnership lead. Rosie will be linking up with other charities and organisations in Darlington to help Refugees find meaningful work as volunteers and building partnerships towards employment.

One of the challenges that we have faced during the COVID-19 pandemic is how to reach out to the single asylum seekers. These people are normally accommodated in a house or flat, sharing with someone who might not be their choice of a friend, with nothing to do and limited means of communication. Helping them to stay in touch with loved ones has to be prioritised along with food and clothing due to their restricted budget. We are aiming to alleviate this by applying for funds to help with internet connections. We also hope to set up a "bank of activities" that members are happy to share with asylum seekers, as the current lockdown eases. We hope that by linking asylum seekers with members through hobbies and interests this will improve relationships and make them feel more included in our community.

This is all occurring in the context of what appears to be a Home Office policy of creating a hostile environment for asylum seekers. This includes the increasing use of army barracks, restricted movement and the confiscation of mobile phones. The time taken to process claims has also increased and this is creating a growing backlog of asylum seekers in the system. We continue to raise these issues with our political representatives. The Sovereign Borders Bill making its way through Parliament appears to create a two tier system for asylum seekers. Now, more than ever before we need to be lobbying our MPs and asking questions about the lack of humanity in this Bill.

I look forward to seeing you all face to face again and sharing what has been happening in your lives over cups of tea and coffee.

Fran Wood
Chair

	Charity Name		No (if any)		
	Darlington Assistance for Refugees		1170986		
	Receipts and payments accounts			CC16	
	For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date	a
		1/1/2021		12/31/2021	
Section A Receipts and payments					
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donation	7,106	-	-	7,106	1,583
Fundraising	-	-	-	-	1,000
Collection for White Helmets	-	-	-	-	-
Book Sales	-	-	-	-	-
Bus Hire	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	-	-	-	-	-
Other	700	-	-	700	-
Celebrations, Entertainment & Catering Costs	-	-	-	-	-
NEMP Project	-	-	-	-	-
Toiletries & Household Cleaners	-	-	-	-	-
CDCF Micro Grant School Holiday Clubs	-	-	-	-	-
The Hospital of God Bike Grant	-	-	-	-	-
Bicycle Repairs etc	-	-	-	-	-
Fostering Event	-	-	-	-	-
Laptop Project	-	436	-	436	5,641
CDCF Micro Grant Covid	-	2,750	-	2,750	-
Christmas	30	250	-	280	285
School Orientation Programme	-	3,398	-	3,398	-
Afghan Refugees	-	400	-	400	-
Lesvos Solidarity	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total(Gross income for AR)	7,836	7,234	-	15,070	8,509

AS ESOL Provision Dictionaries etc.	209	-	-	209	24
For AS - Craft items, toys & other sundries AS Families	54	-	-	54	16
Laptop Project	1,176	2,782	-	3,958	3,294
CDCF Micro Grant Covid	-	1,475	-	1,475	-
Christmas	178	250	-	428	591
IT and Media Costs	284	-	-	284	-
School Orientation Programme	-	125	-	125	-
School Holiday Club	835	-	-	835	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Fostering Event	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	4,898	4,649	-	9,546	4,613
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	4,898	4,649	-	9,546	4,613
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,938	2,585	-	5,523	3,896
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	5,092	2,364	-	7,456	3,560
Cash funds this year end	8,030	4,949	-	12,979	7,456
Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period					
Categories	Details		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
			to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Petty Cash		45		-
	Bank Account - Darlington Credit Union		1,500		-
	Bank Account - Co-Operative		6,489	4,948	-

DARLINGTON ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES

England & Wales - Charity number 1170986

Accounts

Chair's Report

This will be our second AGM in lockdown. It seems incredible this time last year we had enjoyed our member's event at the Quaker Meeting House where we pulled together ideas from the members, asylum seekers and refugees. How our world has changed since then. Steven Piper, from our drop in team, sadly lost his life. He has left a very large hole in the lives of his asylum friends and those of us who knew him. I have missed the hugs and chats with you all, DAR members, asylum seekers and refugees. For the Trustees and Exec Committee Zoom meetings have become a norm with comments like "you're still on mute" being common! Despite these uncertain times, we have managed to reach out in different ways and adapt along with the rest of the world. It is my hope that we can include our asylum seekers and refugees more in our planning in the coming year.

Our Asylum Team have maintained regular contact with those who came along to the drop in to ensure that they are coping with the situation.

The Language Team continues to provide support and teaching to asylum seekers and refugees. Rebecca White has been a rock to the bereaved Syrian family following the tragedy last August. She has continued to teach them and provide emotional support. The team has broadened its work to include a growing number of asylum seekers alongside their continuing work with refugees. They have also been providing more homework assistance for children and young people. Alison Holland, with the support of Corporation Road Primary school, gained approval from local schools for an orientation programme which will prepare children and young people before they start school and support them when they do. This will start after the May half-term.

We have continued to raise funds through the generous support of our members and the wider public, and from charitable trusts.

One of our Trustees, Paul Hamilton, lead our Laptop Project. We acquired 21 reconditioned laptops from the Turin Trust and purchased data for each of the families with children at school, so that they were more easily able to access their online lessons. This was funded almost entirely by the generosity of our volunteers who responded to pleas for financial support by donating £4,550.

With the help of Clarey Wrightson, we were able to respond to the tragic fire at Moria Camp on Lesbos by collecting toiletries and other donations. Darlington folk donated so much that the Choose Love truck was not able to collect all the items but Clarey kindly delivered them to the Leeds depot.

We welcome Rosie Turner to the Executive team as our Partnership lead. Rosie will be linking up with other charities and organisations in Darlington to help Refugees find meaningful work as volunteers and building partnerships towards employment.

One of the challenges that we have faced during the COVID-19 pandemic is how to reach out to the single asylum seekers. These people are normally accommodated in a house or flat, sharing with someone who might not be their choice of a friend, with nothing to do and limited means of communication. Helping them to stay in touch with loved ones has to be prioritised along with food and clothing due to their restricted budget. We are aiming to alleviate this by applying for funds to help with internet connections. We also hope to set up a "bank of activities" that members are happy to share with asylum seekers, as the current lockdown eases. We hope that by linking asylum seekers with members through hobbies and interests this will improve relationships and make them feel more included in our community.

This is all occurring in the context of what appears to be a Home Office policy of creating a hostile environment for asylum seekers. This includes the increasing use of army barracks, restricted movement and the confiscation of mobile phones. The time taken to process claims has also increased and this is creating a growing backlog of asylum seekers in the system. We continue to raise these issues with our political representatives. The Sovereign Borders Bill making its way through Parliament appears to create a two-tier system for asylum seekers.

Now, more than ever before we need to be lobbying our MPs and asking questions about the lack of humanity in this Bill.

I look forward to seeing you all face to face again and sharing what has been happening in your lives over cups of tea and coffee.

Fran Wood
Chair



Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2020	To	Period end date 31/12/2020
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donation	1,583	-	-	1,583	2,029
Fundraising	1,000	-	-	1,000	1,159
Collection for White Helmets	-	-	-	-	-
Book Sales	-	-	-	-	-
Bus Hire	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Celebrations, Entertainment & Catering Costs	-	-	-	-	595
NEMP Project	-	-	-	-	5,000
Toiletries & Household Cleaners	-	-	-	-	-
CDCF Micro Grant School Holiday Clubs	-	-	-	-	1,000
The Hospital of God Bike Grant	-	-	-	-	-
Bicycle Repairs etc	-	-	-	-	-
Fostering Event	-	-	-	-	-
Laptop Project	-	5,641	-	5,641	-
Christmas	-	285	-	285	-
Lesvos Solidarity	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	2,583	5,926	-	8,509	9,783
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	2,583	5,926	-	8,509	9,783
A3 Payments					
Translation expenses	-	-	-	-	26
Stationery, Printing, Office Equipment & Postage	120	-	-	120	136
Bus Hire	-	-	-	-	100
Insurance	252	-	-	252	252
Household Goods	-	-	-	-	488
Travel Costs	13	-	-	13	20
Fundraising Expenses	-	-	-	-	27
Donation to White Helmets	-	-	-	-	-
ICO Fees	35	-	-	35	35
Rent - Storage Unit	-	-	-	-	-
NE Regional Employee DBS checks	38	-	-	38	58
Celebrations, Entertainment & Catering Costs	122	-	-	122	1,431
NEMP Project	-	-	-	-	5,001
Emergency Clothes AS Families	-	-	-	-	269
Toiletries & Household Cleaners	-	-	-	-	31
Lesvos Solidarity	-	-	-	-	-
Holy Trinity Darlington PCC re Walkington House CCXX R1 accounts (SS)	-	1	-	-	-

CDCF Micro Grant School Holiday Clubs	-	-	-	-	1,360
Bicycle Repairs etc	30	-	-	30	64
Emergency help e.g. food, phone top ups	10	-	-	10	66
The Hospital of God Bike Grant	-	-	-	-	2,938
Book Sales	-	-	-	-	508
Other	68	-	-	68	43
AS ESOL Provision Dictionaries etc.	24	-	-	24	434
For AS - Craft items, toys & other sundries Walkington House	16	-	-	16	53
Laptop Project	-	3,294	-	3,294	87
Christmas	306	285	-	591	-
Fostering Event	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	1,034	3,579	-	4,613	13,427

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-

Total payments	1,034	3,579	-	4,613	13,427
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Net of receipts/(payments)	1,549	2,347	-	3,896	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	3,543	17	-	3,560	7,203
Cash funds this year end	5,092	2,364	-	7,456	3,560

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Petty Cash	145		-
	Bank Account - Darlington Credit Union	1,995		-
	Bank Account - Co-Operative	2,973	2,347	-
	Total cash funds	5,112	2,347	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	Agreement Error	OK
B2 Other monetary assets				
	CCXX R2 accounts (SS)	2		

	-	-	-
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B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
<i>Jwalker</i>	Janet Walker	16/02/2021