CAMBRIDGE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT CAMPAIGN

England & Wales · Charity number 1172836

Details

Other names	CRRC
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2017-05-02
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	CRRC c/o Friends Meeting House 12 Jesus Lane Cambridge CB5 8BA
Phone	07999599390
Email	info@cambridgerefugees.org
Website	www.cambridgerefugees.org

Activities

Objects: CAMBRIDGE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT CAMPAIGN (CRRC) IS SET UP FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:A) TO PROMOTE ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSE FOR THE BENEFIT OF PERSONS WHO HAVE BECOME DISPLACED PERSONSOR REFUGEES FROM THE COUNTRIES OF THEIR ORIGIN OR DOMICILE BY REASON OF HOSTILITIES, PERSECUTION,OPPRESSION, DISCRIMINATION, NATURAL DISASTERS OR OTHER LIKE CAUSES, INCLUDING THROUGH THE RELIEF OFPOVERTY, THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING, AND THE PROMOTION OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP.(B) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL ABOUT ISSUES RELATING TO PERSONS WHO HAVEBECOME DISPLACED PERSONS OR REFUGEES FROM THE COUNTRIES OF THEIR ORIGIN OR DOMICILE BY REASON OFHOSTILITIES, PERSECUTION, OPPRESSION, DISCRIMINATION, NATURAL DISASTERS OR OTHER LIKE CAUSES.

Activities: Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign provides a wide range of practical support to beneficiaries, and liaises with local stakeholders. CRRC works closely with the County Councils, City Councils, local charities, and other organisations that support and campaign around refugees, and enables the people of Cambridgeshire to volunteer to support refugees.

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Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Other Finance, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Disability, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-06-30	£108,416	£105,244	-	-
2024-06-30	£77,634	£76,850	-	-
2023-06-30	£109,613	£95,101	-	-
2022-06-30	£61,342	£57,869	-	-
2021-06-30	£46,568	£29,485	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Adrian Matthews		2020-07-01
Aisha Shuamazzi		2024-11-20
Andrii Smytsniuk		2022-07-20
Aryan Frahmand		2024-11-20
Catharine Lucy Walston		2019-02-13
Claire Jane Coates		2025-01-15
Dr Adriana Sandu		2024-11-20
Dr Khalil Abu-Dahab		2024-09-19
SUSAN MARGARET SPENCER		2017-05-02

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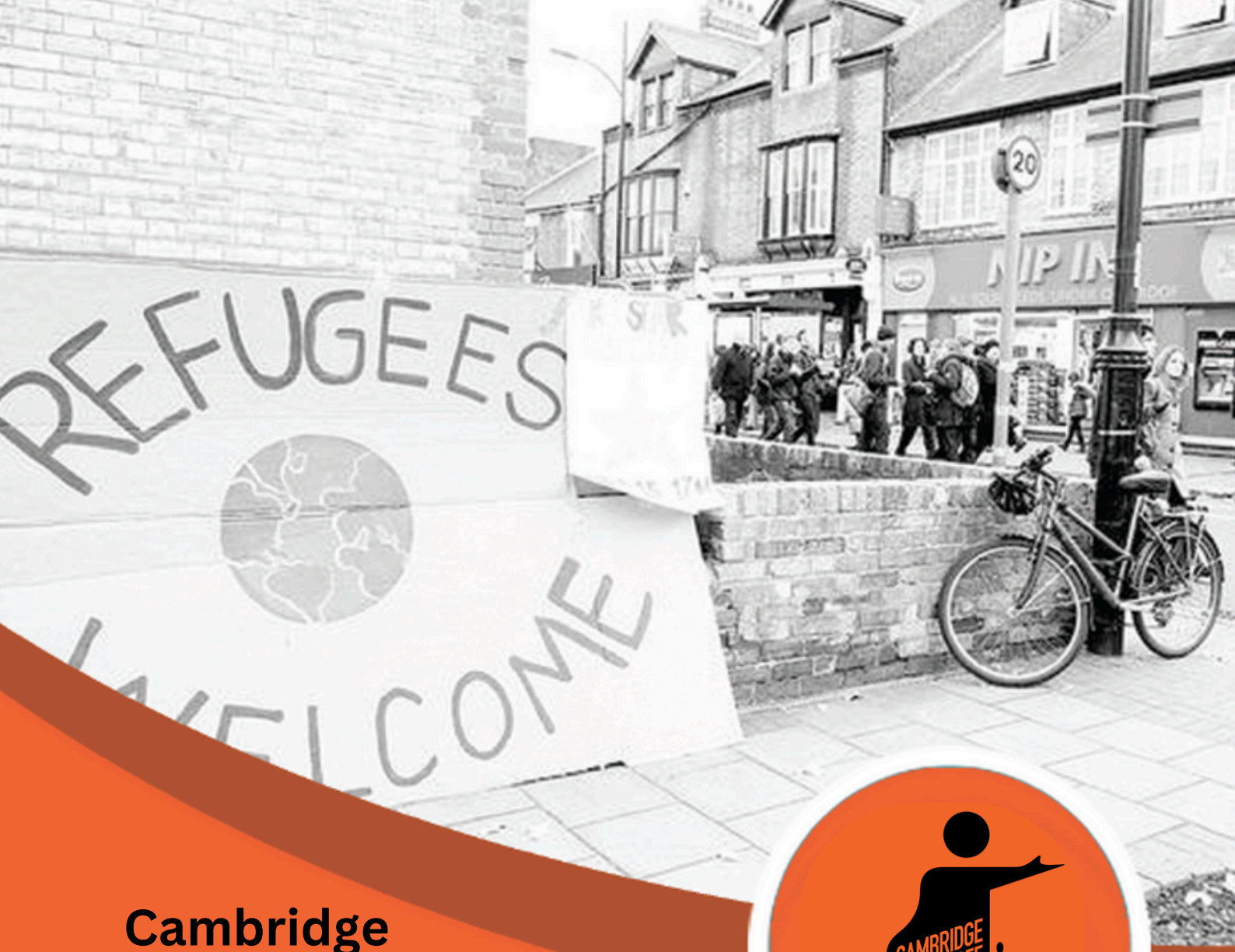
CAMBRIDGE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT CAMPAIGN

England & Wales - Charity number 1172836

Accounts



Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign

Annual Report & Financial Statement

Period ended 30 June 2025

Registered Charity (CIO Foundation) in England: 1172836

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign (CRRC) is a volunteer-led, Cambridge-based organisation providing a broad range of support, assistance, and activities for refugees and asylum seekers in our local communities.

CRRC c/o Friends Meeting House • 12 Jesus Lane
Cambridge CB5 8BA • UK

Editor
Catharine Walston

Editorial assistant
Claire Coates

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Cover photo
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Queries regarding CRRC should be directed to:
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A warm thank you to everyone who has contributed to this report

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Organisational Information

Board of Trustees as of 30 June 2025

Khalil Abu-Dahab
Claire Coates
Aryan Frahmand
Adrian Matthews
Adriana Sandu
Aisha Shuamazzi
Andrii Smytsniuk
Sue Spencer
Catharine Walston

Treasurer: Cathy Lynch

Registered address

CRRC c/o Friends Meeting House, 12 Jesus Ln, Cambridge CB5 8BA.

Constitution

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign (CRRC) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO – foundation, number 1172836) registered on 2 May 2017 with the Charity Commission for England, followed by a transfer of assets from the Unincorporated Association (UIA) of the same name on 1 July 2017.

Bank

Cooperative Bank, PO Box 101, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester M60 4EP

Report of the Trustees

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual report and financial statement for the year ended 30 June 2025. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out by the Charities Commission and comply with the charity's constitution.

Introduction

Welcome to CRRC's Annual Report for the year ended June 2025. The reporting period began with the advent of a new Government in July 2024. Although the Safety of Rwanda Act was quickly repealed and the processing of asylum claims was restored, official policy towards refugees and asylum-seekers did not change significantly. The rise of right-wing nationalism and the ubiquity of online misinformation have emboldened anti-immigrant activists, leading to rioting in some areas in summer 2024. Fortunately, Cambridge remained a calm and welcoming place, despite the fears of many of our beneficiary families, and there were no anti-immigrant protests.

The Best Western hotel at Bar Hill closed as asylum accommodation at the end of June 2025. Some former residents have been housed in the area, requiring our help to furnish their homes and access services. To mark the closure of the hotel, during Refugee Week we were proud to mount an exhibition with Oblique Arts, entitled *Finding Home*, of artwork produced by the residents.

Our association continued with Cambridge4Ukraine, who provided welcome packs, information and signposting to Ukrainian refugees fleeing the Russian invasion. Their focus is now on support for teenagers and young people to make the most of their new lives in Cambridge.

The current reporting period encompasses our 10 year anniversary, reflecting our growth from a group of community activists in 2015, to charitable status in 2017, and now supporting over 170 families in Cambridge and the surrounding villages. This has meant applying for grants to expand our ability to provide services. It has also meant supporters organising some wonderful fundraising events on our behalf. As ever, we are extremely grateful to all our volunteers for their dedication and hard work. We'd also like to thank the many individuals, faith groups, trusts and foundations who have generously supported us.

Finally, we were deeply saddened by the death in March 2025 of Dan Ellis, our Chair of Trustees for five years, and a passionate advocate for the rights of refugees and asylum-seekers. He and his wife Amy were right at the heart of our organisation and we miss them greatly.

Who we are

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign (CRRC) began as a community group in 2015 before becoming an Unincorporated Association in March 2016. We registered with the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 2 May 2017. CRRC is entirely volunteer-led and relies on volunteers' time and donations to deliver its statement of purpose. It is led by the Board of Trustees, and its activities are coordinated by a Core Committee.

Areas of activity include family support, donations, DIY, education (children's tutors), ESOL, gardening, IT provision, employability and mobility, activities, socials and holiday programmes. We have around 150 active volunteers.

We work closely with Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Huntingdon District Council, Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum, and a range of other partners, including the East of England Strategic Migration Partnership, Anglia Ruskin University, University of Cambridge Centre for the Study of Global Human Movement, Cambridge University Press & Assessment, Cambridge City Foodbank and GYROS. CRRC has been a member of Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service since 2016.

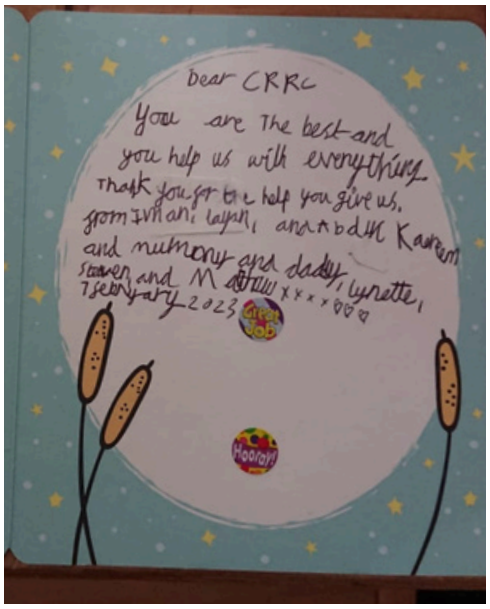
Meeting our charitable objectives

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign (CRRC) was set up with the following objectives:
(a) to promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of persons who have become displaced persons or refugees from the countries of their origin or domicile by reason of hostilities, persecution, oppression, discrimination, natural disasters or other like causes, including through the relief of poverty, the advancement of education and training, and the promotion of good citizenship.

(b) to advance the education of the public in general about issues relating to persons who have become displaced persons or refugees from the countries of their origin or domicile by reason of hostilities, persecution, oppression, discrimination, natural disasters or other like causes.

Over the reporting period, we have continued in our aim to facilitate the resettlement and integration of displaced people into our community. We accept referrals from refugees themselves or from other individuals, organisations, or authorities.

CRRC assists refugees resettled in Cambridge and Cambridgeshire with their settling-in process, and encourages local communities to engage with our efforts to foster and promote diversity and social cohesion. Relevant statutory authorities, politicians, and others involved in policy-making and decision-making on issues affecting refugees benefit from our experience and are supported in the delivery of their statutory functions. We have also continued in our mission to engage and inform by giving talks to local groups and schools and promoting refugee-related issues and events on our social media platforms.



Risks and strategy

During the financial year ending June 2025, the Trustees considered the major risks to which the charity was exposed. The main risks identified were:

Service users
There continued to be a rapid increase in the number and needs of service users. Resettlement families receive support from Council caseworkers but usually have additional needs. They often find themselves in financial difficulties due to the imposition of the Benefit Cap on their Universal Credit payments and the high cost of living in our area. Those who have come through the asylum system receive very limited support from local government. There is a severe shortage of ESOL provision. The Regional College has no creche facilities, which restricts access for women with young children. Our strategy has been to remain responsive and flexible. We have sought to establish closer ties with other groups in order to signpost to sources of specialist assistance and have offered hardship grants where necessary. We have begun to address the issue of ESOL provision.

Financial Security of CRRC
Our principal source of funding is now through grants from charitable trusts and foundations. We also benefit from personal gifts, donations from faith groups and businesses, fundraising events and payroll giving. The demands on our resources are increasing. We aim to maintain reserves of 6 months of annual spend to enable the orderly winding down of support services to families in the event of unforeseen changes in income or the operating environment.

Operational Risks
CRRC carries out risk assessments for all activities to ensure that risks are understood. CRRC has continued to review and update policies and procedures around some key risk areas including safeguarding and Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.

Services

Family support

Over the reporting period there has been a further significant growth in the number and type of households CRRC supported. By 1 July 2024, at the start of the reporting period, CRRC had registered 91 families (excluding Ukrainians) on our database over 8 ½ years. By 30 June 2025 this had risen to 150 – adding a further 57 households to the number supported. In addition, we registered 15 new Ukrainian households – mostly those needing help with moving on into independent accommodation. This was the sharpest growth in both number of household units and absolute numbers of beneficiaries supported of any year in CRRC's 10 years of existence.

Table 1- New households registered over the reporting period by country of origin

Country	No. of new housholds
Afghanistan	32
Ukraine	15
Iran	8
Iraq	5
Eritrea	4
Syria	3
Sudan	2
Ethiopia	1
Egypt	1
Uganda	1

Historically, most of those supported by CRRC have been families resettled under Government schemes whereby the local authority immediately provides a house commensurate with the size and profile of the family, as well as wrap-around support from a dedicated local authority caseworker to assist them with the early stages of their orientation and resettlement.

This pattern changed when first a hotel in St Ives began housing single male asylum-seekers in 2021 and then a hotel in Bar Hill started accommodating asylum-seeking families and single women in early 2023. By the end of the reporting period both hotels had ceased operation as asylum accommodation, with many of the residents granted refugee status. Table 2 below shows the immigration 'route' by which CRRC's 72 new registrations came into Cambridgeshire.

Table 2 - Immigration 'route' by which new registrations arrived in Cambridgeshire

Immigration route to arrival in Cambridgeshire	Numbers of households arriving by 'route'
Asylum seekers granted refugee status	28
Afghan resettlement schemes	24
'Homes for Ukraine' scheme	10
Ukraine - family scheme	5
Family reunion	1
Community sponsorship	1
Not known	3

Asylum-seekers granted refugee status

Asylum-seekers are required to live in Home Office designated 'dispersal accommodation' while their claim is being considered. Lengthy delays in decision-making are common and many asylum-seekers wait up to 2 years or more before an initial decision is made on their claim. CRRC is able to offer only limited support to asylum-seekers before a decision and we do not register households with us prior to a positive decision. As a registered charity, we have accessed free SIM cards from Vodafone and have provided these to the local support groups working around the hotels, offering a vital lifeline for people still in the asylum system.

Our principal role with those arriving locally via the asylum route has been in helping them accrue basic household furniture and fittings once they are given a tenancy. After a grant of asylum, families have 56 days and single people 28 days to leave the hotel and find somewhere else to live. Those without other options present to the local authority in the asylum hotel's area as 'at risk of homelessness' and if deemed in 'priority need' (for example a family with children) will be moved into temporary accommodation while a first permanent tenancy is found for them. The process of obtaining a permanent tenancy can take up to a year or even longer in some cases.

The local authority will normally equip households with children with essential white goods – a cooker, fridge and washing machine along with sufficient beds for the family and 1 sofa. No other goods are provided such as bedding, curtains, dining table and chairs, vacuum cleaner, cooking equipment, crockery, wardrobes, drawers etc. In addition, local authorities tend to strip out any existing flooring from previous tenancies often leaving the new tenant with bare concrete floors. Having to provide basic furniture and household goods has been a significant call on CRRC's resources over the year. The growth in registered households of former asylum-seekers led us to apply to the National Lottery Community Fund for a grant specifically to support those moving into a first tenancy with a basic set of furniture and other necessary items. Our application was successful and from April 2025, we have been able to use this grant for purchases to support households moving to a new tenancy. On pages 12 and 13 we illustrate via two case studies how we work with households starting new tenancies.

Case Study 1 – request for assistance received on 31 March 2025

Dear ……,
*My name is Volodymyr *********. I am writing to kindly request your assistance with essential household items for my new flat.*

I arrived in the UK under the Ukraine Family Scheme in January 2022 to visit my daughter and grandson. Due to the war in Ukraine, my wife and I were unable to return home. I have been battling cancer (multiple myeloma) and am currently undergoing continuous chemotherapy and immunotherapy. My medical condition has created a challenging living situation. After a lengthy process, I have finally been allocated a flat through housing support, which will provide a safer environment for my medical needs. Unfortunately, as we came under the Ukraine Family Scheme rather than the Homes for Ukraine program, there is no additional support available from Cambridge City Council to furnish the flat with essential appliances. I am unable to work due to my medical condition and rely on Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payment for my basic needs.

I would be extremely grateful if your organisation could help me with the following essential items: Gas cooker, Washing machine, Iron, Microwave.
If possible, I would also greatly appreciate: A small dining table and chairs for two people, Rugs for the flat.

Any assistance you can provide would make an enormous difference in helping me establish a proper living space during this difficult time. Thank you for considering my request. I am available to provide any additional information you may require.
Yours sincerely,
*Volodymyr & Tetiana **********

Our response to this request was to say that we would consider what we could contribute. A calculation of the four main items requested (washing machine, cooker, microwave and iron) would put the total cost, including installation of gas cooker and washing machine, at £802 (incl £165 for professional installation costs). Before committing to this, we asked for further information about the daughter's circumstances, whether she had a credit rating and could purchase some items through monthly instalments to assist her parents. We decided on the % of the purchases we could assist with after receiving this information.

Case Study 2 – request for assistance received on 6 March 2025

Hi Adrian

*I just spoke to you on the phone, I'm Sara from the Council, Mrs P's support worker. She has just moved to temporary accommodation provided by South Cambs. The address is **********, and she moved in today.*

As I mentioned Mrs P has only been given a sofa, a bed, and white goods. She has no curtains, carpet, kitchen essentials or any other basics.
I would be really grateful if you could help her. I will copy her in the email.

Please call me if you need a translator.

Our response to this request was to first send a volunteer to assess the household needs. This woman was a Kurdish single parent from Iran recently granted refugee status following an asylum claim. The volunteer took the client to our storage garage where she was able to select from donated items of kitchen equipment, crockery, glassware and bedding. Within her first two weeks at her new property, we purchased a (new) vacuum cleaner, dustpan and brush, collapsible clothes dryer, and sourced a wardrobe, curtains and rug through donations. We purchased curtain rails for the donated curtains and some paint to smarten up the wardrobe.

A volunteer helped put up the curtain rail. We have a policy of not providing carpet to those in temporary accommodation but will consider a contribution to this when a permanent tenancy has been provided. We also provided this beneficiary with a refurbished laptop to enable her to improve her English and to access services.

Distribution across Cambridgeshire
Of the 72 new households registered over the reporting period, 57 were not from Ukraine. We record Ukrainian households we support on a separate database. Of the 57 non-Ukrainian households, 21 (36.8%) were accommodated in the city while 36 (63.1%) were accommodated in villages or new towns. Other clusters of newly registered households were in Waterbeach (6), Northstowe (6) Cambourne (4) Willingham (3) Cottenham (3) and Brampton (2 – joining an established community there).Eleven families were placed in fairly remote villages with poor transport links making it very challenging to attend college, find work and access essential services.

The majority of Ukrainian families assisted had previously been hosted by city residents and therefore received help with finding independent accommodation in the city. Accommodation for this group was a mix of social and private rented properties.

Families from Afghanistan
We registered 32 new Afghan households over the reporting period. Twenty-four households were resettled by Cambridge City Council under one of the two programmes established by the Government. A further 7 Afghan households arrived via the asylum route and 1 Afghan household arrived via the Homes for Ukraine scheme as he'd been a Ukrainian resident when the war broke out.

Of 32 new Afghan households, 10 (31.25%) were accommodated in the city and 22 (68.75%) in villages/new towns mostly in South Cambridgeshire. Village-based families face particular challenges with accessing ESOL, travelling to appointments, shopping, and finding employment. When unable to find work, most families find their benefits 'capped' which, for large families, can mean that they simply can't afford to pay their rent, utilities bills and food. Some families have had to turn to food banks to feed their families, for which we are able to issue vouchers.

Families and individuals from Ukraine
The number of new registrations from Ukrainian families fell in the reporting year from 29 families in the 2023/24 reporting year to 15 this year. There may be several reasons for this. Many of those originally hosted in the city had already moved on into independent accommodation the previous year. A lack of new hosting offers from city residents meant that very few new Ukrainian 'guests' arrived in the city under the 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme during the year. The Ukraine 'family' scheme whereby Ukrainian citizens could join settled family members in the UK closed in February 2024.

Ukrainian families assisted continued to be mostly women with children and/or an elderly parent, or elderly couples. We received a grant from Cambridge City Council in October 2023 and by the end of October 2024 had assisted 28 Ukrainian families to move on into independent accommodation. You can find a link to our final report on how the grant was used here.

As well as purchases using the grant funding, we put out appeals for donations through social media and received huge local support in providing needed items, from tables and chairs to sofas, wardrobes, and even an electric piano. CRRC volunteers coordinated the collection and delivery of donated items to beneficiary families.

Brampton / Huntingdon area support
At the start of the financial year there were 13 CRRC-registered refugee families living in Brampton and 2 in Huntingdon. Most of the families were from Afghanistan, resettled here under the Government ARAP/ACRS schemes. There was also one asylum-seeking family from Georgia (they are still seeking leave to remain) and another family from Iran, who came by boat, had been in asylum accommodation in Bar Hill and have leave to remain (LTR).

With one exception, all the families are still on Universal Credit. Only one man, with a large family, is in full-time work. The other men all do 16 hours/week part-time work (e.g., working in restaurants, supermarkets, food delivery). Two are building the experience and expertise to set up their own businesses.

With the exception of one woman with a young baby, all the women now attend ESOL classes at least once a week. Outings and events have been organised over the year for the women, as a way of helping them to get to know the area and enjoy time out of the home.

Gardening group

The gardening group has visited 16 new families during this period from Afghanistan, Eritrea, Iraq and Sudan. We also returned to assist two Afghan families and three single parents needing long-term help in their garden.

After an initial visit and discussion with each new family, we provided basic gardening tools, according to need, and this typically included spades, watering-cans, trowels and secateurs. This year the majority of families have been housed in new-builds in new towns outside Cambridge, most having semi-large lawn gardens. All the new-builds needed electric mowers. Some of the families also had new sheds so we were able to buy them mowers which could be stored and shared with other families living close by. We were donated two electric mowers, plants, veg plants, an apple tree and herbs.

A lot of the new families wanted to help us in their garden and learn what flowers, herbs and vegetables they may be able to grow in our climate. Our aim is for all families to become independent gardeners.

Visiting the families in their homes is always a rewarding way to get to know them, especially as they generously offer us tea and snacks. Apart from discussing gardening, other issues arise, which we try to help solve, often regarding refuse bin collections, local schools, English classes, transport etc. One family had 5 broken bikes in the garden so we co-ordinated with Owl Bikes (Papworth Trust) who collect, recycle and sell. We regularly liaise with CRRC's donations and DIY teams. We are fortunate that all the gardening group are experienced and knowledgeable gardeners who have been prepared to turn up and work on a regular basis.

Donations and DIY

When refugees move on into permanent or even short-term accommodation, there is sometimes nothing there. CRRC, liaising with landlords and a limited number of support organisations, can often manage to provide flooring, a cooker and fridge. For everything else, we are heavily reliant on donations. People in and around Cambridge are generous. We are routinely offered cutlery, crockery and cookware. We are given furniture and soft furnishings. Desks, swivel chairs and bookcases are in demand for study areas. And toys, too: children need teddy bears and fluffy rabbits. We have a simple rule: we only accept things which we would be happy to own ourselves. All electrical items are PAT tested; all furniture is checked for fire safety and all sewing machines and bicycles - both much in demand - are serviced and tested before distribution. Many thanks to all our donors and especially to Sheila Hakin for the use of her garage for storage.

IT provision

Over the reporting period, we have distributed to beneficiaries of many nationalities some 65 laptops and 30 phones, and about 50 SIM cards. A further batch of SIM cards was given to residents in the Bar Hill asylum hotel. Ukrainian beneficiaries have received 5 laptops.

The large majority of our IT provision has been purchased from Sustainable Tech4Good, our partner organisation based in Stevenage, with a smaller amount of direct donations where these came already wiped. Most laptops are Windows 10 or 11, with one or two Apple Mac devices.

Mobility

The demand for CRRC grants towards the cost of driving lessons continued to be high this year. All CRRC-registered adults are eligible to apply once they have passed their theory test, and the applications are then assessed by a CRRC team.

Successful applicants are funded for 10 hours if they have driven before, 20 hours if not. We brought in a new dimension this year, whereby if instructors feel that a learner needs just a few more hours to stand a good chance of passing on the first attempt, we pay 50% of the cost of up to 10 extra hours, with the learner committing to paying the instructor the other 50%.

Initially, CRRC partnered with two driving schools, but by early 2025 it was clear that it was more cost-effective, better for 'additional language' learners and easier administratively to partner with only one, Neomotion Driving School, with whom we now have a very good working relationship.

This year, grants were awarded to 24 applicants. Of these, nine passed on their first or second attempt. Among the applicants were three women, an encouraging trend.

We continued our fruitful relationship with The Liberation Cycle, a local charity which collects, refurbishes and redistributes second-hand bicycles. Over the reporting period they provided our service users with 50 bicycles.

ESOL for adults

In the year to June 2025, there were some pleasing successes as well as ongoing challenges in meeting needs for accessible language learning opportunities. CRRC ESOL for adults continued to respond to the needs of those (mainly women) who were unable to access college provision or classes set up in libraries.

Those in need of language support fell into two categories - more established residents and newcomers to the area. Newcomers were generally being housed outside Cambridge, which created challenges in meeting demand as travel to the CRRC-run class in central Cambridge was no longer viable. It was therefore decided not to continue with the class in central Cambridge but instead to provide one-to-one tuition for those living in Cambridge. Tuition took place either in the central library or in the home. Those who had been resident in the area for a few years worked towards citizenship with 2 women passing the requisite language test. In another case the teacher reported that her learner had the ability to pass the language test, but domestic responsibilities and an ongoing health issue were impacting on her motivation to prepare for the assessment. Passing the citizenship test has proved more challenging due to the very specific areas of knowledge required. Assurances were given by teachers that they themselves would not pass the test without intensive study!

One-to-one tuition in the home was provided by qualified volunteer ESOL teachers for 4 women who needed basic language support but who were unable to attend college classes as they had pre-school children. In one case the tutor reported good progress both orally and with literacy, and her learner was able to do some things independently, such as visiting a local charity for clothes and nappies, attending a local playgroup with her 3 year-old son, and visiting neighbours of different nationalities.

Teachers generally reported that there needed to be more opportunities to integrate into the local community and to be more immersed in English with more opportunities to use English outside the lessons. Although most women worked hard, teachers sometimes expressed disappointment that in some instances there was little evidence of study or use of English between lessons, and the presence of children was at times challenging. In one case, however, although limited progress in English was made, the teacher was able to give considerable support in relation to benefits and medical issues.

Two women who had fled domestic abuse were referred to CRRC and were supported by volunteer teachers, with one of the women receiving considerable support both with language, job-related training, domestic and health issues. Online lessons for elementary-level learners were set up for 3 individuals, with limited success. Lack of confidence in use of technology was a factor, and participants did not show the level of engagement and commitment evidenced in in-person classes.

Provision of language support for those living outside Cambridge continued to be challenging. Women with pre-school children were a particular cause of concern. CRRC was very grateful for a generous donation from the Angela Webster Trust which enabled us to recruit two qualified teachers on a self-employed basis.

In addition, a small team of childcarers was recruited to supervise the children in a stay-and-play session at the community venue in Northstowe where the class was held. The class ran once a week during term time on a Tuesday morning to coincide with the Council playgroup session. There were 8 students with a core of 3 who attended regularly and, as a result, were the ones who benefited the most. There was a range of experiences of education, from illiterate to confident in reading and writing. This model of a venue outside the home with childcare facilities in place has proved the most effective means of building confidence and ensuring progress in language learning. CRRC hopes to extend it to other communities.

CRRC's continued formal provision of English language tuition in Brampton was not necessary because, from September 2024, nearly all the women were able to successfully progress to the Functional English course at Huntingdon Regional College (CRC) attending twice a week. Some continued to attend church-run ESOL classes in Huntingdon on 1-2 days a week, popular because they could take pre-school children there. Only one mother remained out of the ESOL loop (because of a young baby), but plans were in hand for her to start the Council-run Huntingdon Library ESOL lessons in September 2025.

CRRC has also continued to support an ever-expanding project which provides daily online classes for Ukrainians. Donations from Cambridge University Press & Assessment to support this project have been much appreciated.

Educational support for children

We have benefitted from consistent support for school-age children from a team of 20 experienced primary and secondary school teachers who provide subject-specific as well as language development. This is an important and much-appreciated means of support for families. Many school-age children from CRRC's beneficiaries have been enrolled in the one-to-one tuition programme provided by the CRRC children's tuition team. Some pre-school children have also had support from tutors. CRRC volunteers were matched with the families and normally met the children once a week. The aim of this support is to help the children to develop language skills, encourage conceptual understanding, increase knowledge of their cultural community, and to build their confidence and self-esteem.

The one-to-one teachers supporting school-age children have often helped with liaising with a child's school so that the child was supported in following the curriculum at the appropriate level. Many of the English tutors worked with different families.

We are particularly grateful to Amy Brookman and A Learning Place for offering a place to a young Afghan teenager who was struggling with his mental health after being told he would have to wait nine months to go to college. He benefitted enormously from the personal care and attention ALP were able to give him and shared a taxi with another student with funding from Cambridgeshire County Council.

Activities and culture

The Activities Group has run a programme of events over the reporting period. In addition to organising twice-termly Saturday afternoon socials, the group also organised a coach trip to an adventure park and an indoor climbing activity for the children. Both events were very popular and full reports of both events are detailed on page 23. There is also a thriving refugee community based at Brampton (half an hour away from Cambridge) and Kay Powell – a locally-based volunteer – organised several additional events for this community.

Discounted activities

We have approached various sports clubs and swimming academies, who have been more than happy to offer a very discounted fee structure for the children, often waiving the joining fee. Through this route we have been able to support swimming lessons, martial arts and gymnastics classes for several families who otherwise would not have been able to participate in these. We have also funded cycling tuition.

Saturday afternoon socials held at Mayfield Primary school, Cambridge

These socials are very popular and 6 were held in the reporting period. We invite families to bring a dish of food along; there is always a children's craft table, as well as an outdoor play area and seating for the adults to gather for a chat.

There were several special socials: one involved a circus workshop, one had a visit from Father Christmas, and there was henna painting and dancing for Eid. If a family is struggling to reach the venue by public transport we will help by covering the cost of a taxi or driving a minibus (We have strict guidelines for this aid).

Wicksteed Park Excursion

A trip to Wicksteed Park near Kettering was organised on Saturday 31 August 2024. We took two coaches, one departing from Brampton with 7 families (one Brampton family went in their own car) and another coach departing from Milton Park and Ride site with 11 families. In total we had 116 family members, 12 of whom went free as they were under 0.9m. There were 2 volunteers on each coach.

We purchased 109 tickets in advance to get the best price. The site is very large but every family had a volunteer phone number in case of emergency. Everyone was invited to meet up at a picnic area but, in the end, the families were too busy having fun to join the volunteers for lunch!

Wicksteed has an old-fashioned vibe, with fun, traditional amusements and rides, and is set in lovely parkland with a lake. Everyone was very appreciative, with the children particularly excited by the outing.

Clip & Climb

Thirteen families were booked onto the activity in November and there was also a significant waiting list. In all 23 children took part, ranging in age from 4/5 years old to early teens. One girl told us she had been counting down the days ever since she found out about it. Another family said their children had chosen to come to Clip & Climb rather than do their usual Saturday morning football training. The Clip & Climb employees were very accommodating, helping families to complete the waiver forms and allowing late-comers to join the briefing session and take part in the climbing.

Brampton trips

Cambridge bus tour

On this day out in Cambridge in July 2024, there were 3 volunteers, 10 Afghan women, 5 toddlers and 3 babies. The day began with an open-top bus tour of the city, followed by a stroll through the Grand Arcade (shopping is high on the women's list of favourite things to do) and then on to a picnic lunch on Parker's Piece. An unplanned activity there was a ride for some of the women on the Ferris wheel, where the operator kindly gave us a generous discount.

Ladies' Art Day

On 25 April 2025 we held a Ladies' Art Day in the home of one of the volunteers. CRRC provided the paper, paints, palettes and pencils, while the women brought along food for a light lunch. The silence as everyone (including the volunteers) concentrated hard to produce a painting of some object near them was most unusual – these gatherings are normally very noisy occasions, with much chatter!

Riverboat Cruise, St Ives

The 11 women and two toddlers from Brampton and Huntingdon were joined on 20 June 2025 by 5 women from Cambourne for a riverboat cruise on the Great Ouse. Four volunteers came along too. One boat set off at 11 am, going downstream from St Ives, carrying 12 people, while the rest of the group went to the St Ives Friday market (which included a great spices/olives/baklava stall that proved very popular) and then had coffee and cake in a local church café.

At midday, the first group set off on the St Ives walkabout, while the second went down the Ouse. At one point on this boat trip, a Brampton woman took the helm, followed shortly by her 4-year-old son Abdul having a go too! The weather was perfect, all the logistics worked well and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. A Cambourne woman later reported: 'It was a great place, I felt refreshed.'

Report from Cambridge4Ukraine (C4U)

Although on a smaller scale than before, Cambridge4Ukraine continues to support the Ukrainian community with its main focus on our youngest members. With support from CRRC, we managed to conduct two projects which help the social integration of young Ukrainians.

Climbing Programme in Partnership with Urban Uprising

We arranged for two climbing courses for Ukrainian children, where Urban Uprising covered most of the costs, while the final portion of funds came out of the CRRC account.

Group 1 September–November 2024
- 10 sessions
- 10 participants (children)

Group 2 May–July 2025
- 10 sessions
- 10 participants (children)

Here are some comments from the parents about the importance of these courses for their children:

We are sincerely grateful for this wonderful opportunity for Ukrainian children to take part in such an incredible bouldering course! A huge thank you to all the organisers and instructors! The instructors are true professionals—attentive, safety-conscious, supportive, and inspiring. They teach, supervise, share their experience, and keep the children motivated. Bouldering builds endurance and life skills that will undoubtedly be useful in the future. Thank you once again!

The children absolutely loved it—it was not only exciting but also very beneficial for both their physical development and mental resilience. Even when they came home tired from school on Mondays, they couldn't wait to head out to the sessions. They always returned full of positive energy and emotions. They had great fun, made new friends, and truly enjoyed every moment.
Huge thanks to the entire team for your work, your care, and this fantastic opportunity!

The climbing gym is excellent, with a great variety of walls. The sessions are both engaging and useful. We are very grateful! Thank you so much!

My daughter found it fascinating that each time, she had to find a different path to the top—and that every child had their own unique way of solving the challenge. Just like in life, we all choose our own pace, our own path, and our own summit. My son loved interacting with the coaches, helping girls in his group, and feeling proud every time he reached the very top. And after each session, the happy kids enjoyed a treat from the nearby café—something new and even tastier every time. Thank you so much! We truly loved it!

YOUkraine Teens in Cambridge

Cambridge4Ukraine is currently running a teenage club with various meetings for Ukrainian youth and their parents. Since the beginning of the programme, we have held over 25 meetings for Ukrainian teenagers in Cambridge. Around 40 teenagers have taken part in these events, among whom an active community of regular participants has already formed. We have invited 8 speakers and specialists to lead the sessions — including psychologists, coaches, educational consultants, creative mentors, and students.

The topics of the events have covered emotional well-being, the influence of social media, self-awareness, career choice, development of communication skills, integration into a new environment, and sports. We have also organised several festive and recreational events that contributed to a friendly atmosphere and mutual support.

Funds donated to CRRC for this purpose help to fund snacks and beverages for teenagers, which they enjoy during the meetings.

YOUkraine Teens in Cambridge continues to operate steadily and develop further. We are seeing growing interest from both teenagers and parents and are preparing new meeting formats and a programme for the winter season.

Andrii Smytsniuk
Chair, Cambridge4Ukraine

Communications and Outreach
Our newsletter has continued to be published quarterly to about 500 subscribers and is further disseminated through the City of Sanctuary Faith Groups network. Our Facebook group has 1,500 members and our new Bluesky account is growing.

We joined colleagues from Anglia Ruskin University in a major multi-site research study, funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), inviting local refugees to have their say about access to healthcare, adequate housing and appropriate nutrition. This has involved organising community forums and workshops, mapping and data collection.

We gave presentations to the Rotary Club Huntingdon and again to the Homerton Changemakers. We also gave a series of Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) workshops to Year 10s at Comberton Village College.

Volunteer Events

Two volunteer events were held over the reporting period. With increasing numbers of Afghan arrivals, we thought it would be useful for volunteers to learn a bit about Afghanistan and Afghan culture. The Woolf Institute kindly allowed us to use their beautiful building to hold a seminar in July 2024, attended by 50 people. Traditional Afghan tea and snacks were provided by three Afghan women from Brampton, while speakers Dr Reza Husseini and Kamila Mohammadi gave presentations on the history of Afghanistan and its culture and customs. Finally, two of our service users spoke about the experience of leaving Afghanistan and everything they had worked for there, to try to start a new life here, with one offering some excellent advice about what we can do to help.

A volunteer evening was held at the Friends Meeting House in April to enable volunteers to meet each other, share experiences and learn about areas of activity others are involved in. Some 30 volunteers came along for a relaxed evening of conversation over Syrian food.

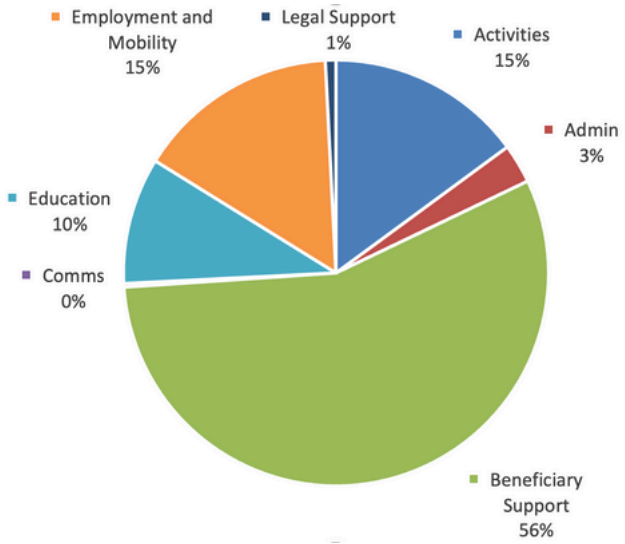
Fundraising events

We benefitted from a number of fundraising events organised by supporters. Children's orchestras the Petit Ensemble and Kipu Orchestra held benefit concerts for us. The Cambridge Philharmonic also put on a major fundraising concert, which involved recruiting a refugee choir to perform Jonathan Dove's composition *Odyssey* as well as the world premiere of *Concerto for Kamancheh and Orchestra* by Iranian composer and virtuoso Rouzbeh Parsa.

Volunteer Maria Aboukhshem had become very aware of the level of financial hardship faced by refugee families unable to find work and wanted to raise funds for hardship grants. Enlisting her family and their business, Coffee World, she organised a magnificent fundraising dinner at their cafe in Milton with live music from folk singers Tom Ling and Ian Turner, and a silent auction run by her children. Food was provided by several local businesses while Maria did the cooking.

Financial Review

Receipts of £77,159 in unrestricted funds during the year covered most of the outgoings of £80,713 with the majority of funding coming from grants. We are grateful also for significant funds raised on our behalf from a number of events as well as individual donations both one-off and regular. The split of expenditure in unrestricted funds is shown in the chart below:



There are also two restricted funds: NVPR where funds are donated specially for the support of a specific case; and Cambridge4Ukraine. These funds have sufficient receipts to cover all expenses.

Reserves Policy

The charity aims to hold up to six months expenditure as a reserve in unrestricted cash so that the charity could continue to operate should income or expense vary adversely. At the year end, the charity held unrestricted cash of £55,809.

Signature

This report was approved by the trustees, and is signed on their behalf by:

Name	Catharine Walston, Acting Chair of Trustees
Signature	
Date	19 November 2025

Receipts & Payments Statement

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior Year
Receipts				
Donations & Legacies				
Donations	16,997	28,731	45,727	77,633
Gift Aid	0	2,527	2,527	0
Grants	55,524	0	55,524	0
Other income	1598		1598	
Total receipts	77,158	31,258	108,416	77,633
Payments				
Charitable Activities				
Activities	78,099	8,186	86,285	76,850
Admin	1,924	1	1,924	0
Advertising	215	0	215	0
Premises	0	16,343	16,343	0
Staff Costs	0	0	0	0
Governance Costs				
Governance Costs	475	0	475	0
Total payments	80,713	24,530	105,244	76,850
Net Receipts / Payments (before transfers)	-3,555	6,728	3,173	783
Fund Transfers In	1,460	0	1,460	0
Fund Transfers Out	1,460	0	1,460	0
Net Movement of Cash Funds	-3,555	6,728	3,173	783
Total Cash Funds Brought Forward	59,364	13,582	72,946	72,162
Total Cash Funds Carried Forward	55,809	20,309	76,119	72,945
Represented By				
CRRC unrestricted (Unrestricted)	41,748	0	41,748	59,364
NVPR (Restricted)	0	14,393	14,393	4,423
Cambridge4Ukraine (Restricted)	0	5,916	5,916	9,158
Angela Webster Education Trust (Designated)	899	0	899	0
National Lottery Community Fund (Designated)	13,163	0	13,163	0
Evelyn Trust (Designated)	0	0	0	0

Asset & Liability Statement

Cash Assets

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Prior Year
CRRC unrestricted (Unrestricted)	41,748	0	41,748	59,364
NVPR (Restricted)	0	14,393	14,393	4,423
Cambridge4Ukraine (Restricted)	0	5,916	5,916	9,158
Angela Webster Education Trust (Designated)	899	0	899	0
National Lottery Community Fund (Designated)	13,163	0	13,163	0

Signature

These accounts have been approved by the trustees, and are signed on their behalf by:
Catharine Walston, Acting Chair of Trustees

19 November 2025

We acknowledge grants received from:
The Ann Docwra Area Meeting Fund
The Hilden Charitable Fund
National Lottery Awards for All
Cambridge Aid
Cambridge City Council
Cambridgeshire County Council
Cambridgeshire Community Foundation
The Evelyn Trust
Big Lottery Community Fund
Angela Webster Education Trust

Movement of Funds

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Fund Transfers	Closing Balance
Unrestricted					
CRRC unrestricted (Unrestricted)	59,364	50,135	69,211	1,460	41,748
Total	59,364	50,135	69,211	1,460	41,748
Designated					
Angela Webster Education Trust (Designated)	0	2,100	1,201	0	899
National Lottery Community Fund (Designated)	0	19,950	6,787	0	13,163
Evelyn Trust (Designated)	0	4,974	3,514	-1,460	0
Total	0	27,024	11,502	-1,460	14,062
Unrestricted Total	59,364	77,158	80,713	0	55,809
Restricted					
NVPR (Restricted)	4,423	30,813	20,843	0	14,393
Cambridge4Ukraine (Restricted)	9,158	445	3,687	0	5,916
Total	13,582	31,258	24,530	0	20,309
Restricted Total	13,582	31,258	24,530	0	20,309
TOTAL	72,946	108,416	105,244	0	76,119

Notes to the Accounts

Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession have determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not (and cannot) be prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

Transactions to Related Parties

There were no transactions with related parties during the accounting period.

Independent Examiners Report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign ('the charity') for the year ended 30/06/2025.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

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 2011 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent Examiner's Details

Name: Hilary Seaward

Address: 9 Sherlock Road, Cambridge, CB3 0HR

Name HILARY SEAWARD

Signature

Date 15 September 2025

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation and thanks to the following groups and individuals who have helped and supported us over the year:

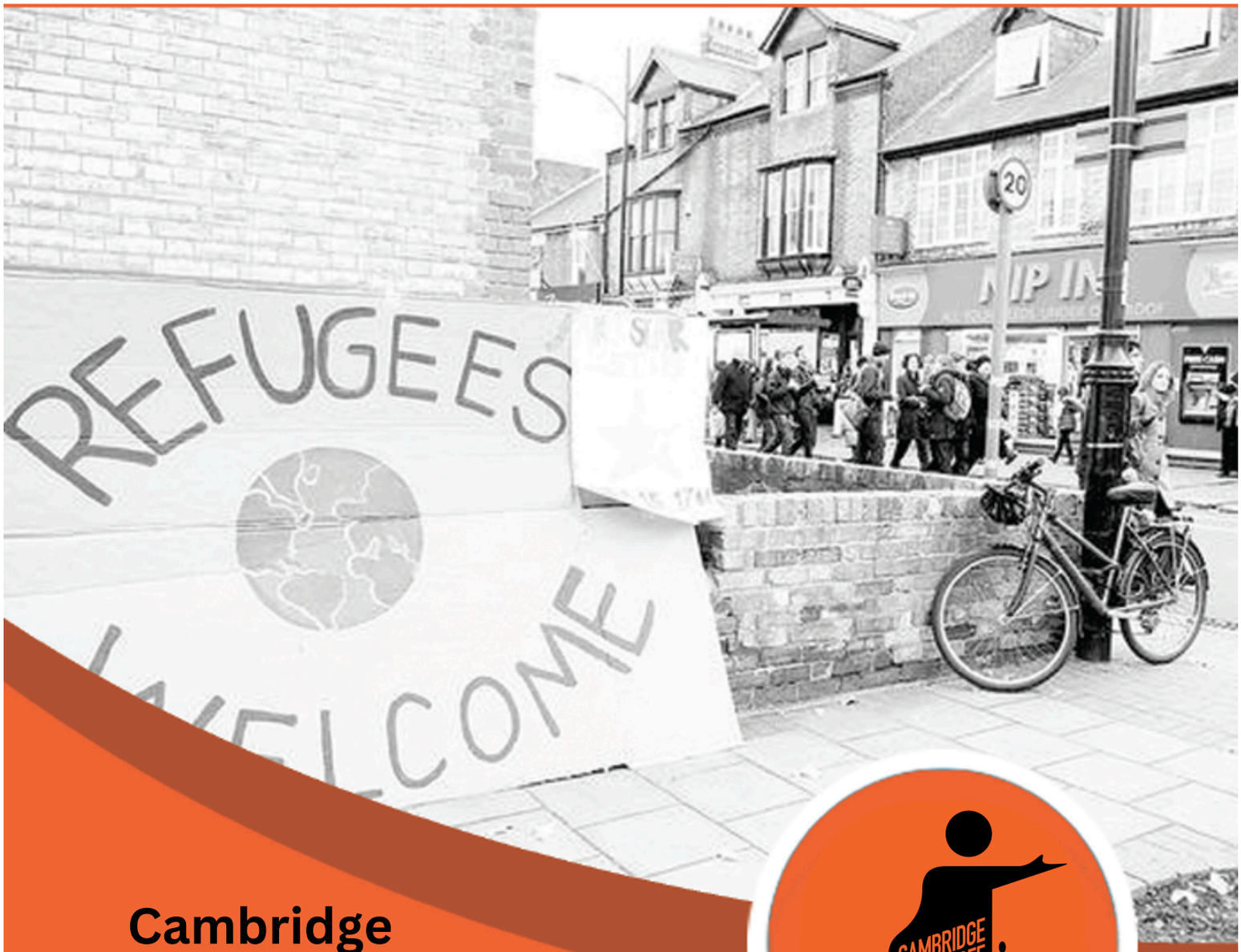
A Learning Place
Al Amin Stores
Al Casbah restaurant
The Angela Webster Education Trust
Anglia Ruskin University
Ann Docwra Area Meeting Fund
Meltem Avcil
Jeff Bruner
Cambridge Aid
Cambridge Botanic Gardens
Cambridge Carbon Footprint
Cambridge City Council
Cambridge Coffee Academy
Cambridge Econometrics
Cambridge Junction
Cambridge Philharmonic
Cambridgeshire Community Foundation
Cambridgeshire County Council
Cam:Care and Shrobona Bhattachariya
Caroline Chambers
Children of Nepal
Coffee World UK and the Aboukhshem family
Comberton Village College
CUPA
The family and friends of Jean Ila Currie
Delhicious Skincare
Dorling Kindersley
Downing Place URC
East Leightonstone Parish and Brampton Hub
The Evelyn Trust
Experience Cambridge
Friends Meeting House Jesus Lane
Galleria restaurant
Sue Gowling and Sustainable Tech4Good
Great St Mary's Church
H.E.L.P.
Hilden Charitable Trust
Homerton Changemakers
Huntingdon Rotary Club
ILC
Indus Festival
Jack's Gelato
Kan Zaman restaurant
Dr Ed Kessler
Kipu Orchestra
The Liberation Cycle
La Maison du Steak
Susan Mealing
Midan World Foods
National Lottery Community Fund
Naz's Kitchen
Oblique Arts
OUP
Petit Ensemble
St Bene't's Church, Cambridge
St James's Church, Cambridge
St Mary's Primary School
Sancton Wood School
Soroptimist International Cambridge
Thomas Coram Research Unit
University Arms Hotel
Vodafone

To volunteer, donate or otherwise offer support, please visit our website or email us at admin@cambridgerefugees.org

CAMBRIDGE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT CAMPAIGN

England & Wales - Charity number 1172836

Accounts



Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign

Annual Report & Financial Statement

Period ended 30 June 2024

Registered Charity (CIO Foundation) in England: 1172836

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign (CRRC) is a volunteer-led, Cambridge-based organisation providing a broad range of support, assistance, and activities for refugees and asylum seekers in our local communities.

CRRC c/o Friends Meeting House • 12 Jesus Lane
Cambridge CB5 8BA • UK

Editor
Catharine Walston

Editorial assistant
Josh Abbott

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Cover photo
Chris Cellier

Published
January 2025

Queries regarding CRRC should be directed to:
info@cambridgerefugees.org

A warm thanks to everyone who has contributed to this report

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Organisational Information

Board of Trustees as of 30 June 2024

Dan Ellis
Ann Goodridge
Adrian Matthews
Heidi Radke
Sarah Santhosham
Andrii Smytsniuk
Sue Spencer
(Michael) Robert Turner
Catharine Walston

Registered address

CRRC c/o Friends Meeting House, 12 Jesus Ln, Cambridge CB5 8BA.

Constitution

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign (CRRC) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO – foundation, number 1172836) registered on 2 May 2017 with the Charity Commission for England, followed by a transfer of assets from the Unincorporated Association (UIA) of the same name on 1 July 2017.

Bank

Cooperative Bank, PO Box 101, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester M60 4EP

Report of the Trustees

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual report and financial statement for the year ended 30 June 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out by the Charities Commission and comply with the charity's constitution.

Introduction

Welcome to CRRC's Annual Report for the year ended June 2024. This was a challenging period for the refugee support sector with three changes of Home Secretary, each equally keen to demonstrate 'toughness' with regard to immigration. The Government's Illegal Migration Act, passed in July 2023, imposed a duty on the Home Secretary to detain and deport anyone, even those seeking asylum, who had arrived in the UK by irregular means, in contravention of the UK's international obligations under the Geneva Convention. This was followed by the Safety of Rwanda Act, which passed in April 2024, despite many politicians of all parties being deeply uncomfortable with designating a third country safe for asylum-seekers when the UK Supreme Court had ruled that it was not.

Locally, the Dolphin Hotel in St Ives, which housed around 70 men seeking asylum, some of whom had sought our help, closed in December 2023. Those who had not yet received a Home Office decision were moved to Peterborough or Nottingham. The Best Western Hotel at Bar Hill was opened for single women and for families seeking asylum in March 2023, housing around 240 people, over a third of whom were children. In the current year, we started to see these families being granted leave to remain and housed by South Cambridgeshire District Council. These families do not benefit from Government funding for refugee families on resettlement schemes and usually require our support. Similarly, Ukrainian families not on the Homes for Ukraine scheme have also required help to furnish their homes when offered Council housing.

We have continued to work closely with Cambridge City Council and with other local partners to ensure that we do not see the same levels of refugee homelessness and destitution reported in other areas.

As ever, we are extremely grateful to all our volunteers for their dedication, compassion and hard work. We'd also like to thank the many individuals, faith groups, trusts and foundations who have generously supported us.

Who we are

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign (CRRC) began as a community group in 2015 before becoming an Unincorporated Association in March 2016. We registered with the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 2 May 2017. CRRC is entirely volunteer-led and relies on volunteers' time and donations to deliver its statement of purpose. It is led by the Board of Trustees, and its activities are coordinated by a Core Committee.

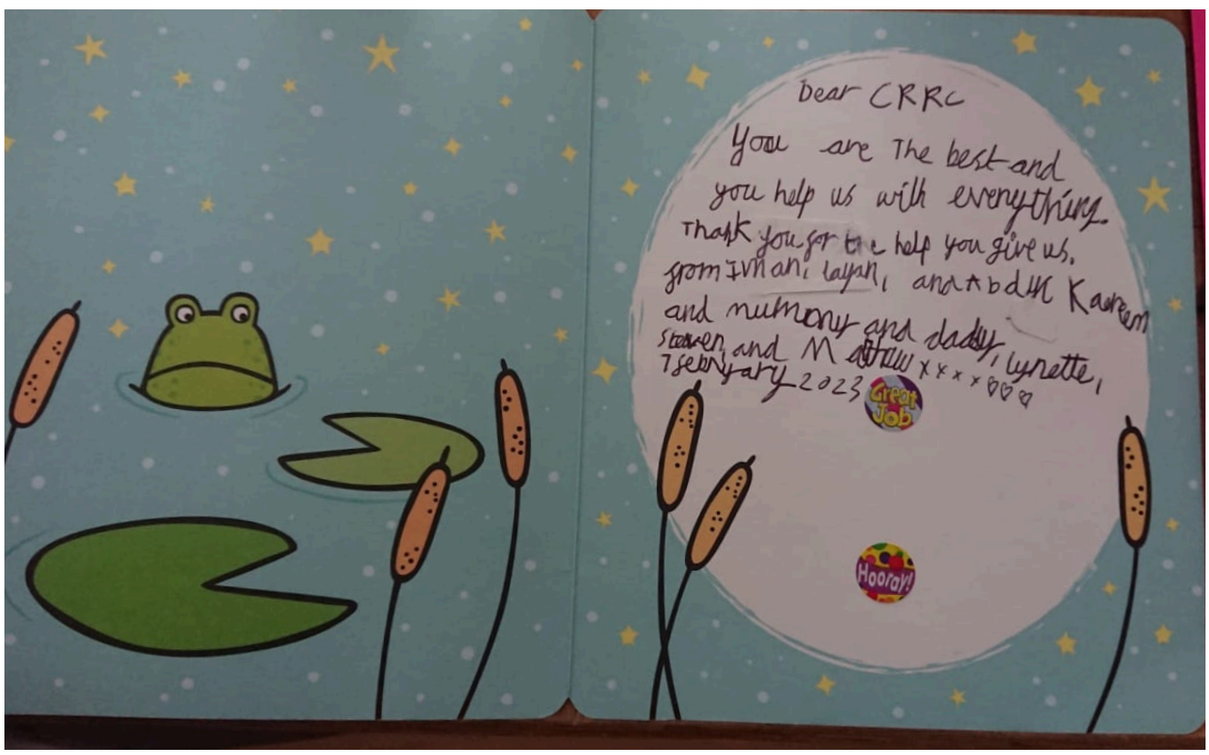
Areas of activity include family support, donations, DIY, education (children's tutors), ESOL, gardening, IT provision, employability and mobility, activities, socials and holiday programmes. We have around 150 active volunteers.

We work closely with Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Huntingdon District Council, Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum, and a range of other partners, including the East of England Strategic Migration Partnership, Anglia Ruskin University, University of Cambridge Centre for the Study of Global Human Movement, Cambridge University Press & Assessment, Cambridge Foodbank and GYROS. CRRC has been a member of Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service since 2016.

Meeting our charitable objectives

Over the reporting period, we have continued in our aim to facilitate the resettlement and integration of displaced people into our community. We accept referrals from refugees themselves or from other individuals, organisations, or authorities.

Refugees settling in Cambridge and Cambridgeshire are assisted by us in their settling-in process, while local communities are able to engage with our efforts to foster and promote diversity and social cohesion. Relevant statutory authorities, politicians, and others involved in policy-making and decision-making on issues affecting refugees benefit from our experience and are supported in the delivery of their statutory functions. We have also continued in our mission to engage and inform by giving talks to local groups and schools and promoting refugee-related issues and events on our social media.



Risks and strategy

During the financial year ending June 2024, the trustees considered the major risks to which the charity was exposed. The main risks identified during this period were:

Service users
There has been a sharp increase in the number and needs of service users. Resettlement families receive support from Council caseworkers but usually have additional needs. They often find themselves in financial difficulties due to the imposition of the Benefit Cap on their Universal Credit payments and the high cost of living in our area. Those who have come through the asylum system receive very limited support from local government. There is a severe shortage of ESOL provision. The Regional College has no creche facilities, which restricts access for women with young children. Our strategy has been to remain responsive and flexible. We have sought to establish closer ties with other groups in order to signpost to specialist assistance and have offered hardship grants where necessary. We will look to address the issue of ESOL provision.

Financial Security of CRRC
Our principal source of funding is now through grants from charitable trusts and foundations. We also benefit from personal gifts, donations from faith groups and businesses, and payroll giving. The demands on our resources are increasing. We aim to maintain reserves of 3-6 months of annual spend to enable the orderly winding down of support services to families in the event of unforeseen changes in income or the operating environment.

Operational Risks
CRRC carries out risk assessments for all activities to ensure that risks are understood. CRRC has continued to review and update policies and procedures around some key risk areas including safeguarding and Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.

Services

Family support

Over the reporting period there was a significant growth in the number and type of families CRRC supported. At the 1st of July 2023 - the start of the reporting period - CRRC had registered 60 families (excluding Ukrainians) on our main database over the 7 ½ years of the organisation's existence. These were mostly families resettled under Government schemes who arrive with accommodation ready for them and casework support from the local authority. By 30 June 2024 that number had increased to 91. Of the 31 new families registered with us, 23 were from Afghanistan. The number of Ukrainian families we assisted also increased significantly over the period from 25 to 60 families.

A distinct new trend in families registering with us from December 2023 was from former asylum seekers granted refugee status. In the six months to the end of June 2024 we had assisted 11 such families. Cambridgeshire has had two major asylum hotels – one accommodating single men and another accommodating families and single women. Asylum seekers are required to leave their hotel accommodation within a very narrow timeframe once granted refugee status. At risk of homelessness, families approach the local authority in which they lived while seeking asylum and are generally housed in temporary accommodation in the first instance pending a move to a more settled tenancy.

Families from Afghanistan
The Home Office completed a programme to end the use of temporary hotel accommodation for resettled Afghans by September 2023. In August 2023, we saw seven Afghan families who had been living in hotel accommodation in Eddington move into new build flats in north Cambridge. Over the rest of the reporting period, more families arrived into the county under the ARAP or ACRS schemes in addition to at least three families who had arrived as asylum seekers. While some were placed in Cambridge, others were housed in South Cambridgeshire villages including the new development at Northstowe.

Families and individuals from Ukraine
Ukrainian families assisted were mostly women with children and/or an elderly parent or elderly couples. Most of the women with children had arrived in the UK at the start of the war to live with a 'host' family under the 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme and were moving on into their own accommodation, whether private rented, housing association or local authority. Elderly couples had often arrived to join younger family members already working or studying in the UK when the war broke out. We saw a distinct trend of elderly couples or individuals moving into sheltered or supported accommodation.

Following discussions with Cambridge City Council, a funding stream was found to provide Ukrainian families moving from Homes for Ukraine 'hosted' accommodation with basic white goods, beds and a sofa in their new accommodation. However, many household essentials (dining table, vacuum cleaner, curtains, carpet) were not included in the package and no funding at all was available to support those moving on from living with family members.

We took the opportunity offered by the Council to apply for a £5,000 grant to help Ukrainian families moving on with the costs of furnishing their accommodation. The grant funding was available from the end of October 2023, and by the end of June 2024 we had provided substantial help to 24 families. As well as purchases using the grant funding, we put out appeals for donations through social media and received huge local support in providing needed items, from tables and chairs to sofas, wardrobes, and even an electric piano. CRRC volunteers coordinated the collection and delivery of donated items to beneficiary families.

Brampton / Huntingdon area support

At the start of the financial year there were eight CRRC-registered refugee families living in Brampton and two in Huntingdon, all from Afghanistan under the Government ARAP/ACRS schemes. Three more families arrived in July/ August 2023, two from Afghanistan, one from Georgia (the latter are still seeking LTR). With help from Cambridge Aid, we arranged visits to Emmaus for the Afghan families. In October 2023, one of the Afghan families emigrated to the US, but within a few months decided to return to the UK; the other families joined forces to help them settle back in the country (finding property, loans, a car, etc.)

Most of the men had part-time work (e.g., from working in restaurants, supermarkets and food delivery to self-employment and working in admin in a nearby prison) and/or were in training (e.g., to obtain UK medical qualifications, an MOT examiner certificate, a taxi licence).

All the women attended weekly CRRC-organised English Conversation Lessons until April 2024. For six women needing further lessons, CRRC organised private 1-to-1 tuition, with funding assistance from the local CofE church. These lessons were scheduled to end in July 24, as all the women had by then obtained a place on the Functional English course at Huntingdon Regional College.

Many families had acquired a car by June 2024, and one of women had started driving lessons. CRRC enabled the families to obtain CCF energy grants of £400 each in late 2023; only one family was unsuccessful, their current energy debt being too high.

Several families regularly attended CRRC socials at Mayfield School and most families joined the CRRC outings during the year. In May 2024, CRRC organised a day out at Buckden Towers for the women and their pre-school children.

Overall, the families settled in well during the year and grew stronger as a community, socially and in terms of mutual help. All the children appeared to flourish at school, and some moved on to college in Huntingdon or Cambridge.

Gardening group

The gardening group visited 10 families during the reporting period, including four new families from Afghanistan and two from Sudan, and one Afghan family and three single parents they had previously assisted. After an initial visit and discussion with each new family, basic gardening tools were provided, according to need, and this typically included a push-mower, electric fly mower, spades, watering-cans, trowels and secateurs. Most of the families have been housed with large gardens, needing an electric mower which we were given or bought from Cambridge Freecycle. A lot of the families wanted to help us in the garden. We try to respond to specific requests such as potatoes, tomatoes, broad beans, courgettes, a range of herbs and flowers. We were given strawberry plants and different varieties of herbs from a local garden centre for a new family living in Saffron Walden. We also gave them lavender and jasmine which they helped to plant in their back garden.

We continued to help with the gardens of three single-parent families in the city. This has mostly involved mowing and clearing weeds plus providing seeds. Although our aim is for all families to become independent gardeners, this is unlikely to happen while each of these parents has so many other issues to manage. We regularly liaise with CRRC's donations and DIY teams. We are fortunate that all the garden group are experienced and knowledgeable gardeners who have been prepared to turn up and work on a regular basis.

Donations and DIY

The donations team delivered practical support to refugees needing to furnish houses and flats. They visited refugees to audit requirements. Requests were then sent out across CRRC's networks to source items. Donations were collected, delivered, and, sometimes, stored either in the CRRC garage or at any other available premises. Donations were laid out at CRRC's social events and guests were encouraged to help themselves. Clothes and tableware, along with vases, pictures and more decorative items, proved to be popular. The team helped with fixing broken drawers and wardrobes, installing gates and sheds, repairing doors, and hanging mirrors, TVs and curtain rails.

IT provision

We delivered 70 laptops (45 to Ukraine refugees, 25 to those from elsewhere), 18 Chromebooks (14/4) and 20 mobile phones (15/5), as well as several dozen SIM cards. SIM cards were provided to us by Vodafone under their Communities Connected programme. The initial project of provision of IT for Ukrainians in 2022-2023 has now been incorporated into the general IT provision as new Ukrainian arrivals have slowed. We are particularly grateful to Emil Hovsepyan for managing the Ukrainian IT provision between April 2022 and May 2024.

All of these devices have helped our beneficiaries access essential services, complete schoolwork, apply for jobs, undertake training and stay in touch with wider family and friends. Sustainable Tech for Good (formerly Laptops for Learning) remain our supplier of choice, also partnering with us to allow donated tech to be securely wiped and re-used.

Mobility

Over the year, the demand for driving lessons increased. We assisted six service users to pass their tests, three Afghan men and three Syrian women. Driving is an important employability skill and necessary for large families, many of whom are now housed outside the city. Funding for a limited number of lesson hours is made available once the applicant has passed their theory test. For experienced drivers, this is 10 hours, and for beginners, this is 20 hours.

For those within the city and for school-age children, we endeavour to source secondhand bicycles. Towards the end of the year, we established a new partnership with The Liberation Cycle, a local charity dedicated to maintaining the well-being of those in need on low incomes and to decarbonising local travel. In May and June 2024 alone, they supplied 12 bicycles to CRRC families. We are very grateful for their support.

ESOL for adults

We continued to meet the needs of those (mainly women) who were unable to access formal English classes. In addition to the discrete initiative in Brampton, from September 23 until June 24, qualified English language volunteer teachers and child carers continued to provide targeted support for 8 women in a venue in central Cambridge. Two of the women had come to the UK to join husbands who already had leave to remain and had been referred to CRRC for language support. In the first part of the year, the focus for the group was on practical English conversation and vocabulary. It was a mixed ability group but all the students made some progress. As the year progressed, the focus moved to preparation for the relevant language and citizenship tests. Three learners successfully achieved their qualifications by the end of the academic year. There was less need for childcare support as most of the children from the previous year had progressed into school. Towards the end of the year only one learner with a child attended classes and provision of suitable childcare became problematic as child carers were no longer available. As in previous years, fares to the class were reimbursed so that lack of money was not a barrier to attendance.

One to one support by a qualified ESOL teacher continued for two refugee doctors who needed to improve their English in order to work towards the required examinations. With the teacher's support, both were able to transfer to funded language provision. The teacher also provided extended support with applications and interviews for one of the doctors, leading to his acceptance for a job as a Healthcare Support Worker. In the second case, there was a successful progression to a higher-level language exam.

A number of new families, particularly from Afghanistan, were located, or in some cases relocated, to less central areas of Cambridge. This made provision of language support challenging. Most of the women in this group had a beginner level of English and in one case a very low level of literacy. Some support was provided by experienced ESOL teachers teaching in the home, usually with young children present. This highlighted a need, as we go forward, to locate a suitable teaching venue, to recruit and support additional teachers, and re-establish a group of childcare volunteers. CRRC has also continued to support a project which provides daily online classes for Ukrainians.

Educational support for children

We have benefitted from consistent support for school-age children from a team of 20 experienced primary and secondary school teachers who provide subject-specific as well as language development. This is an important and much appreciated means of support for families. Many school-age children from CRRC's beneficiaries have been enrolled in the one-to-one tuition programme provided by the CRRC children's tuition team. Some pre-school children have also had support from tutors. CRRC volunteers were matched with the families and normally met the children once a week. The aim of this support is to help the children to develop language skills, encourage conceptual understanding, increase knowledge of their cultural community, and to build their confidence and self-esteem.

The one-to-one teachers supporting school-age children have often helped with liaising with a child's school so that the child was supported in following the curriculum at the appropriate level. Many of the English tutors worked with different families.

Activities and culture

The hard work put in by everyone involved in the activities team this year has been much appreciated. Many families have come along to the various events and all have said how much they enjoyed them. We are very grateful to The Evelyn Trust and Cambridgeshire Community Foundation for funding our activities.

Despite a very rainy August day, 43 adults and 57 children attended an excursion to Shepreth Wildlife Park, travelling on coaches from Cambridge and Huntingdon. The families were rewarded for their determination, as the rain abated in the afternoon, and explored the park to see the wide range of animals, from rabbits to tigers. The brave ones visited the bat room, where the bats flew freely around you! At lunchtime the children enjoyed the indoor play area and families were able to enjoy their picnics and catch up with one another.

The temperature rose to over 30C for our picnic on Jesus Green in September. 10 families joined us with the children enjoying the playground, some football and some tennis. Families chatted and shared food in the shade.

In December there was a trip to the Cambridge Junction to see Hansel and Gretel, with thanks to the Junction who gave us free tickets and ice creams. In March we went to the Cambridge Botanic Gardens, where families learnt about how carnivorous plants feed on insects and saw some in real life. After the session, there was the opportunity to explore the Gardens. In May, we were invited by curator Dr Prerona Prasad to visit the Issam Kourbaj exhibition, entitled “You are not you and home is not home”, at Downing College’s Heong Gallery. Issam’s work is an artistic response in mixed media to the Syrian war and the experience of displacement.

Seven social afternoons were held at a large primary school in Cambridge organised by a small team of volunteers. Anywhere between 10 and 30 families attended these socials, bringing food to share and taking advantage of the opportunity to chat. The children played games outside including football and generally ran around having fun. For the quieter ones, there were always indoor crafting activities. Volunteers coordinated the kitchen and set up a donations table so that families could take things they need. Volunteers also helped with transport.

Cambridge4Ukraine (C4U)

Between July 2023 and June 2024, Cambridge4Ukraine had the privilege of completing our biggest project so far – Ukrainian Saturday School 'Mriya' (the Ukrainian word for a dream). This project would have been impossible without help from the Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign. It was financed by the Refugee Council through a £10,000 grant received by CRRC as a registered charity and administered by Cambridge4Ukraine.

Ukrainian School 'Mriya' had two stages: in the first, it worked as a regular school where each Saturday over 60 Ukrainian children divided into three age groups attended three hours of classes in Ukrainian language and enjoyed a meal with their peers. There were 54 hours of classes delivered in total in this stage. In the second stage, Cambridge4Ukraine organised 17 Saturday workshops in Ukrainian in areas such as art, crafting, Ukrainian traditions and songs, financial education, and workshops with the aim of developing social and emotional intelligence for children. These workshops were attended by over 200 people, including children and their parents. All workshops were delivered by displaced Ukrainians, which provided them with additional income, and for many, it was their first work experience in the UK. This gave teachers an opportunity to request references for their work at the Saturday school, helping those who could not get a reference letter in English from their previous employers. We were able to provide recommendations to all teachers who requested them, and many were able to secure employment in the UK.

Overall, £10,271.41 was spent on most school activities - £8,037 was used to pay for teachers' services and £2,234.41 was spent on school materials, most of which were donated to the students or teachers after the workshops. We were also able to raise funds independently to provide payment to the teaching assistants who were also recruited from a community of displaced Ukrainians.

Additionally, in partnership with the climbing school Urban Uprising and CRRC, we were able to provide a climbing course to 10 Ukrainian children. The money for this course was paid from our CRRC account.

These two projects provided Ukrainian children with educational opportunities, and most importantly, with socialisation. Many of the parents were worried as their children were often struggling to adapt to their life in the UK and to make friends with other children who spoke a language different from their mother tongue. By far, the most important achievement of these two projects is that the children and their parents had a space to meet their peers and make friends, which assisted their life in the UK.

C4U organised a number of events open to Ukrainian refugees. We organised a trip to a charitable polo tournament (in partnership with the Cambridge and Newmarket Polo Club), three music concerts, and three film screenings. The money raised at these events was transferred to Hospitallers Ukraine Aid (Charity No. 1200534).

In addition to this, we received a £1,980 grant from Cambridge City Council for welcome packs. This aid was provided in the form of sets of essentials such as food, stationery, hygiene and household cleaning products. We provided 74 welcome packs, costing a total amount of £1,988.03.

Cooperation with CRRC has been invaluable to C4U and has allowed us to raise funds and complete projects which we would not otherwise have been able to do.

Andrii Smytsniuk
Chairman of Cambridge4Ukraine
Trustee of Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign

Communications and Outreach

Our newsletter has continued to be published quarterly to almost 500 subscribers and is further disseminated through the City of Sanctuary Faith Groups network. Our Facebook group has 1,500 members and our Twitter/X feed is followed by 1,200 accounts. In common with other organisations in the sector, we have opened a Bluesky account and will be using this in preference to Twitter/X, which has seen a big increase in misinformation and harassment.

The dental survey work conducted in the previous reporting year provided evidence submitted to the Parliamentary Select Committee on Health and Social Care in January 2023. This was cited in the Committee's report on access to NHS dentistry, published in early July 2023.

We continued our support for national campaigns against the Illegal Migration Bill, the Safety of Rwanda Bill and the use of barges, barracks and hotels to house asylum seekers. We supported South Cambridgeshire District Council's call for Christmas gifts for the 90 children in the Bar Hill hotel by organising a collection at Jesus Lane Friends Meeting House and then delivering to Bar Hill.

We encouraged some of our young beneficiaries to take part in a ONS/Refugee Education UK survey, while some of our trustees took part in a ICB-funded research project with Anglia Ruskin University, looking at barriers to accessing health care for refugees.

We were invited to give presentations to Ely City Amnesty Group and also to the Homerton Changemakers. Volunteers spoke to students at St Mary's Primary School, Coleridge Community College and Comberton Village College. We were also asked to attend a symposium on 'Migration, Identity and Memory' at Pembroke College and to participate in a BBC Newsnight On the Road programme from the Imperial War Museum, Duxford.

Trustees attended the launch of the Report by the Commission on the Integration of Refugees at the Woolf Institute in May, and Cambridge City Council's Milestones and Pledges event in June, celebrating the city's response to welcoming refugees.

CRRC Trustees Annual Report & Financial Statement
Year ended 30 June 2024

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign

Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)
For the year to 30 June 2024

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Income				
Donations and legacies	52,373	25,261	77,634	109,613
Total income	**52,373**	**25,261**	**77,634**	**109,613**
Expenditure				
Charitable activities	48,789	28,061	76,850	95,101
Total expenditure	**48,789**	**28,061**	**76,850**	**95,101**
Net income for the year	**3,585**	**-2,800**	**784**	**14,512**
Balances at 1 July	53,988	18,175	72,219	57,650
Transfer between funds	-1,793	1,793	-	-
Balances at 30 June	**59,364**	**13,582**	**72,946**	**72,162**

All of the above funds are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.

Balance Sheet
as at 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	72,946	72,162
Net current assets	**72,946**	**72,162**
Total net assets	**72,946**	**72,162**
Funds		
General reserve	59,364	53,988
Restricted funds	13,582	18,175
	72,946	**72,162**

We acknowledge grants received from:

The Ann Docwra Area Meeting Fund
The Hilden Charitable Fund
National Lottery Awards for All
Cambridge City Council United with Ukraine
Cambridgeshire Community Foundation
The Evelyn Trust
Homerton Changemakers
The Spectris Foundation
Bauer Media Cash for Kids

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign (Charity number 1172836) on the accounts for the year ended 30 June 2024

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.
It is my responsibility to:

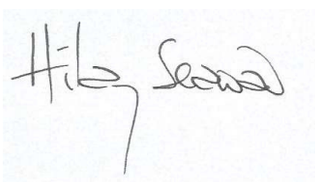
- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

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 trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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



Hilary Seaward

9 Sherlock Road
Cambridge, CB3 0HR

9 December 2024

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation and thanks to the following groups and individuals who have helped and supported us over the year:

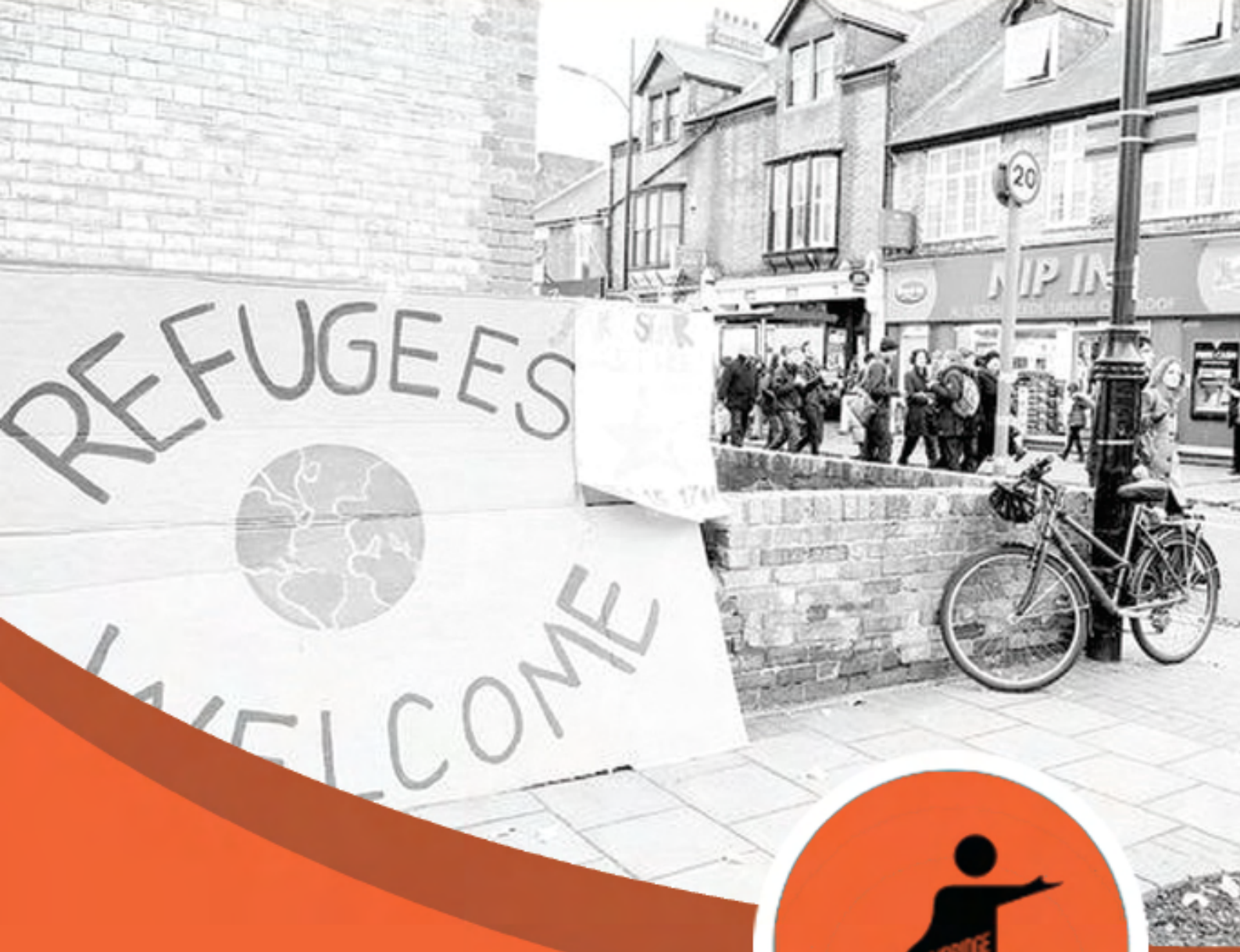
Ann Docwra Area Meeting Fund
Meltem Avcil
Bango.com
BEAM
Cambridge Aid
Cambridge Botanic Gardens
Cambridge Carbon Footprint
Cambridge City Council United with Ukraine
Cambridge Econometrics
Cambridge Junction
Cambridge United Foundation
Cambridgeshire Community Foundation
Coleridge Community College
Comberton Village College
Computer Aid International
CUPA
Dorling Kindersley
East Leightonstone Parish and Brampton Hub
The Evelyn Trust
Sue Gowling and Sustainable Tech4Good
Great St Mary's Church
H.E.L.P.
Hilden Charitable Trust
Homerton Changemakers
ILC
Kalamna
Dr Ed Kessler
The Liberation Cycle
Susan Mealing
National Lottery Community Fund
OUP
Petit Ensemble
Prerona Prasad and the Heong Gallery, Downing College
St James's Church, Cambridge
St Mary's Primary School
Shoe Aid UK
Vodafone

To volunteer, donate or otherwise offer support, please visit our website or email us at info@cambridgerefugees.org

CAMBRIDGE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT CAMPAIGN

England & Wales - Charity number 1172836

Accounts



Cambridge
Refugee
Resettlement
Campaign

Annual Report & Financial Statement

Period ended 30 June 2023

Registered Charity (CIO Foundation) in England: 1172836

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign (CRRC) is a volunteer-led, Cambridge and Cambridgeshire based organisation providing a broad range of support, assistance, and activities for displaced persons within the local communities.

CRRC c/o Friends Meeting House · 12 Jesus Lane
Cambridge CB5 8BA · UK

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Cover photo
Chris Cellier

Published
April 2024

Queries regarding CRRC should be directed to:
info@cambridgerefugees.org

A warm thanks to all in CRRC who have contributed to the report.

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Administrative Details

Board of Trustees as of 30 June 2023

Amy Ellis
Dan Ellis
Amanda Hoey
Adrian Matthews
Kay Powell
Heidi Radke
Sarah Santhosham
Sue Spencer
(Michael) Robert Turner
Catharine Walston

Registered address

CRRC c/o Friends Meeting House, 12 Jesus Ln, Cambridge CB5 8BA.

Constitution

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign (CRRC) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO – foundation, number 1172836) registered on 2 May 2017 with the Charity Commission for England, followed by a transfer of assets from the Unincorporated Association (UIA) of the same name on 1 July 2017.

Bank

Cooperative Bank, PO Box 101, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester M60 4EP

Report of the Trustees

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual report and financial statement for the year ended 30 June 2023. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out by the Charities Commission and comply with the charity's constitution.

The Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign (CRRC) is a Cambridge and Cambridgeshire-based organisation. It became an Unincorporated Association in March 2016, before being registered with the Charity Commission as a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO Foundation) on 2 May 2017. CRRC is entirely volunteer-led and relies on volunteers' time and donations to deliver its statement of purpose. It is led by the Board of Trustees, and there is a Core Committee which coordinates the different areas in subgroups and is involved in behind-the-scenes operations. Each subgroup has one or more dedicated Trustee and other volunteer contact(s).

The reporting period for this report is July 2022 to June 2023 unless otherwise stated.

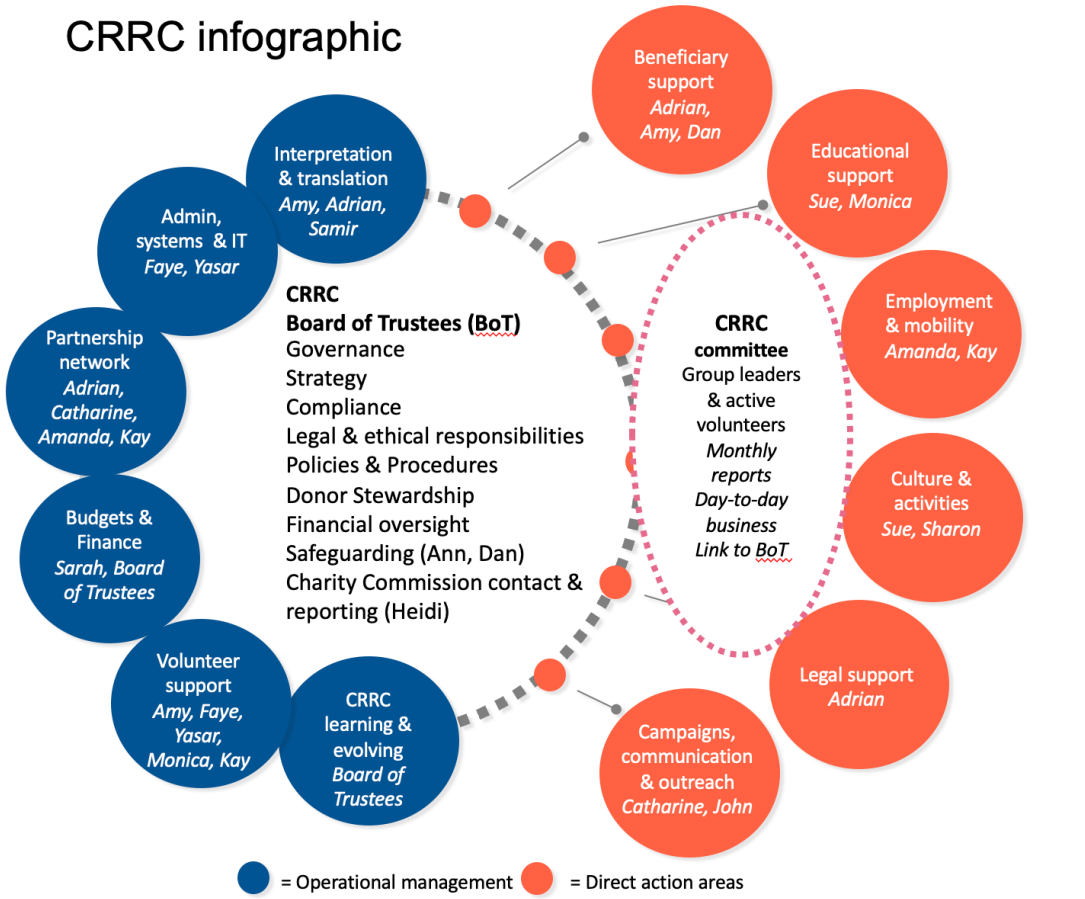
History of CRRC

On 15 December 2015, Cambridge welcomed the first refugees and their families resettled under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS). CRRC had established itself at that time as a community group in Cambridge at the height of the Syrian refugee crisis, campaigning for the resettlement of refugees.

At the start of our campaign, CRRC lobbied Cambridge City Council to agree to settle a minimum of 50 individual refugees in our city, pledging our support. The team was delighted when the target was increased to 100 by the City Council. By June 2019, over 100 individual refugees were being resettled under the Government's Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Schemes in Cambridge. The emphasis of CRRC's work was gradually focussing on assistance with personal and professional development opportunities and employment support. English-language support for adults and children, monthly socials, holiday activities, and direct family support remained key areas of CRRC's activities. The fall of Afghanistan to the Taliban and the Russian invasion of Ukraine necessitated a renewed emphasis on campaigning for and welcoming new arrivals, as well as adjusting to changes in the needs of support requested. In addition to welcoming and supporting these families and individuals, CRRC has been providing services and support to an increasing number of other refugees and asylum seekers who have been arriving in Cambridge and Cambridgeshire outside of the resettlement schemes.

CRRC has continued to work closely with Cambridge City, South Cambridge District Council, Huntingdon District Council, as well as the Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum, and organised or participated in events with a range of others. These partners include the East of England Strategic Migration Partnership, Cambridge University Student Action for Refugees, Anglia Ruskin University, City of Sanctuary, Cambridge Assessment English, CamCRAG, Cambridge United Football Club, Cambridge Central Mosque, Cambridge Community Fund and Cambridge Buddhist Centre. CRRC has been a member of Cambridge Council for Voluntary Services since 2016.

Structure, Governance, and Management



NVPR = refugees not associated with a Vulnerable Persons Resettlement (VPR) scheme

This is CRRC's sixth report as a CIO, during which it was governed by between 10 to 11 charity trustees at given times.

In July 2022, Ann Goodridge stepped down as chair and trustee due to personal reasons and was gratefully thanked for her contributions. Heidi Radke took over as chair of the Board of Trustees and Catharine Walston was established as chair of the Core Committee. Sarah Santhosham took over from Robin Turner as Treasurer, who very kindly agreed to stay on as a trustee.

The constitution provides for a minimum of five and a maximum of 12 trustees. Being a Foundation CIO, the only voting members are its trustees. Trustees are appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees. New trustees can be appointed by existing trustees. Any charity trustee is eligible for reappointment and can serve for three consecutive terms.

Trustees commit to giving their time and expertise freely. No trustee remuneration was paid during this period.

All relevant interests must be disclosed by trustees and registered with the other trustees. In accordance with the charity's best practice, a trustee must withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest arises. There were no such conflicts of interests or decision withdrawals in this period.

During the reporting period, Trustees met at least bi-monthly in video or hybrid meetings. Each meeting was chaired and minuted. quorum for trustee meetings is two charity trustees or the number nearest to one third of the total number of charity trustees, whichever is greater. Actions, approvals, charity progress, accounts, and any other business are reviewed in each meeting. Between meetings, trustees communicate using email and WhatsApp. The trustees review the broad strategy and areas of activity for the charity on a yearly basis.

Volunteers and Supporters

Our heartfelt thanks to all volunteers and supporters of CRRC for their commitment and their tremendous contributions to CRRC's work!

CRRC could not carry out its work without the tremendous contributions from its many volunteers and supporters. CRRC works in a collaborative manner, recognising that the nature of a volunteer-led group requires flexibility, whilst ensuring that it fulfils tasks that it commits to, within given timeframes to achieve its objectives. The organisation actively seeks and values volunteers from diverse backgrounds, life experiences and perspectives.

There has been a high level of ongoing engagement from potential volunteers getting in touch with CRRC to express their interest in being involved, suggesting that the operational model is effective.

Between July 2022 and June 2023, 29 new volunteers joined CRRC to take up a range of roles. The team completed basic and enhanced DBS checks for these volunteers, in line with UK Government requirements and according to their role. At the end of the financial year, CRRC had over 161 active volunteers, as well as further excellent applicants waiting for potential opportunities. The huge number of volunteer hours provided, and level of enthusiasm and dedication shown by our volunteers form a vital part of the CRRC community.

Several volunteer gatherings took place to allow volunteers to exchange ideas, and to introduce prospective volunteers to understand their potential role prior to signing up.

Beneficiaries

Who Benefits from CRRC's Activities?

- Refugees settling or resettled by the Local Authority predominantly in Cambridge and Cambridgeshire benefit by being assisted in their settling-in process and integration into the community.
- Local communities, including community and faith-based groups into which refugees are settling or being resettled, profit by fostering and promoting diversity and social cohesion.
- Relevant statutory authorities, politicians, and others involved in policy-making and decision-making on issues affecting refugees benefit by being supported in the delivery of their statutory functions.

CRRC accepts referrals from refugees themselves or from other individuals, organisations, or authorities, and considers whether assistance sought is consistent with the organisation's mandate and scope. Decisions on providing assistance are made at quorate meetings of the trustees or as otherwise permitted by the constitution. The trustees have regular meetings, where decisions are tabled at an open discussion. There is also the opportunity for suggestions to be submitted within our online group forum. Once decisions have been submitted, the trustees discuss and then vote for the preferred option. The trustees discuss and adapt to changing local and national circumstances and the needs of the beneficiaries.

Objectives and Activities for the Public Benefit

The Charity's Objectives

The Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign (CRRC) is constituted for the following purposes:

a) To promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of persons who have become displaced persons or refugees from the countries of their origin or domicile by reason of hostilities, persecution, oppression, discrimination, natural disasters, or other like causes, including through the relief of poverty, the advancement of education and training, and the promotion of good citizenship.

b) To advance the education of the public in general about issues relating to persons who have become displaced persons or refugees from the countries of their origin or domicile by reason of hostilities, persecution, oppression, discrimination, natural disasters, or other like causes.

The Charity's Main Activities

CRRC

- provides a range of **practical support** to refugees and liaises with local stakeholders. It works closely with county councils, district councils, city councils, local charities, and other organisations that support and campaign around refugee issues and enables the people of Cambridgeshire to volunteer to support refugees;
- provides **welcome packs** and secures **household necessities** for newly arrived refugees settling in Cambridgeshire;
- provides **emergency grants** to local refugees who are experiencing severe hardship, a disaster or emergency, and signposts or provides help to families on low incomes in applying for grants to help with the cost of living;
- facilitates and provides **language tuition** and interpreting services to refugees;
- assists refugees to develop **employability skills** and works with local employers to identify appropriate vacancies and other opportunities;
- supports mobility requirements through the provision of bicycles and support for passing the UK driving test;
- provides **funds** to refugees for participation in community-based social activities and for educational purposes;
- helps to prepare **accommodation** for refugees;
- organises **social events** for refugees and CRRC's volunteers;
- **informs** faith-based groups, community groups, politicians and other organisations and individuals where appropriate, about the situation of refugees and involves them in CRRC's projects;
- organises and co-organises **fundraising** events.

Benefits

In setting CRRC's objectives and planning our activities, the trustees have given due consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit:

By supporting and promoting the welfare and inclusion of all refugees predominantly in Cambridge and Cambridgeshire, there is a public benefit to refugees, local communities, and stakeholders in creating a welcoming and safe environment for refugees. CRRC achieves this by providing a range of practical support (including providing welcome packs and household necessities to refugees), organising social events for the refugees, CRRC volunteers and the local communities, and helping to prepare accommodation.

By supporting refugees to adapt to their new environment, the local communities benefit from refugees' contributions and involvement in the local community, whether by way of employment or social cohesion etc. In addition to the examples provided above, CRRC assists refugees to develop employability skills and works with local employers to identify appropriate opportunities.

By providing practical support to local authorities in accommodating refugees, both benefit from CRRC's assistance in overcoming logistical and economic challenges (among others) that can be experienced in the process of settling in. CRRC provides this assistance by, as mentioned above, helping to prepare accommodation for refugees.

By publicising and celebrating the contribution of refugees to local communities, UK society and culture, refugees, local communities and the public at large benefit from embracing diversity, and challenging hostility and discrimination in society. CRRC achieves this by organising social, advocacy and fundraising events for refugees, local communities, and volunteers. These activities help inform faith-based organisations, and community groups and other advocacy bodies on the plight of refugees and their contributions to UK society.

Risk Management

During the financial year ending June 2023, the trustees considered the major risks to which the charity was exposed, reviewed, and monitored them and put in place mitigation steps. The main risks that trustees identified during this period were:

External Environment

The hardship faced by CRRC's beneficiaries has been exacerbated by changes to the benefits system, the general cost of living crisis in the UK and misunderstandings about their responsibilities as benefits claimants. Some beneficiaries have suffered from hostility toward refugees or their religion in their locality. There have been increasing challenges to our beneficiaries, which has put pressure (in terms of time, commitment, and opportunities) on beneficiaries and volunteers working closely with the families. The organisation has worked to mitigate the impact of these challenges by assisting families and signposting them to relevant information and practical support. Where necessary, the organisation has provided emergency in-kind and financial support, and encouraged our beneficiaries and volunteers to adjust to changes by taking advice early.

Financial Security of CRRC

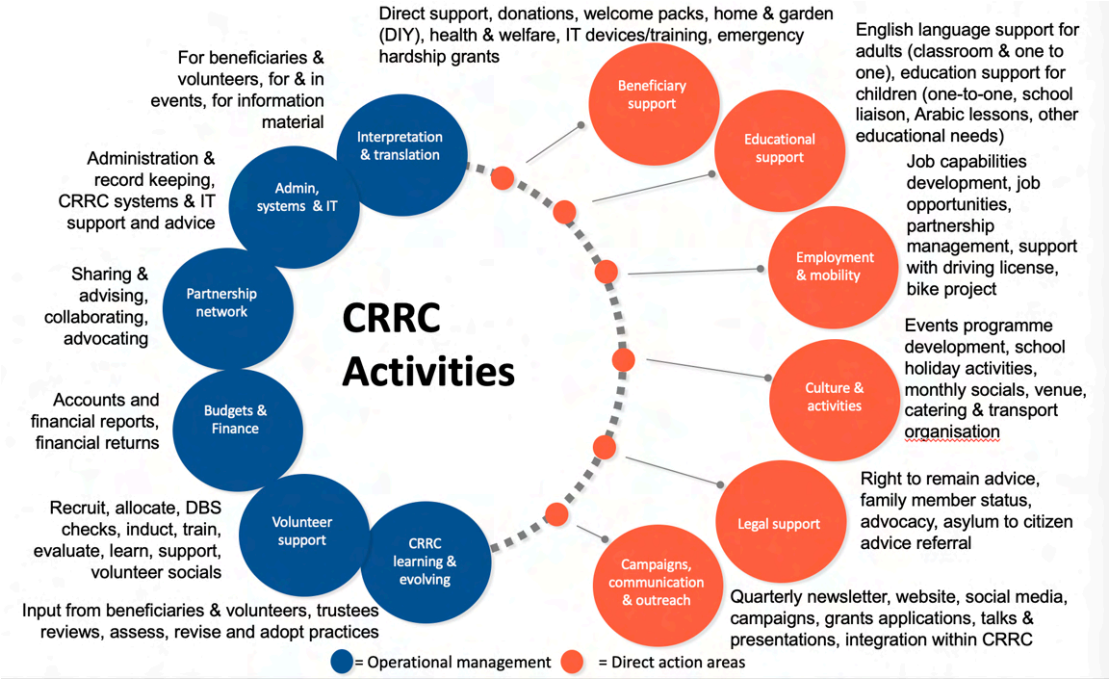
The ability to continue CRRC's work relies on monetary donations and donations in-kind from groups and individuals. The organisation encourages charitable giving from the local community through social media, fundraising events, and general promotion activities. Where appropriate, GiftAid for donations (when from individuals) is collected. In the event of a significant donation (over £10,000), CRRC will request the individuals'/companies' address details and undertake due diligence checks to satisfy the trustees as to the source of the donations and ensure that the prospective gift is aligned with the charity's objectives. Most payments are by cash, cheque, or bank transfer. There have been no concerns to date in relation to public donations, and a full income and expenditure database has been maintained. Donors' names are acknowledged in our external communications and accounts with the consent of the donor.

Operational Risks

CRRC carries out risk assessments for all activities to ensure that risks are understood, and policies and procedures are then put in place to mitigate these. CRRC has continued to review and update policies and procedures around some key risk areas including safeguarding and Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.

Achievements and Performance

CRRC's Activities in the Year July 2022 to June 2023



Support for Families and Individuals

Who did CRRC support over the reporting period?

CRRC continued to support families and individuals who had been arriving through the UK Government's VPRS schemes in addition to a individuals or families arriving via other routes, some of whom were asylum seekers.

The family support team

The family support team continued to provide a large variety of practical and emotional support through so-called focal-point volunteers. Focal points were asked to submit a summary of their actions at the end of each month. Requests were then either dealt with directly by family support team members (e.g., transport assistance, translation assistance, indefinite-leave-to-remain support, benefit support, housing support) or passed onto the relevant specialised team, be it donations, IT, gardening, DIY, bikes, driving, education, Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum (CECF) or Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB).

Teams were necessary where the needs of the recipient family remained high, usually due to considerable emotional and/or physical challenges. Focal point teams included native language speakers, to address difficulties due to illiteracy or with particular challenges with learning English.

Health and welfare support

Focal points assisted with health and welfare concerns of recipient families. CRRC provided welcome packs of food supplies. Focal points liaised with families and helped them purchase school uniforms for the children as well as new shoes, school bags and PE kits. Focal points helped several families deal with serious medical needs and disabilities, including help with PIP payments. Volunteers drove recipients to hospitals and medical appointments, sometimes at considerable distance from Cambridge, to undergo necessary medical procedures.

Core members of the family support team participated in child safeguarding meetings alongside assigned social and family workers to support a vulnerable family. Another family received practical and legal support and advice on how to navigate housing and legal status within the UK.

CRRC provided emergency hardship grants to local refugees who experience severe hardship or an emergency. This type of support was intended as a short-term solution rather than a long-term financial commitment. The application process for a hardship grant was overseen by the trustees and follows the emergency hardship grant policy. CRRC also acted as a distributor of vouchers for the Cambridge Food Bank for beneficiaries in especially difficult circumstances.

Support for the home

Donations

The donations team delivered practical support to refugees needing to furnish houses and flats. Activity fell into three basic categories:

1. Visiting refugees either in their new homes or before they took occupancy to audit requirements.
2. Putting out requests across CRRC and the wider network to source items.
3. Collecting and delivering donations and, to a lesser extent, storing items either in the CRRC garage or at any other available premises.

We continued to receive requests for white goods, and these could sometimes be sourced through donations. Any donated white goods must be PAT tested and certified before delivery, and we are grateful to the electricians who have kindly provided these services free-of-charge.

Donations were also laid out at CRRC's social events and guests were encouraged to help themselves. Clothes, tableware along with vases, pictures and more decorative items proved to be popular.

Many thanks to all our donors!
It is particularly gratifying to see how donors in the surrounding villages became our best local ambassadors, spreading the word among friends and neighbours.

DIY

The CRRC DIY team helped with fixing broken drawers and wardrobes, repairing doors, hanging up mirrors, TVs, curtain rails and dismantling and removing a broken trampoline from a family's back garden which was dangerous for the children.

Gardening project

The garden group visited and worked in the gardens of two recently arrived families from Afghanistan and one Ukrainian family and continued to support the gardens of two single-parent families in the city. Front and back gardens were cleared, basic gardening equipment was provided, and potatoes, broad beans, courgette, tomatoes, flowers, and herbs were planted. The garden group regularly liaised with CRRC's donations and DIY teams. We are fortunate that all the volunteers are experienced and knowledgeable gardeners who have been prepared to turn up and work on a regular basis.

Families and individuals from Afghanistan

We saw eight Afghan families arriving locally under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP), the scheme to assist those who had supported British forces fighting in Afghanistan. While some of these families were relocated in Ministry of Defence (MOD) property at Brampton, others were placed in self-catering hotel accommodation in the new Eddington complex in Cambridge, pending a move to more permanent local accommodation. As these were furnished properties, assistance provided to these families, except for 'tech' provision, was mostly of the non-material kind such as English lessons for the women.

Families and individuals from Ukraine

The largest new cohort of refugees we assisted over the period were Ukrainian families most of whom had arrived under the 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme launched by the Government in March 2022. Under the scheme, families were hosted by UK residents in their own homes for a minimum of six months. While many families remained with their hosts after the initial six months, some were required to leave by their hosts and others felt the need to move into independent accommodation arrangements. Where Ukrainian guests were required to leave by their former hosts, the duty to prevent them becoming homeless fell to the local authority in which they had been hosted. Likewise, local authorities provided housing advice to those seeking to move into independent accommodation but not being made homeless.

As a result of these pressures, we began to see a significant number of requests for assistance from Cambridge City Council housing departments. In all, 25 families were referred to us over the reporting period for help. Property types found to rehouse families moving on from being hosted (or from living with settled extended family members) were a mix of local authority owned, housing association, sheltered property with assisted living for the elderly and disabled, and private rented properties found through the Cambridge City town hall lettings team.

Early requests for assistance give a flavour of what CRRC was being asked to provide:

> ***"Thank you for your willingness to help. I saw the house; unfortunately, it is big and completely empty. The kitchen has only an electric stove and a few cabinets. The minimum requirement for moving is a refrigerator, preferably with a freezer, a washing machine, a double bed for me and my son, and a single bed for my mother. We have nothing of our own, a few bedspreads, two pots and a frying pan, personal belongings. Also please, a vacuum cleaner, because there is carpet on the 2nd floor and stairs, and my son is allergic to dust."***

CRRC had previously only been faced with requests for such significant amounts of basic household necessities from the one or two families that had arrived in Cambridge through 'family reunion' or other non-resettlement routes (families arriving under the VPRS schemes were provided with all basic white goods, sofa, beds, dining table and chairs by the resettling local authority).

The CRRC donations team stepped up to the mark and did an incredible job developing strong links with other local charities, such as the Besom Project, Cambridge Re-use and especially Emmaus – all able to supply good-quality second-hand furniture and white goods at reasonable costs to meet the needs of this group. The donations team also developed a resource sheet for beneficiaries detailing all the sources of free or cheap goods available in and around Cambridge.

Gratitude for CRRC's assistance was expressed by beneficiaries and by referring agencies:

"I am truly grateful for your help. Finally, we have a table and chairs. Thank you again. Best wishes, Olga."

By early 2023, the strain on the resources of the wider charitable sector around Cambridge, aiming to meet the needs of Ukrainian families moving into unfurnished accommodation, led to a meeting with city council officials and an agreement was reached that basic white goods, sufficient beds, curtains, and a sofa would in future be provided by the council contractor. Funding for this provision comes from the Government grant provided to local authorities for supporting those arriving under the 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme. CRRC would still be asked to provide what the Council considers 'non-essential' items, such as kitchen equipment and crockery, bedding, carpeting, dining table and chairs, vacuum cleaners, wardrobes, and desks.

Local authority support in terms of goods provision remains unavailable for Ukrainian families moving on from being accommodated under the 'extended family' scheme.

Many thanks to all volunteers of the family support team for your tremendous engagement!

Support for families and individuals from Afghanistan resettled in Huntingdon and Brampton areas

By the end of June 2023, the number of Afghan families resettled in the Huntingdon/ Brampton area had reached 10, with the arrival of a family initially resettled in Peterborough. This family was housed in Brampton, within easy walking distance of the other seven Afghan families in the village, and a short bus ride from the two families in Huntingdon. Another two Afghan families were to be resettled in Brampton in July. In our support for Brampton families, we worked closely with Brampton Hub, a local community group.

So, what had started in 2021 with a smattering of families and been enlarged with arrival of two families from northern Afghanistan in January and May 2022, had become a community by mid-2023. It was rewarding to witness how the families supported each other, socialised with each other – as if they had become one big, extended family.

This weekly gathering of women from the Afghan families resettled in Brampton and Huntingdon continued to be popular, with a full house most weeks. Normally held in the Methodist Church in Brampton, the group sometimes decamped to a nearby café, where the women were encouraged to ask the about the cakes on offer and order for themselves.

All the women also attended the weekly English classes provided by the council in Huntingdon.

CRRC assisted the families in a range of ways during the year:

- several of the men received CRRC grants to pay for driving lessons;
- we got Solidarity Packages from Emmaus for most families (the required £100 donation usually provided by Cambridge Aid);
- in some cases, we helped meet the cost of urgent dental treatment, no NHS services being available;
- in early 2023, we successfully applied to the Cambridge Community Fund for StayWell Grants (£400) for all families except one, to help families meet energy bills. (CCF could not make grants to any family with a debt exceeding £300, and one family had a debt well exceeding that);
- thanks to CRRC's link with Laptops4Learning, most families had tech. support (provision of laptops, iPads and smartphones);
- support for one of the women with midwifery qualifications through her Occupational English Test; support for adults applying to courses at Cambridge Regional College, Huntingdon campus;
- working with Housing Associations when housing problems arose, such as the rat-infestation in the home of one of the Huntingdon families;
- in conjunction with Tom Wright at the Peterborough Asylum and Refugee Community Association (PARCA), we offered employment advice and strongly encouraged the men, whose English was not good enough to enable a return to their previous occupations, to attend all classes offered (council, college, etc.). Most of the men took night jobs (in restaurants, with delivery services, etc.) so that they could be at home in the day to support their non-English-speaking wives.

We also helped to get the brother of one of the men now based in Huntingdon to the UK. Despite working for the British Government for 20 years, he remained in hiding in Kabul with his wife and five children. We sought help from various bodies, such as MPs, former Kabul-based employers, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Afghan Pro Bono Initiative (APBI). In June 2023, APBI told us that the FCDO was opening a new window (Pathway 3) for 6 weeks for Afghans to apply for resettlement. We helped the family apply.

In December 2022, with Huntingdon District Council, CRRC organised a meeting of representatives of all groups in the Huntingdon/ Peterborough area working with refugee families. This opened up new and valuable opportunities and links, especially with H.E.L.P., a Peterborough-based charity, which helped source refurbished second-hand bikes.

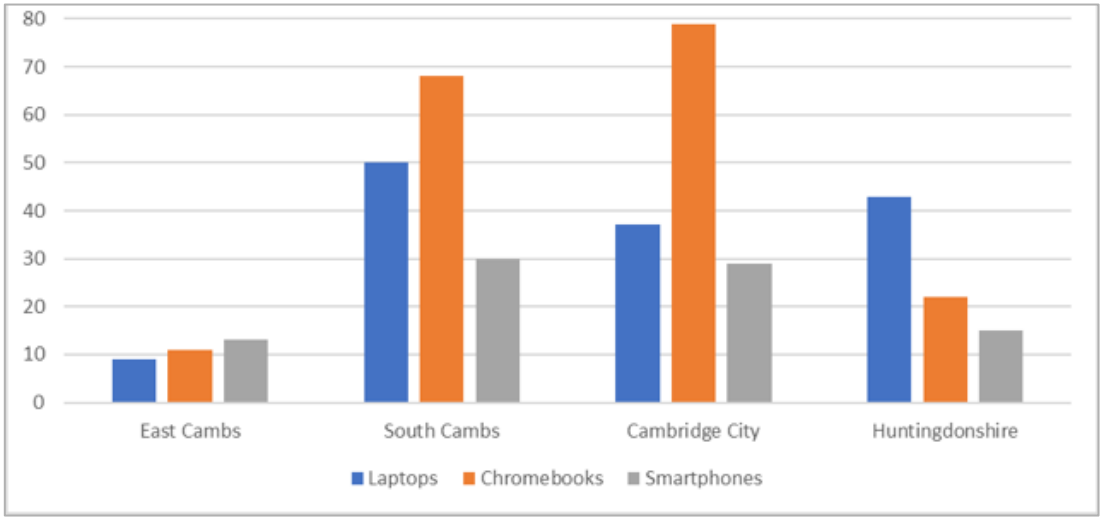
Many thanks to CRRC volunteer Natasha Pairaudeau for stepping in to support the Huntingdon families while Kay Powell was away in late 2022 and mid-2023.

And many thanks also to Naeem Gulzad, who came to Brampton as a refugee with his wife and three children, for his readiness to help CRRC whenever Dari and Pashto translation was needed.

IT Provided to CRRC Families

The infographic below shows the devices that CRRC Team Ukraine was able to deliver to Ukrainian families settling in Cambridgeshire up to the end of June 2023. Many families required more than one device, i.e. for the parent and secondary school-age children.

Devices allocated July 2022 – June 2023



Area	Laptops	Chromebooks	Smartphones	Totals
East Cambridgeshire	9	11	13	33
South Cambridgeshire	50	68	30	148
Cambridge City	37	79	29	145
Huntingdonshire	43	22	15	80
			Devices overall	*406*

"Thank you, this will help me keep in touch with my husband back in Ukraine"

IT help for CRRC clients from other areas of the world

Between July 2022 and June 2023, we helped around 20 families with 25 tech items, mainly Windows laptops and phones, plus a few Chromebooks. We are very grateful to Laptops4Learning, for supplying us with most of these devices, after repurposing older devices by securely wiping them and fixing any faulty components.

We support adults and children at secondary school and above, plus some younger children if devices are needed e.g. for remote education.

"This will help me learn English and find work".

Mobility

Driving support

CRRC Trustees consider that it is of significant benefit to our beneficiaries if they can drive in the UK. Being able to drive could assist directly or indirectly with employment, as well as help individuals and their families enjoy a better quality of life and move more swiftly towards independence.

The UK driving test is in two parts – a theory test and a practical test. CRRC does not pay for the theory test, the driving test, or the provisional driving licence. Our support focuses on paying for driving lessons. All CRRC beneficiaries applying for funding to help pay for their lessons must have passed the theory test and hold a provisional licence.

In late 2022 we undertook a review of the criteria for providing driving support. This was necessary as, in addition to increased numbers of beneficiaries applying for support, we became aware that what we were able to afford would not necessarily be sufficient to bring someone up to the standard to pass the practical test. Prior to the review, the standard criteria applied was to offer to pay for 10 hours of driving lessons for those who had driven previously in their home country, and 20 hours of lessons for those who hadn't. While this standard continued, new criteria required applicants to think about the additional resources they might need to pass the test including contributing money of their own to pay for additional lessons and finding someone with sufficient experience to give them driving practice. Priority would also be given to those in more isolated locations away from reliable public transport routes.

From July 2022 to June 2023, 15 individuals applied to be considered for financial support for lessons (up from eight in the previous year). Nine of the applicants were women – none of whom had driven previously and six were men, five of whom had driven before. While these 15 funding applications were agreed in the financial year, not all applicants went on to take their lessons over this period. Four of the women and five of the men applying for support during the year have now passed their driving test. All those who have passed have purchased vehicles and, as anticipated, this had made a significant difference to their families' quality of life and employment opportunities.

Bicycle project

Amanda Hoey and team continued to work in collaboration with The Bike Project in London to provide CRRC benefiairies, both adult and child, with a working bike, plus helmet, lights and a secure lock. Bike training was continued with several women taking part in The Bike Project's 'Pedal Power', providing refugee women with one-to-one cycle lessons with female instructors.

Further requests for bicycles came directly to CRRC for both children and adults. CRRC ensured that all donated cycles were serviced and roadworthy before delivery and locks, helmets, lights and hi-vis tabards were provided. On delivery, we also spend time explaining how best to stay safe when cycling, with particular emphasis on how to use roundabouts.

English Language and Education Support

English language support for adults

CRRC ESOL for adults continued to meet the needs of those who cannot attend college classes, which remain inaccessible particularly for women with young children, but also for those in poor health or who lack literacy.

The local college was over-subscribed and wait times were extensive. CRRC continued to provide very professional volunteer-led language support organised by Hilary Sutton (pictured) and Monica Poulter and supported by a team of volunteer experienced ESOL teachers and child carers.

In September 2022 the workshop format continued with a weekly class for up to 10 learners held at a central Cambridge location. Throughout the academic year CRRC reimbursed bus fares and a taxi fare for a student with mobility issues. The workshop was supported by several volunteer teachers, which enabled targeted one-to-one support.

Students who had been here for several years needed support with employment and the qualifications needed to apply for citizenship. A few students were preparing for the B1 speaking and listening test that is required for citizenship.

Others were given support to manage everyday situations such as dealing with household problems, medical needs, children's schooling, and general survival needs.

Individual support in addition to the workshop was provided by experienced ESOL teachers giving one-to-one support, either face-to-face in a library, or in the home, or online. A particular need was for students with a medical background to improve their English to pass the relevant exam for medical practitioners and to resume their previous career. This was a particularly challenging situation for teachers and students alike. Several of our volunteers also provided language support for Ukrainian guests. With the growing number of refugees settling in Cambridge, it has not been possible to meet every request for help and the recruitment of additional volunteers is a priority for the year ahead.

The team of volunteers in Brampton led by Kay Powell and Clare Senior was active throughout the year. The English Conversation Group that they established continued to offer language development, but also support with the Life in the UK test. The sessions provided an opportunity for women to socialise outside the home and for their children to play together.

Educational support for the children

Support for school-age children, organised by Sue Spencer, continued throughout the year with experienced primary and secondary teachers providing subject-specific as well as language development. This is an important and much appreciated means of support for families. Nearly all school-age children from CRRC's beneficiaries have been enrolled in the one-to-one tuition programme provided by the CRRC children's tuition team. Some pre-school children also have had support from tutors. CRRC volunteers were matched with the families and normally met the children once a week. The aim of this support is to help the children to develop language skills, encourage conceptual understanding, increase knowledge of their cultural community, and to build their confidence and self-esteem.

The one-to-one teachers supporting school-age children have often helped with liaising with the children's school so that the child was supported in following the curriculum at the appropriate level. Several of the one-to-one tutors have become close friends with the children and the entire family and have engaged with many different aspects of family life over time.

Many of the English tutors worked with different families. The volunteers had the opportunity to meet once a month before the socials, to exchange ideas, resources and concerns.

First language support for the children

CRRC commissioned further Arabic classes, and Saussan Khalil, who teaches the classes, reported that the children made good progress.

With many thanks to all the volunteers who continued to offer their time and expertise.

We would also like to thank Cambridge University Press and Oxford University Press for their continued support in providing resources.

Activities and Culture

School holiday activities

We are very grateful to the Cambridge Community Foundation (CCF) for facilitating our holiday and after-school activities for three years with grant-funding.

A big thank you to everyone involved in the activities team this year. We tried some new events, and it was great to see just how many families got involved and how much they enjoyed them.

The 2022/23 activities programme got off to a great start with a picnic on Jesus Green in August. It was a gloriously sunny day and the 10 families who came along enjoyed the playground and playing football, cricket, and tennis. We were so pleased that several families from Huntingdon made use of the coaches that we organised and could enjoy the fun.

The annual outing to **Hunstanton** was the next activity held in September. Families from Cambridge and Huntingdon enjoyed a lovely sunny day out at the seaside. The children had fun digging in the sand and some families took a boat trip. We used coaches for these trips and they proved much more practical than trains or cars.

The programme continued with a visit to the Cambridge Botanic Gardens, who gave us free entry and tours of the gardens. The guides were very helpful and everyone found the gardens interesting. After the tours the families met for a picnic, which was a great opportunity for everyone to share food and chat.

A **bowling trip** in December was followed closely by a visit to the **Nutcracker** at the Junction, Cambridge. It was a great success with over 40 people coming along. We would like to thank The Junction for their generosity in giving us free tickets and ice creams. Everyone enjoyed the show particularly the dancing, music, singing and costumes.

Ninety people came to the Cambridge **Ice Arena** in January 2023, including families on a coach from Brampton and Huntingdon. Ice skating was a new experience for many, but everyone was keen to give it a go and really enjoyed themselves.

A brand-new experience for everyone was a visit to the **Clip and Climb wall** in February. Even though there were some nerves to start with, everyone had a go and quickly built their confidence. The children were very adventurous and thoroughly enjoyed conquering the wall.

Socials

CRRC has been running socials since December 2015 when the team welcomed the first three beneficiary families. The socials provide the face-to-face contact on which CRRC prides itself, involving the whole community, whilst offering private meeting space for confidential conversations. The socials are now held at a large primary school in Cambridge and organised by a small team of volunteers with regular liaison with the Board of Trustees.

The activities group took over organising the socials and held their first one in October, and the second one in March. Families from Cambridge, surrounding villages and Huntingdon came along and enjoyed sharing food and chatting. The weather was warmer for the next social in May and so the children were able to play outside.

About 18 families (68 people) attended, including some new families and about 27 volunteers. The children enjoyed the activities, especially the crown-making. Project Linus brought beautiful handmade quilts to give to families.

CRRC gratefully thanks all volunteers of the socials team!

Legal Support

CRRC continued to support an asylum-seeking family, now in their fourth year of seeking permission to remain. The family were awaiting an appeal against refusal of their initial claim before the immigration courts. They were receiving legal support from IR Immigration Law, a Cambridge-based law firm specialising in immigration and asylum cases.

Legal provision for immigration and asylum cases and for associated matters such as family reunion, asylum support and other home office applications is only available free of charge in Cambridge via a dedicated asylum and immigration caseworker at Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum with whom CRRC continues to work closely.

As our original cohort of resettlement cases have been completing their five years of 'Refugee Leave', their cases were reviewed by the Home Office. They would normally receive Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR), allowing them to remain permanently in the UK. Prior to receiving ILR, applicants are required to travel to a Home Office facility (e.g. Croydon) to provide their 'biometrics' (fingerprints and iris recognition) and photographs. These are then used to produce the Biometric Residence Card (BRP) which is proof of entitlement to services such as housing, benefits, NHS provisions etc. CRRC supported the resettlement families in this process, by covering the costs of the journey and, where necessary, help with logistics.

After five years of Refugee Leave and a year of ILR, a recipient can apply for British Citizenship. For adults (those over 18) the 'naturalisation' process to become a British Citizen requires the applicant to pass an English language competence test and a knowledge of 'Life in the UK' test. CRRC Trustees decided that they could not directly support applications for citizenship for adults, which in the reporting period cost over £1,300 per person (in addition for fees to take the required tests). Eligible Children must apply to *register* rather than naturalise – a simpler process not requiring language or knowledge of UK tests. Nevertheless, the fees for child registration applications were still over £1000 per child.

In June 2022, after a long-fought battle by NGO's and others, the Government made a concession in respect of children eligible to apply for citizenship. This was to offer a 'fee waiver' for child applicants whose parents could not afford the fee without impacting on the child's welfare. CRRC committed to trying to find an immigration firm prepared to assist applications for citizenship – especially from eligible children. Since July 2023, we have been in contact with GYROS, an organisation based in Great Yarmouth who are funded to do free immigration legal work.

Campaigns, Communications, and Outreach

CRRC's communications and outreach strategy focusses on providing news of our activities to our supporters via a quarterly newsletter and social media channels, using those channels to ask for donations and thank donors, giving talks and presentations to interested groups, including schools, and participating in national campaigns concerned with refugees and asylum-seekers.

An important campaign this year was that around dental care. Dr Brandi Leach's report on resettled refugee families' access to NHS dental care was commissioned by CRRC and published in January 2023. The research and findings of her report were submitted as evidence to the Parliamentary Select Committee on Health and Social Care enquiry into NHS dental provision. We were delighted that our evidence was later cited in the Committee's report.

We joined national campaigns against the Illegal Migration Bill and its plan to send asylum-seekers to Rwanda, described by the Archbishop of York as 'cruelty without purpose'. We were also joint signatories to open letters published in the national press on the disappearance of child refugees from hotels, the irresponsible use of language in whipping-up violence against asylum-seekers, the campaigns for 'communities not camps' and to extend the Afghan resettlement schemes.

Trustees made presentations to school groups at Comberton Village College and Coleridge Community College and to the Rotary Club of Cambridge. They also attended and spoke at events aimed at newly arrived Ukrainians organised by Cambridge4Ukraine, an information seminar organised by the Cambridge Russian-Speaking Society and a charity polo match raising funds for Ukrainian support. The Communications team was able to support CRRC's Ukraine response more generally with callouts for laptops and other tech to refurbish for redistribution.

Our newsletter, edited by Catharine Walston, has continued to be published quarterly and sent to almost 500 subscribers and is further disseminated through the City of Sanctuary Faith Groups network. Our Facebook group has 1,500 members and our Twitter/X feed is followed by 1,200 accounts. Kay Powell, who runs CRRC's Twitter/X feed, undertook a major makeover of our Volunteer Handbook in December 2022, and we were very grateful to her.

In June, CRRC finished the year with participation in Refugee Week 2023, hosting a round-table discussion at the Friends Meeting House, Jesus Lane, Cambridge.

Financial Review and Reserves Policy

During this sixth year of operations, the budget has been reviewed during regular trustee meetings, ensuring that new expenditure is checked and authorised by the trustees. The Board of Trustees is responsible for ensuring that expenditure remains within agreed limits. The net income for the year was £ **14,512**.

CRRC's balance at 30 June 2023 was £ **72,162**. The charity does not have a reserves policy. Trustees review spending regularly, adjust budgets as required, encourage donations within the local community and plan fundraising activities to ensure that ongoing and planned support of beneficiaries and all CRRC's activities can be maintained.

Plans for the Future

The 2022-2023 financial year has been CRRC's busiest year to date. Never has the work of CRRC been more important than it is now. Global and national challenges have reinforced the need for a charity like ours. We have worked very hard to develop our services to respond to the rapidly growing demand across Cambridge and Cambridgeshire.

We have started work to critically analyse the needs of beneficiaries and CRRC's priorities, which we want to continue over the course of the next financial year to strengthen our strategy. We want to future proof CRRC to be able to sustainably provide critical services to refugees to facilitate achieving economic stability and becoming self-reliant. We are enthusiastic to continue to develop further partnerships and to continue to draw on the large number of volunteers in Cambridge and Cambridgeshire, committed to support refugees to realise their potential and contribute to the society.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 24.04.2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Heidi Radke
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Note: The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and its compliance with all legal requirements. They are also responsible for safeguarding the reputation of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities. The trustees take pride in maintaining the integrity of information included on the charity website and other social media.

Statement of Financial Activities

(incorporating an income and expenditure account)

For the year to 30 June 2023

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Income				
Donations and legacies	83,113	26,500	109,613	61,342
Total income	**83,113**	**26,500**	**109,613**	**61,342**
Expenditure				
Charitable activities	86,776	8,325	95,101	57,869
Total expenditure	**86,776**	**8,325**	**95,101**	**57,869**
Net income for the year	**- 3,662**	**18,175**	**14,512**	**3,473**
Balances at 1 July 22	57,650	-	57,650	54,177
Balances at 30 June 23	**53,988**	**18,175**	**72,162**	**57,650**

All the above funds are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.

Balance Sheet

as at 30 June 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	72,162	57,650
Net current assets	**72,162**	**57,650**
Total net assets	**72,162**	**57,650**
Funds		
General reserve	53,988	57,650
Restricted funds	18,175	-
	72,162	**57,650**

on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Heidi Radke
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Sarah Santhosham
Treasurer

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period Ended 30 June 2023

Accounting policies

Statutory information

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) in the UK. The registered office address is c/o Friends Meeting House, 12 Jesus Ln, Cambridge CB5 8BA.

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (September 2015) and the Companies Act 2006. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

b) Public benefit entity

The CIO meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

c) Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the CIO's ability to continue as a going concern. The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

d) Income

Income is recognised when the CIO has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, and it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

e) Fund accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure, which meets these criteria is charged to the fund. Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received/generated for the charitable purposes. Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

f) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds relate to the costs incurred by the CIO in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose.
- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises those costs incurred by the CIO in the delivery of our programmes. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the CIO. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the CIO's activities.

g) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

h) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments. Cash balances exclude any funds held on behalf of service users.

i) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the CIO has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

j) Staff and pensions

The CIO currently has no employees or pension obligations.

k) Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities expressed in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the exchange rate ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the end of the month in which the transaction occurred.

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign (Charity number)

on the accounts for the year ended 30 June 2023

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

It is my responsibility to:

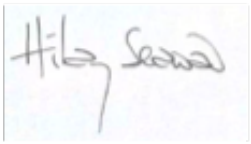
examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

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 trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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



Hilary Seaward, FCA

Chartered Accountant
9 Sherlock Road
Cambridge, CB3 0HR

26 September 2023

Help the Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign

Volunteer

CRRC always needs enthusiastic volunteers. The team cannot offer money, although expenses are reimbursed, but it is extremely rewarding to work directly helping local refugees. For example, CRRC is always looking for trained ESOL teachers who can teach in a private home, and for childcare help during these English lessons. Please check our website for updates on **volunteering opportunities**.

Donate Money

The organisation relies entirely on the generosity of our supporters to continue the work for refugees resettling here in Cambridge. As CRRC is run entirely by volunteers from their own homes, there are no staff, office, or administration costs. Your donation will go directly towards helping the refugee families themselves. **Donations can be made through our website**.

Offer Employment and Work Experience

Once a refugee family begins to settle into their home, their children are at school and their own English classes are progressing, the adults need to become independent and self-sufficient by earning their living in legitimate and worthwhile work. CRRC **seeks opportunities** across a wide range of employment areas based on the jobs and skill-development these adults have had in the country they have just fled.

Calling all Landlords and Landladies

There is a great need for accommodation. Please see our **website** for further details

Find more about our work at cambridgerefugees.org; or email info@cambridgerefugees.org to discuss ways to support CRRC

Donors

CRRC sincerely thanks our many generous donors, sponsors and volunteers, whose contributions make a real difference to our beneficiaries.

BACA
Rosemary Barrett
Alex Brandon
Besom Project
Brampton Hub
Brandi Leach
Peter Britton and the Jesus College Music Society
Cambridge Aid
Cambridge City Council
Cambridge Community Foundation
Cambridge Community Fund
Cambridge Lawn Tennis Centre
Cambridge Reuse
CambridgeRun4Ukraine
Cambridge University Press
Cambridge Women's Resources Centre
Cambridgeshire Area Quaker Meeting
Cambridgeshire Healthwatch
Clay Farm Surgery and S-Tech
Melissa Dring
Dutch Bikes
Eastleightonstone Parish
Emmaus
The Girdlers Charity
Grow Kids
GYROS
H.E.L.P.
Hope into Action
Huntingdon Housing Associations
Huntingdonshire District Council
Dr Ashwiny Kistnareddy
Land-Aid
Laptops4Learning
Oxford University Press
PARCA (Peterborough Asylum and Refugee Community Association)
Project Linus, UK
Refugee Education UK
Refugee & Migrants Children's Consortium
Resettle Chesterton
Rotary Club Reach Community Solar Farm
Scrubs for Cambridgeshire
Sew Positive
South Cambridgeshire District Council
Dr Margaret Thouless
Vodaphone
Elizabeth Wells-Thulin and Harry Peirse

… and all other individuals who donated items, large and small, all of which count in CRRC's joint efforts.

A heartfelt thank you to all individuals and organisations, who donated generously to CRRC and supported our work with time and expertise during the reporting period!

CAMBRIDGE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT CAMPAIGN

England & Wales - Charity number 1172836

Accounts

Cambridge
Refugee
Resettlement
Campaign

Trustees Annual Report & Financial Statement

Period ended 30 June 2022

Registered Charity (CIO - Foundation) in England: 1172836

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign (CRRC) is a volunteer-led, Cambridge and Cambridgeshire based organisation providing a broad range of support, assistance, and activities for displaced persons within the local communities.

CRRC c/o Friends Meeting House · 12 Jesus Lane
Cambridge CB5 8BA · UK

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Cover photo
Chris Cellier

Published
April 2023

Queries regarding CRRC should be directed to:
info@cambridgerefugees.org

A warm thanks to all of CRRC who have contributed to the report.

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Board of Trustees as of 30 June 2022

Emma Briggs
Joanna Burch
Amy Ellis
Dan Ellis
Ann Goodridge
Adrian Matthews
Heidi Radke
Sue Spencer
(Michael) Robert Turner
Catharine Walston

Registered Address

CRRC c/o Friends Meeting House, 12 Jesus Ln, Cambridge CB5 8BA

Constitution

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign (CRRC) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO – foundation, number 1172836) registered on 2 May 2017 with the Charity Commission for England, following a transfer of assets from the Unincorporated Association (UIA) of the same name on 1 July 2017.

Bank

Cooperative Bank, PO Box 101, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester M60 4EP

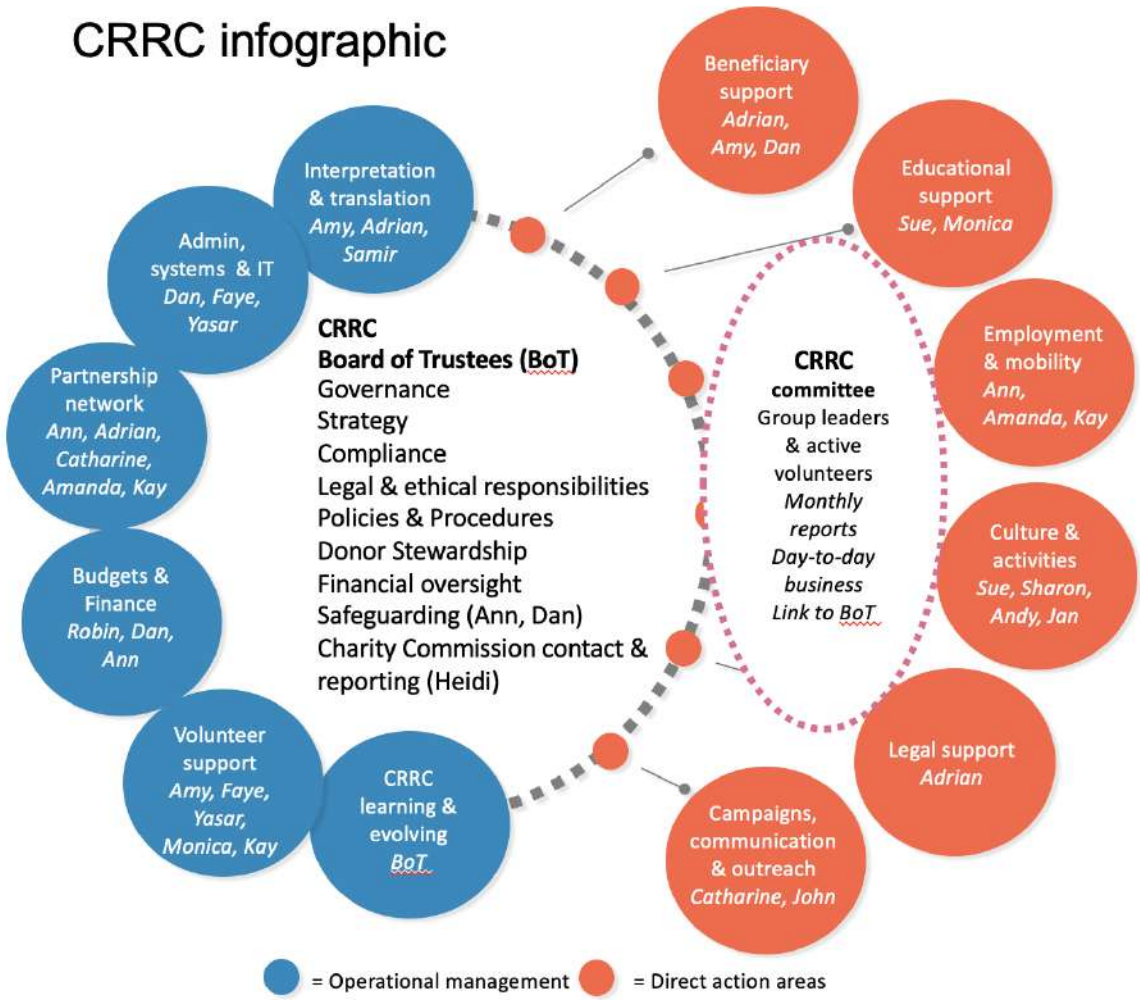
Report of the Trustees

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual report and financial statement for the year ended 30 June 2022. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out by the Charities Commission and comply with the charity's constitution.

Introduction

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign (CRRC) is a Cambridge and Cambridgeshire based organisation, founded in September 2015 as a community group and registered with the Charity Commission as a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO Foundation) on 2 May 2017. CRRC is entirely volunteer-led and relies on volunteers' time and donations to deliver its statement of purpose. CRRC is led by the Board of Trustees, and there is a core group of volunteers who coordinate the different areas in subgroups or are involved in behind-the-scenes operations. Each subgroup has one or more dedicated Trustee and other volunteer contact(s).

The reporting period for this report is June 2021 to June 2022 unless otherwise stated.



NVPR = refugees not associated with a Vulnerable Persons Resettlement (VPR) scheme

Structure, governance, and management

This is CRRC's fifth report as a CIO, during which it was governed by between eight to 11 charity trustees at given times.

In July 2021, Dan Ellis, CRRC's chair of many years and instrumental to many of CRRC's successes, suffered a very serious cancer diagnosis and subsequently had to step back as chair. The team were delighted and very grateful that Dan has been able to continue to be active as a trustee. Ann Goodridge took over as chair. Amy Ellis, Dan's wife, who had very actively been involved as a CRRC volunteer already, was welcomed as a trustee in October 2021.

Dan and Amy Ellis

Marya Kakai resigned as a trustee in January 2022 and was very gratefully thanked for her contribution. To our delight, she has continued as a CRRC volunteer.

The constitution provides for a minimum of five and a maximum of 12 trustees. Being a Foundation CIO, the only voting members are its trustees. Trustees are appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees. New trustees can be appointed by existing trustees. Any charity trustee is eligible for reappointment and can serve for three consecutive terms. Trustees commit to giving their time and expertise freely. No trustee remuneration was paid during this period.

All relevant interests must be disclosed by trustees and registered with the other trustees. In accordance with the charity's best practice, a trustee must withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest arises. There were no such conflicts of interests or decision withdrawals in this period.

During the reporting period, Trustees met at least bi-monthly in video or hybrid meetings. Each meeting was chaired and minuted. Quorum for trustee meetings is two charity trustees or the number nearest to one third of the total number of charity trustees, whichever is greater. Actions, approvals, charity progress, accounts, and any other business are reviewed in each meeting. Between meetings, trustees communicate using email and WhatsApp. The trustees review the broad strategy and areas of activity for the charity on a yearly basis.

Volunteers and supporters

CRRC could not carry out its work without the tremendous contributions from its many volunteers and supporters. CRRC works in a collaborative manner, recognising that the nature of a volunteer-led group requires flexibility, whilst ensuring that it fulfils tasks that it commits to within given time frames to achieve its objectives. The organisation actively seeks and values volunteers from diverse backgrounds, life experiences and perspectives.

There has been a high level of ongoing engagement from potential volunteers getting in touch with CRRC to express their interest in being involved, suggesting that the operational model is effective.

Between July 2021 and June 2022, 77 new volunteers have joined CRRC to take up a range of roles. The team has completed basic and enhanced DBS checks for these volunteers, in line with UK Government requirements and according to their role. At the end of the financial year, CRRC had over 150 active volunteers, as well as 165 excellent applicants waiting for potential opportunities. The huge number of volunteer hours provided, and level of enthusiasm and dedication shown by our volunteers form a vital part of the CRRC community.

Our heartfelt thanks to all volunteers and supporters of CRRC for their commitment and tremendous contributions to CRRC's work!

Regular monthly volunteer social gatherings for existing volunteers, continued in 2021-22 and restarted as in-person meetings again following the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions These sessions allowed volunteers to exchange thoughts and ideas, and to introduce new prospective volunteers to understand their potential role prior to signing up.

Beneficiaries

Who benefits from CRRC's activities?

- Refugees settling or resettled by the Local Authority predominantly in Cambridge and Cambridgeshire benefit by being assisted in their settling in process and integration into the community.
- Local communities, including community and faith-based groups into which refugees are settling or being resettled, profit by fostering and promoting diversity and social cohesion.
- Relevant statutory authorities, politicians, and others involved in policy-making and decision-making on issues affecting refugees benefit by being supported in the delivery of their statutory functions.

CRRC accepts referrals from refugees themselves or from other individuals, organisations or authorities, and considers whether assistance sought is consistent with the organisation's mandate and scope. Decisions on providing assistance are made at quorate meetings of the trustees or as otherwise permitted by the constitution. The trustees have regular meetings, where decisions are tabled at an open discussion. There is also the opportunity for suggestions to be submitted within our online group forum. Once decisions have been submitted, the trustees discuss and then vote for the preferred option. The trustees discuss and adapt to changing local and national circumstances and the needs of the beneficiaries.

Objectives and activities for public benefit

The charity's objectives

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign (CRRC) is constituted for the following purposes:
a) To promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of persons who have become displaced persons or refugees from the countries of their origin or domicile by reason of hostilities, persecution, oppression, discrimination, natural disasters or other like causes, including through the relief of poverty, the advancement of education and training, and the promotion of good citizenship.

b) To advance the education of the public in general about issues relating to persons who have become displaced persons or refugees from the countries of their origin or domicile by reason of hostilities, persecution, oppression, discrimination, natural disasters or other like causes.

The charity's main activities

CRRC

- provides a range of **practical support** to refugees and liaises with local stakeholders. CRRC works closely with county councils, district councils, city councils, local charities, and other organisations that support and campaign around refugee issues and enables the people of Cambridgeshire to volunteer to support refugees.
- provides **welcome packs** and secures **household necessities** for refugees.
- provides **emergency grants** to local refugees who are experiencing severe hardship, a disaster or emergency.
- facilitates and provides **language tuition** and interpreting services to refugees.
- assists refugees to develop **employability skills** and works with local employers to identify appropriate vacancies and other opportunities.
- provides **funds** to refugees for participation in community-based social activities and for educational purposes.
- helps to identify, secure and prepare **accommodation** for refugees.
- organises **social events** for refugees and CRRC's volunteers.
- explores fostering opportunities and other forms of **support for unaccompanied refugee children**.
- **informs** faith-based groups, community groups, politicians and other organisations and individuals where appropriate about the situation of refugees and involves them in CRRC's projects.
- organises and co-organises **fundraising** events.

Benefits

In setting CRRC's objectives and planning our activities, the trustees have given due consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit:
By supporting and promoting the welfare and inclusion of all refugees predominantly in Cambridge and Cambridgeshire, there is a public benefit to refugees, the local communities and stakeholders in creating a welcoming and safe environment for refugees.

CRRC achieves this by providing a range of practical support (including providing welcome packs and household necessities to refugees), organising social events for the refugees, CRRC volunteers and the local communities, and securing and preparing accommodation.

By supporting refugees to adapt to their new environment, the local communities benefit from refugees' contributions and involvement in the local community, whether by way of employment or social cohesion etc. In addition to the examples provided above, CRRC assists refugees to develop employability skills and works with local employers to identify appropriate opportunities.

By providing practical support to local authorities in accommodating refugees, both benefit from CRRC's assistance in overcoming logistical and economic challenges (among others) that can be experienced in the process of settling in. CRRC provides this assistance by, as mentioned above, securing accommodation for refugees and fostering opportunities and other forms of support for unaccompanied refugee children.

By publicising and celebrating the contribution of refugees to local communities, UK society and culture, refugees, local communities and the public at large benefit from embracing diversity, and challenging hostility and discrimination in society. CRRC achieves this by organising social, advocacy and fundraising events for refugees, local communities and volunteers. These activities help inform faith-based organisations, and community groups and other advocacy bodies on the plight of refugees and their contributions to UK society.

Risk management

In 2021-2022, the trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity was exposed, have reviewed, and monitored them and put in place mitigation steps. The main risks that trustees identified during this period were:

External environment

The hardship faced by CRRC's beneficiaries have been exacerbated by changes to the benefits system, the general cost of living crisis in the UK and misunderstandings about their responsibilities as benefits claimants.

Some beneficiaries have suffered from hostility toward refugees or to their religion in their locality. The lasting impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has posed multiple challenges to our beneficiaries and has put pressure (in terms of time, commitment, and opportunity for face-to-face contact) on beneficiaries and volunteers working closely with the families. The organisation has worked to mitigate the impact of these challenges by assisting families and signposting them to relevant information and practical support. Where necessary, the organisation has provided emergency in-kind and financial support and encouraged our beneficiaries and volunteers to adjust to changes by taking advice early.

Financial security of CRRC

The ability to continue CRRC's work relies on monetary donations and donations in kind from groups and individuals. The organisation encourages charitable giving from the local community through social media, fundraising events, and general promotion activities. Where appropriate, GiftAid for donations (when from individuals) is collected. In the event of a significant donation (over £10,000), CRRC will request the individuals'/companies' address details and undertake due diligence checks to satisfy the trustees as to the source of the donations and ensure that the prospective gift is aligned with the charity's objectives. Most payments are by cash, cheque or bank transfer. There have been no concerns to date in relation to public donations, and a full income and expenditure database has been maintained. Donors' names are acknowledged in our external communications and accounts with the consent of the donor.

Operational risks

CRRC carries out risk assessments for all activities to ensure that risks are understood, and policies and procedures are then put in place to mitigate these. CRRC has continued to review and update policies and procedures around some key risk areas including safeguarding and Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.

History of CRRC since 2015

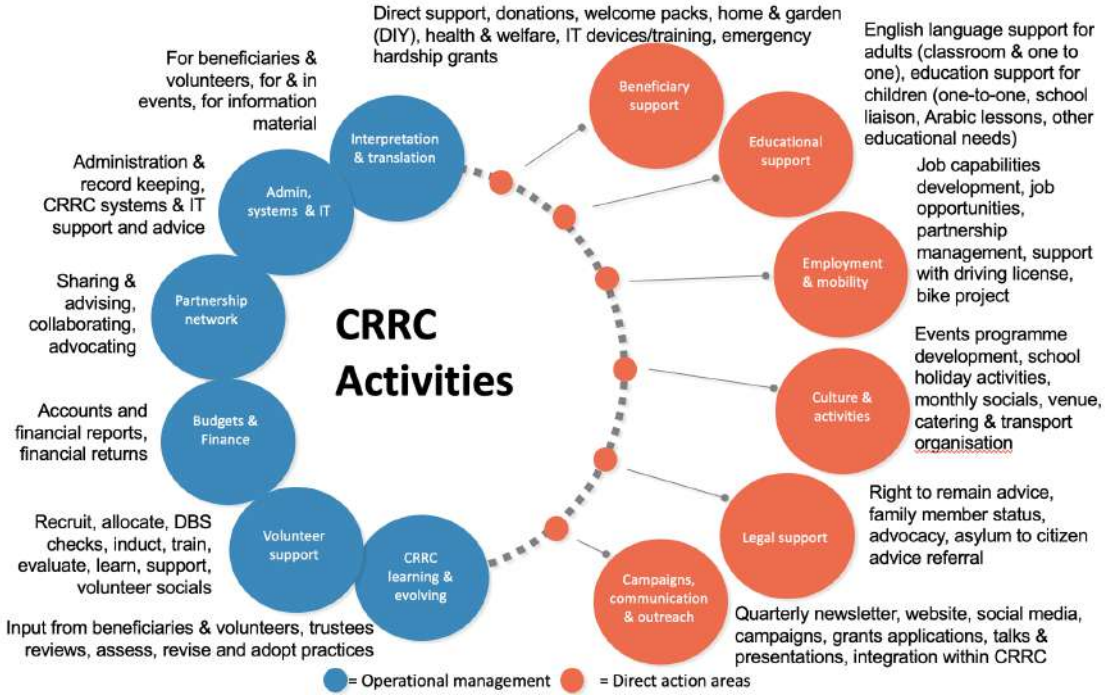
On 15 December 2015, Cambridge welcomed the first refugees and their families resettled under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS). CRRC had established itself at that time as a community group in Cambridge, campaigning for the resettlement of refugees at the height of the Syrian refugee crisis.

At the start of our campaign, CRRC lobbied Cambridge City Council to agree to settle a minimum of 50 individual refugees in our city pledging our support. The team was delighted when the target was increased to 100 by the City Council. By the end of the financial year in June 2019, over 100 individual refugees were being resettled under the Government's Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Schemes in Cambridge. In addition to welcoming and supporting these families, CRRC provided services and support to a number of other refugees and asylum seekers who had arrived in Cambridge outside of the resettlement schemes. CRRC became an Unincorporated Association in March 2016, before being registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in May 2017. CRRC has continued to work closely with Cambridge City Council and the Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum, and organised or participated in events with a range of others. These partners include the East of England Strategic Migration Partnership, Cambridge University Student Action for Refugees, Anglia Ruskin University, City of Sanctuary, Cambridge Assessment English, CamCRAG, Cambridge United Football Club, Cambridge Central Mosque and Cambridge Buddhist Centre. CRRC has been a member of Cambridge Council for Voluntary Services since 2016.

The emphasis of CRRC's work was gradually focussing on assistance with personal and professional development opportunities and employment support. English-language support for adults and children, monthly socials, holiday activities, and direct family support remained key areas of CRRC's activities and were carried out in person and remotely (when required) during Covid-19. The fall of Afghanistan to the Taliban and the invasion of Ukraine necessitated a renewed emphasis on campaigning for and welcoming new arrivals.

Achievements and performance

CRRC's activities in the year July 2021 to June 2022*



*Some adjustments were required to the in-person activities during the Covid-19 pandemic

Support for families and individuals

Who did CRRC support over the reporting period?

By the end of the previous reporting period (June 2021), CRRC had supported 25 families being resettled under the UK Government's VPRS scheme in addition to a further 8 individuals or families arriving via other routes some of whom were asylum seekers. Government resettlement under VPRS ceased from March 2020 for the duration of the pandemic and its successor scheme, UKRS, has only partially been opened. Within the current reporting period, CRRC welcomed only one further VPRS family (in July 2021 as lockdown restrictions ended) - a 'residual' family originally from Sudan who had been due to be resettled before the pandemic arrived.

On 15 August 2021, Kabul fell to the Taliban, leading to the exodus of many Afghan families to the UK, many of whom had worked directly or indirectly with the British military forces in Afghanistan or at the British Embassy there or were linked to the political opposition. Others were British citizens of Afghan descent who had a right to bring their immediate family to the UK.

Refugee resettlement from Afghanistan across Cambridgeshire

By the end of June 2022 across Cambridgeshire, 14 new Afghan families had been resettled, some in Cambridge City or South Cambridgeshire and some in the Huntingdon District Council area of the county. The relative distance from Cambridge of the 'Huntingdon' group of beneficiary families meant that new partnership working was developed with local groups in the north of the county to support these new arrivals.

In October 2021, three Afghan families were re-housed in 'in former MOD accommodation near Huntingdon'. They had all been evacuated from Kabul under the ARAP scheme. Two more Afghan families were resettled in January and March 2022, via ARAP. In February 2022, Huntingdon District Council (HDC) re-housed two Afghan families in Housing Association homes on the outskirts of the town. By June 2022, there were seven families in the area (a total of 41 people).

From the time of the first arrivals, CRRC worked closely with a local community group, Brampton Hub, to help the families resettle, providing welcome packs, clothing, household items, laptops, and TVs etc. They were assisted with school and GP registration and job seeking requirements and familiarised with the local area (including shops and the library). With CRRC support, outings were arranged (including one to London in March) and a weekly English Conversation Group was set up for the women in a Methodist Church (venue provided free of charge). With the two Huntingdon families, the resettlement support was provided almost entirely by CRRC . For all families, CRRC has worked closely with the Peterborough Asylum and Refugee Community Association (PARCA) on issues related to training, employment, and English lessons. The group also attended council-funded English lessons at the Huntingdon library. Although all the men had been translators with the British Army and/or worked in the British Embassy in Kabul, in most cases their English was not good enough to seek work in the sectors they had worked in (e.g., pharmacy, firefighting, administration, business), so this will be a focus of future CRRC support. In five of the families, CRRC funded driving lessons for beneficiaries.

Christmas 2021

Some of the children in the three Afghan families who arrived in Brampton in September/October 2021 expressed interest in having a Christmas tree. What did the parents think? Might this go against religious beliefs? Not a bit of it, said all the parents. So, we (CRRC and a volunteer from the Brampton Hub community group) went to the local garden centre to ask if they would donate some small Christmas trees. How many, they asked. Three? Sure. We went back to collect the trees a week later. And there they were - not small at all, and each of them not only with their own tree stand but also with box of decorations! Dressed in Father Christmas hats and singing carols we duly delivered the trees, and they made a splendid addition to the families' first Christmas in the UK.

With Brampton Hub help, as well as the local Anglican church, CRRC arranged a cultural awareness talk for all volunteers in the area working with the newly arrived refugee families.

By the time of the talk - on 26 February 2021 – there were seven families in the Huntingdon/Brampton area. The talk was given by a volunteer with PARCA whose family came from the Hazara community in Afghanistan. We also asked two of the men in the families if they would give a short talk. One spoke of his journey here after the fall of Kabul – a harrowing experience that included being flown out with a two-day-old baby. The other spoke about his experiences since arriving in the UK, from a hotel in Milton Keynes to a house in Brampton , the difficulties of adjustment, the relief of seeing his family in a safe place and the gratitude for what had been provided to help them settle.

The audience learned a great deal, not least on the etiquette front. It is, for example, just not on to visit an Afghan house without drinking copious amount of chai or green tea, accompanied by nuts, cakes and sweets, whatever the time of day – there has, as a result, been a noticeable expansion of volunteers' waistlines.

Overall, by mid-2022, these families were all settling in well, with one family experiencing great challenges. A persistent rodent infestation in one of the Huntingdon houses caused the family considerable distress and they requested to be re-housed but, backed by HDC, CRRC worked with the relevant housing association to resolve the problem and the family was able to start settling down. With no exceptions, the families are all very keen to re-build their lives in the UK.

Refugees and asylum seekers arriving outside of the resettlement routes

In addition to continuing support to families that had arrived through VPRS and beginning to support those arriving under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP), CRRC began to see an increase in referrals for help or assistance from other local organisations. These organisations included the single homelessness service, Refugee Education UK, and the BACA charity which works with unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and care leavers. These beneficiaries came from a wide range of countries including Ethiopia, Palestine, Yemen, and Libya – the referrals from Refugee Education UK and BACA were unaccompanied children or care leavers.

In addition, from March 2022, CRRC began to see the arrival of Ukrainian families fleeing Russia's invasion of Ukraine (see below for CRRC's response)

Refugees seeking support following Russia's invasion of Ukraine

Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, significant numbers of Ukrainians fled the country. The refugees were mainly women, children, and older people with most men of working age remaining to join the Ukraine Army. On 4 March 2022, the UK Government launched the Ukraine Extended Family Scheme allowing Ukrainians who had family members settled in the UK to join them. There was no requirement for the UK-based family member to accommodate their relatives in their home and, where they could not do so, the housing duty fell to the Local Authority in which the sponsoring family member lived. This meant there was a need to find accommodation for some families arriving under this scheme.

Under public pressure to do more, the Homes for Ukraine scheme was announced on 14 March 2022 allowing UK residents to host Ukrainian families in their own homes. Both schemes were to be operated through local authorities. UK residents offering to host Ukrainian 'guests' needed to register their interest on a government website and arrange a match with a Ukrainian family seeking safety in the UK.

Following the launch of the scheme, CRRC started to receive enquiries from people wishing to host Ukrainian refugee families and from Ukrainians seeking to come to the Cambridge area. The team advised both potential hosts and guests how they could sign up for this scheme through the government website, and then find trusted matching brokers through a safe list of organisations that CRRC knew provided a matching service.

The family support team structure

Between July 2021 and June 2022, the family support team grew from four core members to five, with one member stepping back and two new members joining the team, one as administrative support, and one to oversee the newly arrived Afghan families in and around Huntingdon.

Over the year the team of recruited volunteer focal points expanded significantly from 17 active focal points to 36 with a total of 26 new recruits joining CRRC and 7 focal points leaving. The reasons for people leaving were that the recipient family had moved location, or the focal points were relocating themselves. Members of the core family support team are involved in recruitment of volunteers, and they work alongside the administration team to ensure that interviews are carried out and that DBS processes are begun and completed.

In May 2022, a focal point training event was held with Syrian food provided by one of the CRRC beneficiaries who runs a professional catering service. There were 35 attendees with stimulating talks by existing focal points and a presentation on energy company grants and reductions.

Of the 36 active focal points, 13 individuals oversee individual families, one oversees several Arabic-speaking families, (this person is a core member of the family support team) 8 focal points work in pairs, 9 focal points work in teams of 3 and four focal points form one team of four. Teams are necessary where the needs of the recipient family remain high, usually due to considerable emotional and/or physical challenges. Five focal point teams include a native Arabic speaker, often where the recipient family is either illiterate or finds learning English especially hard.

Focal points all provide practical and emotional support to their recipient families and relay relevant information or requests through the family support group. Focal points are asked to submit a summary of their actions at the end of each month. Requests are then either dealt with directly by family support team members (Doula support, transport assistance, translation assistance, indefinite-leave-to-remain support, benefit support, housing support) or passed onto the relevant specialised team, be it donations, IT, gardening, DIY, bikes, driving, education, Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum (CECF) and Cambridge Advisory Bureau (CAB).

In addition to new focal points, this year additional key volunteers were recruited to carry out the day-to-day work of the family support group and CRRC. This included a new donations coordinator, donations garage organiser, a new DIY team and a new IT coordinator. A new CRRC Team Ukraine was established to meet the needs of new beneficiaries from Ukraine.

Health and welfare support

Focal points often assist with health and welfare concerns of recipient families. CRRC provided welcome packs of food supplies and bedding for the new tranche of Afghan families arriving. Focal points liaised with families and helped them purchase school uniforms for the children as well as new shoes, school bags and PE kits.

Focal points have helped several families deal with serious medical needs and disabilities, including help with PIP payments. Volunteers have driven many recipients to hospitals and medical appointments, sometimes at considerable distance from Cambridge, to undergo necessary medical procedures.

Core members of the family support team participated in child safeguarding meetings alongside assigned social and family workers to support a vulnerable family. Another family received practical and legal support and advice on how to navigate housing and legal status within the UK. An art therapist employed by the Refugee Council run regular well-being art sessions for some vulnerable families.

CRRC provides emergency hardship grants to local refugees who experience severe hardship or an emergency. This type of support is intended as a short-term solution rather than a long-term financial commitment. The application process for a hardship grant is overseen by the trustees and follows the emergency hardship grant policy. One emergency hardship grant was provided in the reporting period for a newly arrived Afghan family whose benefits had been delayed.

CRRC acts as a distributor of vouchers for the Cambridge Food Bank for beneficiaries in especially difficult circumstances. A designated volunteer was recruited from May 2022 to issue online food bank vouchers and CRRC has issued nine vouchers from May to June 2022. The One Hope Foundation provided emergency food packages to 10 families struggling with the cost of living.

Photo: Key Goodridge

In response to messages of concern from families and focal points, a volunteer was recruited to create documents on household energy usage and grants available to assist with increasing costs. These were translated by volunteers into Arabic and Farsi. Focal points helped families apply for financial assistance if they were relevant. Further informational material provided was on ways of identifying and acting upon domestic violence for those experiencing domestic violence. One of the translators who assisted CRRC is an Afghan refugee recently resettled into the UK.

Doulas and medical visits

This year has seen the safe arrival of four babies to CRRC families. Two women received support from a doula through an access fund, a charity, which was arranged through the focal points and the family support team. CRRC gives a grant of £200 per child to help the parents buy necessary items.

Baby Ahmed, born 14 December 2021 published with permission of the family

Support for the home

Donations

This year, a new donations coordinator and garage coordinator were recruited to supervise and sort the garage where donations are stored. In one month, they provided: mirrors, toys, books, vacuum cleaners, buggies, bunk beds, TVs, barstools, microwaves, clothes dryers, baby cots, sewing machines, sports equipment, trampolines, bedding, coat stands, CD players, wardrobe, blankets, white board, lampshades, coats, bikes, kids' clothes, shoe racks.
We have received new handmade children's quilts and purchased new mattress toppers for several families.

DIY

A team of three was recruited including one volunteer with a van which was very handy. From May 2022, the CRRC DIY team has helped with DIY jobs such as repairing doors, hanging up mirrors, TVs, and curtain rails. They have fixed broken drawers and wardrobes, installed a garden gate, repaired a bunk bed, and replaced a toilet seat.

Gardening project

During this period, the gardening group have visited and worked in the gardens of six recently arrived families from Afghanistan. After an initial visit and discussion with each family, basic gardening equipment was provided, according to need, and this typically included a push-mower, a spade, a watering-can and a trowel. Seedlings planted were generally plant potatoes, broad beans, climbing beans, tomatoes, courgettes, herbs and flowers but also specific requests such as strawberry plants for the children. Many of the families have been housed with large gardens needing electric mowers which were donated or bought from Cambridge Free-cycle. Most of the families helped the team in the garden. The team visited new Afghan families with their focal point volunteer near Huntingdon to advise on garden maintenance.

The team was offered raspberry plants, rhubarb, and a fig tree which a Sudanese family have planted in their vegetable patch in the back garden. All were thriving at last visit.

The team continued to help with the gardens of two families in the city. This has mostly involved mowing and clearing weeds plus providing seeds and seedlings. Although the aim is for all families to become independent gardeners, this is unlikely to happen while each of the parents have many other family challenges to manage. The team were fortunate that all the volunteers are experienced and knowledgeable gardeners who have been prepared to turn up and work on a regular basis.

IT support

Access to Information Technology (IT) such as laptops and phones is vital for adult beneficiaries to communicate with friends and family, to engage with learning providers and to access banking, government, council, children's schools and other services. Additionally, secondary school-age children need IT for online learning and other school services/notifications - as well as for contacting friends and family. A CRRC volunteer acts as IT coordinator to oversee the process.

In May 2022, CRRC surveyed beneficiaries to assess their IT needs. At the same time, CRRC began working with Laptops4Learning (L4L), a local provider of recycled IT equipment. CRRC also ran a campaign to collect donations of second-hand laptops and smartphones donated at drop points in 3 local pubs. Via a mix of these, plus some purchased second-hand equipment, around 25 Windows laptops and tablets were provided to beneficiaries.

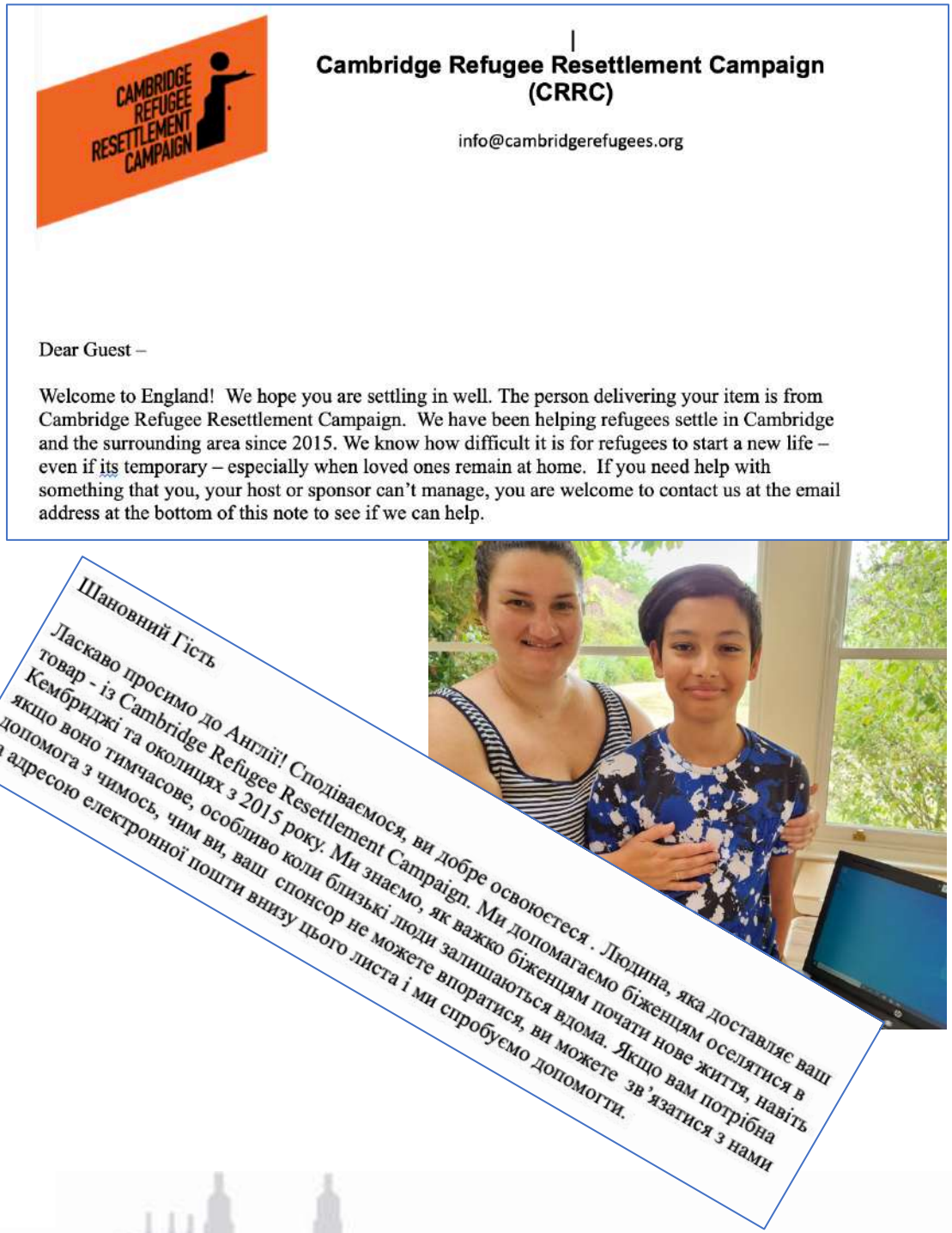
The team was also able to offer some limited repairs to IT equipment and user support, with the aim of getting our beneficiaries back online wherever possible.

Tech support to arrivals from Ukraine

Our prior experience of working with refugee families alerted the team to the importance of having access to a device for basic resettlement tasks. These tasks include opening bank accounts, signing up for benefits, registering with a GP, enrolling children in schools, seeking work, learning English, and communicating with friends and family back at home. In addition, with the Ukrainian arrivals, it quickly became apparent that children needed devices for accessing online education provided by their schools in Ukraine and for schoolwork in the UK once they had found a school place. The team had the ambitious target of aiming to provide for the IT needs of any Ukrainian family arriving in Cambridge City or South and East Cambridgeshire District Council areas.

To achieve this, the team partnered with the company L4L whose business model is to take surplus IT devices from companies who are replenishing their stock and recycle those devices for social good. In conjunction with L4L, the business community in and around Cambridge were engaged and the team was reasonably successful in obtaining laptops that could be refurbished and prepared ready for use with a Windows 10 operating system installed. Three pubs around Cambridge - The Haymakers, The Champion of the Thames, and the Blue Ball Inn - offered to be collection points for individuals wishing to donate surplus tech items.

These were then collected and passed on to L4L for refurbishment before being returned for distribution to arriving families. CRRC also registered with Vodafone to be distributors of the free SIM cards the company were offering for Ukrainians arriving in the UK. Through our established relationships with the Refugee Council, Vodafone also supplied 70 free mobile phone handsets at the end of June 2022.



Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign (CRRC)

info@cambridgerefugees.org

Dear Guest –

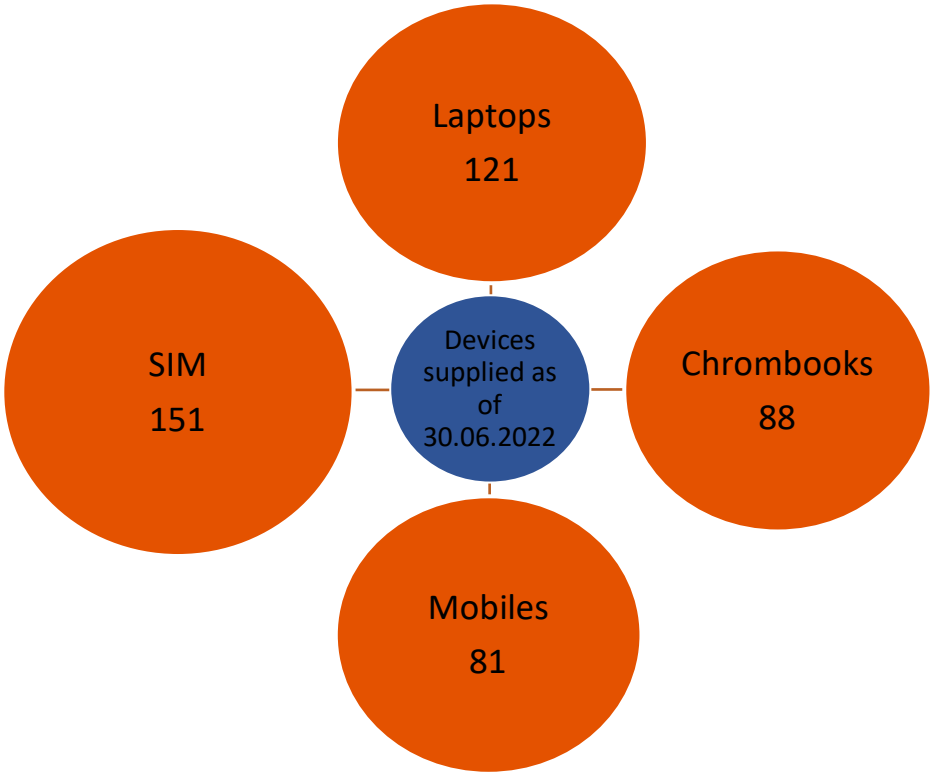
Welcome to England! We hope you are settling in well. The person delivering your item is from Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign. We have been helping refugees settle in Cambridge and the surrounding area since 2015. We know how difficult it is for refugees to start a new life – even if its temporary – especially when loved ones remain at home. If you need help with something that you, your host or sponsor can't manage, you are welcome to contact us at the email address at the bottom of this note to see if we can help.

Шановний Гість

Ласкаво просимо до Англії! Сподіваємося, ви добре освоюєтеся . Людина, яка доставляє ваш товар - із Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign. Ми допомагаємо біженцям оселятися в Кембриджі та околицях з 2015 року. Ми знаємо, як важко біженцям почати нове життя, навіть якщо воно тимчасове, особливо коли близькі люди залишаються вдома. Якщо вам потрібна допомога з чимось, чим ви, ваш спонсор не можете впоратися, ви можете зв'язатися з нами за адресою електронної пошти внизу цього листа і ми спробуємо допомогти.

In parallel with securing a supply of IT devices for distribution, CRRC set up a dedicated CRRC Team Ukraine to administer requests for devices from families and to deliver these, free of charge to their accommodation in the local authority where they were being hosted. To publicise the service, a request form was provided to the three district councils for advertising via their welcome packs and social media outreach. This service was launched on 27 April 2022 and by the end of June 2022, there had been over 200 requests from Ukrainian families asking for IT devices or SIM cards.

The info-graphic below shows the devices and SIM cards that CRRC Team Ukraine has been able to deliver to Ukrainian families settling in Cambridgeshire up to the end of June 2022. Many families required more than one device, i.e. for the parent and secondary school-age children.



With demand for IT devices outstripping supply obtained through donations, by early June 2022 the team had to consider grant funding to purchase refurbished devices to supplement the donations. On 22 June 2022, CRRC received a grant of £10,000 from South Cambridgeshire District Council to provide laptops and tablets for Ukrainian families in their district being hosted under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. This was enormously helpful in enabling the team to deliver devices requested in a timely manner.

Accommodation queries/offers and sponsorship queries

During July 2021 and June 2022, 28 contacts were received through the website regarding offers of and requests for refugee accommodation. From March 2022 onwards most of these related to the Ukrainians either seeking accommodation, or local people offering accommodation.

Of the 27 approaches, seven were direct queries about how to sponsor, or how to find a sponsor, through the Ukraine Family Scheme or through the Homes for Ukraine scheme. The team advised both hosts and guests how they could sign up for this scheme through the government website, and a safe list of organisations offering matching, identified by CRRC.

The other 20 approaches were offers or queries relating to providing a house, flat, annex or room in their own house for refugees. After discussion with the enquirer, 8 accommodation offers were referred on to our local councils, a neighbouring Local Authority area or the East of England Local Government Association. At least two of these resulted in a letting to re-settling refugees. The rest were referred on either to appropriate national organisations dealing with hosting or to other local authorities, and some decided not to pursue the query further for personal reasons. One house offer was linked up to a group considering a community sponsorship of a refugee family.

There is no doubt that the team have fulfilled a useful information-giving and signposting role and have assisted the City Council in filtering offers that have come through us, so that they only receive referrals that fit the necessary eligibility criteria such as being prepared to accept a rent based on local housing allowance rates.

Positive news

Two of our younger beneficiaries who met through CRRC got married this year. The wedding was celebrated at the Friends Meeting House and was attended by three members of the Family support team and the families' focal point. We look forward to another wedding of another recipient soon.

Two teenagers won a prestigious young entrepreneur award for an idea to help other newly arrived refugees settle into their new lives and received local media coverage in the press and on local TV.

www.cambridgeindependent.co.uk September 15-September 21, 2021 NEWS 3

Sisters set up charity for refugees in memory of murdered brother

By Alex Specner
alex.spencer@iliffemedia.co.uk

Teenage sisters who witnessed the murder of their brother before fleeing Iraq to the UK to escape persecution have won a bursary to set up a support website for other child refugees.

Hawraa and Ameera so moved the judges of a teenage business and social enterprise award with their story and the idea for the website that the organisers have offered them £3,000 a year for set up and running costs.

The girls, who came to the UK as refugees in 2018, were also joined in success by fellow student Chesterton Community College student Cameron Chappell, who won a runner-up prize for his idea to launch a cereal cafe.

Proud headteacher Donna Hubbard-Young says of the sisters: "They came to us traumatised, with no English and only suitcases. They have come so far and they are incredibly grateful for the support they have received since arriving but they are conscious that all of the early support was from adults and they would have really benefited from being in contact with some teenagers who had come to the UK in similar circumstances and could give advice on areas of interest to teenagers and demonstrate that even though things look bleak they will improve.

"The girls' idea is a website called New Beginnings with information for teenagers by teenagers, a chat function to allow newly-settled teenage refugees the opportunity to put questions to the girls and a video call facility for schools

> *"I went to school with my sister and when we arrived back home our house was on the floor – there was no building left"*
>
> **Hawraa**

to arrange a video call with the girls with newly-settled teenagers."

At the end of the summer term, the students entered the national Side Hustle competition organised by Your Game Plan and sponsored by finnCap and ACCA. The competition was to submit an idea for a business or social enterprise in a bid to win a share of £10,000 towards setting up their idea.

The two Chesterton Community College teams went to the finnCap offices in London for the final, where they were alongside 23 other teams who had to pitch their ideas to a panel of judges.

Hawraa and Ameera joined the school in 2018, having been through an incredibly traumatic persecution, including witnessing the murder of their brother, Omar.

Hawraa recalls: "Because my dad in the past fixed some cars for the American army, that caused a bit of a problem, and some people sent us a written message along with an empty bullet. It told us not to leave the house or change our religious ways.

"We went to the police to tell them but we didn't know that the police were already working with this community, so it made it worse for us. I went to school with my sister and when we arrived back home our house was on the floor – there was no building left.

"Luckily, my mum was in my grandfather's house and my dad was working. Then we moved to my grandfather's house and they took my big brother and broke his leg. When they came back, they killed my other brother."

Ms Hubbard-Young explains that Hawraa still suffers from PTSD as a result of witnessing the murder.

She says that the judges of the competition were so moved when they heard of the sister's tragic experiences that "there wasn't a dry eye in the building".

Now the sisters want to help other young people arriving as refugees to cope with the experience and give them a friendly person to talk with.

"We wanted to set up this website for other refugees coming to England because we have experienced the things they will have experienced," says Hawraa.

"Or maybe they have had things even worse. They will not have friends when they come here at first and they won't speak English, so they will want to talk to another teenager in Arabic.

"We have had some very nice teachers but they will want to speak to teenagers like them and learn about how to study here, and how to understand everything. At first, they may not have any energy and they will feel worried and nervous."

Ameera, 15, added: "At first students in your new school might not accept you, so it's important to have other refugees to talk to. We hope our idea can be turned into a small charity."

Ms Hubbard-Young added: "Everyone was moved by Hawraa and Ameera's story and astounded by how far the girls had come.

"So much so they didn't win part of the Side Hustle prize money but instead finnCap have agreed to fund their idea with £3,000 a year for three years."

The other success from Chesterton was Cameron Chappell, 15, who won £500 to put towards his idea of running a takeaway cereal business from a van on the shared site between school and the Chesterton Sports Centre, where customers can choose from a range of cereals, toppings and milks. He has been anonymously match funded by someone for a further £500.

He said: "I was inspired by a cafe called Cereal Killers which just sells cereal.

"My personal favourite is granola with chocolate bits, but we are going to serve seven different toppings and a range of cereals as well as loads of different types of milk.

"I was shocked but very appreciative when I found out I was a runner-up."

Sisters Hawraa and Ameera who joined the school as refugees from Iraq in 2018
Pictures: Keith Heppell

Cameron Chappell, 15

Hawra and Ameera with the national teen business and social enterprise award after beating 24 other teams to win.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND EDUCATION SUPPORT

English language support for adults

The aim of CRRC ESOL for adults is to respond to the needs of those who cannot attend college classes, mainly because of childcare needs, poor health, and lack of literacy. Since the beginning, CRRC has provided a very professional, purely volunteer-led language support with Hilary Sutton and Monica Poulter being the organisers supported by a large team of volunteer ESOL teachers.

As lockdown came to an end and a more normal life felt possible, CRRC started to plan for a return to face-to face class teaching. It seemed the best way to meet the various needs would be to run workshop sessions where students could work at their own level and on skills they had identified as necessary for their future. CRRC reimbursed bus fares and paid the taxi fare for a student with mobility issues.

In September 2021, the team opened with some trepidation, with 11 students, five children, six volunteer teachers and two childcare workers all in one large meeting room. Windows were flung open, hand gel applied and advice on lateral flow tests issued. The ESOL workshop continued throughout the academic year to July 2022. Sixteen students attended during the year. Numbers varied as some students were able to move on. One left when he was offered more weekday hours at work after practising with his teacher how to use appropriate language to request extra hours from his supervisor. The volunteer teachers worked on topics as varied as giving name and address to discussion of a school's sex education policy.

Two students passed the B1 Listening and Speaking test (required for their UK citizenship application) after dropping in to the workshop to practise with a teacher. Even if students could not attend regularly, they knew that the ever-resourceful teachers would always be available to help.

As Covid-19 restrictions eased, the team were able to respond again to requests for one-to-one teachers at home. Seven new matches were made in the Spring, ranging from an absolute beginner from Afghanistan to a beneficiary wanting to improve his communication skills as he set up his own business. In the new year of 2022, the team welcomed a small number of Afghan families who were resettling in Cambridge and the surrounding area. They were offered home teaching, support and advice as required, though the team was not able to find a teacher for every location. The team also delivered a training session for ESOL volunteers working with Afghan families in the Huntingdon area.

Success story

English conversation group for woman in Brampton and Huntingdon

With a room of our own in the Brampton Methodist Church Hall, strong support from CRRC English tutors Monica and Hilary and two boxes of English/Farsi picture dictionaries donated by Oxford University Press, the English Conversation Group began its weekly meetings in April 2022. It is intentionally social, a time for women refugees in the area – both Afghan and Ukrainian – to meet, chat and learn in a relaxed atmosphere. The two-hour sessions were run by volunteers drawn from CRRC and the Brampton Hub, led by Claire Senior, a former headmistress and English teacher. The activities ranged from speaking, reading, writing, role play and games to advice on online learning, library access, and out-of-classroom sessions to build up their knowledge of the local area. Among the many resources CRRC has provided are whiteboards, which have proved very popular with the beneficiaries.

Towards the end of the reporting period, the team became aware of an increasing number of Ukrainian refugees settling in the area. The team contacted Cambridge4Ukraine who were ready to offer support as required within CRRC's capacity.

Thanks are due to the team of volunteer teachers who have offered their time and expertise through another challenging year and to the team of childcare workers who made it possible for parents to concentrate on their learning.

For the future, the team will try to respond to the ever-widening needs of students, from catch-up for those who missed two years of lessons during lockdown to new arrivals, support for those with overseas qualifications and help with language requirements for citizenship. Many students also need more opportunities to use English language outside the classroom. One volunteer teacher introduced an Afghan beneficiary to the local mother and baby group. This is the kind of engagement that the team hopes to encourage in the future. Furthermore, with ever-increasing requests for language support, CRRC needs to recruit more volunteers as the local colleges are unable to meet demand.

Educational support for the children

Nearly all school-age children from CRRC's beneficiaries have been enrolled in the one-to-one tuition programme provided by the CRRC children's tuition team. Some pre-school children also have had support from tutors. CRRC volunteers were matched with the families and normally met the children once a week. The aim of this support is to help the children to develop language skills, encourage conceptual understanding, increase knowledge of their cultural community, and to build their confidence and self-esteem. Many of the CRRC children's tuition volunteers have been qualified teachers or postgraduate students at Cambridge University. The volunteers had the opportunity to meet once a month before the socials, to exchange ideas, resources and concerns.

The one-to-one teachers supporting school-age children often also have helped with liaising with the children's school so that the child was supported in following the curriculum at the appropriate level. Several of the one-to-one tutors have become close friends with the children and the entire family and have engaged with many different aspects of family life over time.

Since July 2021, 35 tutors have supported the children of the families. Recruitment has been robust thanks to our administration team who have streamlined the recruitment process. Reporting was also efficient due to the recruitment of an administrative volunteer. The organisation Refugee Education also provided four mentors to help with the service.

First language support for the children

CRRC commissioned further Arabic classes, and Saussan Khalil, who teaches the classes, reported that, despite the challenges of online learning, six of the 12 children enrolled attended the online sessions regularly and made good progress. Between September 2021 and April 2022, Kalamna Arabic classes were still being held exclusively online due to the continuing Covid-19 restrictions. Four students were enrolled in the classes. In May 2022, in-person classes returned and subsequently had four returning students join who had attended the in-person classes pre-pandemic, as well as two new students.

FOCUS ON EMPLOYMENT AND MOBILITY

Employment support

In May 2022, the team recruited a volunteer to help recipients with getting prepared for employment. Three people were assisted with CV writing and job applications. CRRC also made connections with PARCA who help with CV writing advice. Several recipients together started a catering business and members of the core team offered feedback on their menu and pricing scale. Where possible, the team tried to support the catering businesses and commission their culinary skills for social and training events.

Mobility support

Bicycle project

Amanda, the enthusiastic bike coordinator of CRRC, continued to work in part with The Bike Project in London to provide each beneficiary of CRRC, both adult and child, with a working bike, plus helmet, lights and a secure lock. Bike training could be restarted after pandemic related restrictions with several women taking part in The Bike Project's 'Pedal Power'. This fantastic programme provides refugee women with 1-1 cycle lessons with female instructors.

Support with passing the UK driving test

CRRC Trustees consider that it is of significant benefit to our beneficiaries if they could drive in the UK. Being able to drive could assist directly or indirectly with employment, as well as help individuals and their families enjoy a better quality of life and move more swiftly towards independence.

The UK driving test is in two parts – a theory test and a practical test. CRRC does not pay for the theory test, the driving test or the provisional driving licence. Its support focuses on paying for driving lessons. All CRRC beneficiaries applying for funding to help pay for their lessons must have passed the theory test and hold a provisional licence.

For those who have driven in their home country, CRRC offers to pay for 10 hours of driving lessons. For those who have not, CRRC pays for 20 hours of lessons. In the 2021-22 financial year, 8 beneficiaries received funding towards payment for their driving lessons, including two women.

Actions	أفعال
1. Continue	1. استمر
2. Cross the crossing	2. عبور المعبر
3. Wait	3. انتظر
4. Be prepared	4. كن مستعدا
5. Be ready to stop	5. كن مستعدًا للتوقف
6. Fasten their seat belt	6. اربطوا حزام الأمان
7. Reduce speed	7. خفف السرعة
8. Accelerate	8. تسارع
9. Adjust	9. يعدل
10. Overtake/pass a vehicle	10. تجاوز سيارة
11. Check mirrors	11. افحص المرايا
12. Signalling/indicating	12. التشوير / غماز
13. Control your speed	13. التحكم في سرعة
14. Flash the lights	14. وميض الأضواء
15. Sound the horn	15. زمر بالزمور
16. Cancel the indicator	16. قم بإلغاء الغماز

CRRC's driving policy is scheduled to undergo a major review in late 2022, not least because the number of beneficiaries requesting funding has greatly increased, reflecting the arrival of many Afghan families in the wake of the Taliban take-over in August 2021. This has put a strain on financial resources and highlighted the need to increase the budget for this item, alongside putting updated application criteria in place.

ACTIVITIES AND CULTURE

School holiday activities

A big thank you to everyone involved in the activities team this year. It was great to see just how many families got involved and how much they enjoyed the activities that were organised.

With a dynamic and efficient new activities team and funding from Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, the summer holiday programme 2021 got off to a successful start with a day trip to Hunstanton with 70 family members and 8 volunteers in two coaches who spent a glorious day on the beach.

The programme continued with an afternoon of ten pin bowling at the Cambridge Leisure Centre. The Coton Village Fair on Bank Holiday Monday offered the opportunity for some bargain-hunting on the bric-a-brac stalls, as well as a picnic and a game of cricket on the recreation ground.

About 50 people attended the picnic and the team were very pleased that our newest arrivals came to both the bowling and the picnic. The team was also delighted to be able to introduce a representative, Gareth, from Cambridgeshire Community Foundation to CRRC's work and beneficiaries.

We are very grateful to CCF for facilitating our holiday and after-school activities for three years with grant-funding.

The colder weather and rising numbers of Covid-19 cases meant socials had to be paused again and that any indoor activities required very careful planning. Fortunately, the North Pole ice rink and funfair on Parkers Piece was back and was very popular with ice skating for over 20 skaters of all ages, rides and food in the lead up to Christmas.

The beginning of 2022 saw the team take everyone bowling again because it was just that popular! And finally, a trip to Wimpole Estate in May went down well with a big group of families thanks to the generous staff at the National Trust.

"The trip to London was wonderful. We were able to see the most attractive and tourism places for the first time. It was fun and we had a great time. Many thanks, CRRC!"
Naeem, CRRC beneficiary

In March 2022, the families from Afghanistan who had recently been resettled in Brampton and Huntingdon and supporting volunteers went on an excursion to London. The group alighted at the London Eye carrying picnics and cameras, walked across Westminster Bridge to Parliament Square, up the Mall for a picnic in St James Park, and then on to Trafalgar Square and, via coach, past various landmarks.

CRRC socials

CRRC has been running socials since December 2015 when the team welcomed the first three beneficiary families. The socials provide the face-to-face contact on which CRRC prides itself, involving the whole community, whilst offering private meeting space for confidential conversations. As the number of beneficiaries and volunteers has grown, the socials have grown. They are now held at a large primary school in Cambridge and organised by a small team of volunteers with regular liaison with the board of Trustees. The team is made up of a small, committed team of volunteers on the organising committee liaising via WhatsApp and email to organise the monthly socials. This greatly eased the workload of organising and increased the pool of expertise and interests.

Due to Covid-19, the team did not start the socials again until September 2021. The team's main concern was how to continue to run the socials and remain safe. Socials had to be organised outside using the schools outside space and the playing field. Two local chefs (who were refugees themselves) were hired to cater for the first socials since lockdown 2020. They brought a variety of delicious food and over 20 volunteers helped with the arranging of tables, serving food, kitchen, and children's games.

For the October social, the team was lucky to have warm weather to be able to remain outside. Socials closed for the winter and resumed after Ramadan in May and June 2022 with both inside and outdoors activities. New families from Afghanistan who arrived in Cambridgeshire during the spring joined the schedule of socials. A range of activities were undertaken including crafts and football.

In response to the arrival of newer arrived families from Afghanistan, an additional social was organised in a new venue on Marmalade Lane. It allowed some of the families to meet each other as well as some of the core team members.

CRRC gratefully thanks all volunteers of the socials team!

LEGAL SUPPORT

CRRC continued to offer support to one asylum-seeking family who were entering into their third year waiting for a decision from the Home Office. Their first interview failing, the family were supported with the appeal process and are hopeful that it will be completed in 2023.

CAMPAIGNS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND OUTREACH

Campaigns

As a result of events in Afghanistan and Ukraine, refugee issues have risen up the news agenda and trustees were interviewed on BBC Cambridgeshire's morning news programme several times over the year. CRRC were also invited to give presentations to pupils at Cambourne and Comberton Village colleges to help students understand the challenges facing refugees even when they have reached a place of safety.

In the wake of the fall of Kabul and a huge surge of interest in volunteering, a public meeting of support groups was organised at the Friends Meeting House in September 2021 to explain to potential new volunteers what local organisations do and how they could help.

Since the invasion of Ukraine, CRRC has been collating information on hosting refugees, donating and finding help on arrival, which is available on the website. The team has also been liaising with other groups and attended a networking meeting for refugee support groups hosted by CamCRAG and Dr Julian Huppert at Jesus College in April 2022.

Nationally, CRRC continued to campaign against the Nationality and Borders Bill with trustees speaking at a rally outside the Cambridge Guildhall in March, attending the Rwanda rally in June and sharing petitions on social media. Sadly, this punitive and unethical bill, which was opposed by the Church of England, the UNHCR, Liberty, the Law Society and hundreds of refugee organisations, passed into law in July 2022.

However, the Together with Refugees coalition campaign continued, particularly with regard to the treatment of unaccompanied minors and the Rwanda scheme.

The quarterly newsletter has gone out regularly to 470 subscribers, showcasing the amazing work of CRRC's volunteers and the successes of our beneficiaries. The CRRC Facebook group has 1.5k members and Twitter feed has almost 1.2k followers. Over the year, CRRC's website saw over 39,000 page views.

Financial review and reserves policy

During this fifth year of operations, the budget has been reviewed during regular trustee meetings, ensuring that new expenditure is checked and authorised by the trustees. The Board of Trustees is responsible for ensuring that expenditure remains within agreed limits. The net receipts for the year were £ 3,473.

At 30 June 2022, CRRC's free cash reserves were £ 57,650. The charity does not have a reserves policy. Trustees review spending regularly, adjust budgets as required, encourage donations within the local community and plan fundraising activities to ensure that ongoing and planned support of beneficiaries and all CRRC's activities can be maintained.

Adrian Matthews, CRRC trustee and group lead, with the brand-new banners in summer 2022, ready for the first rally in collaboration with Cambridge4Ukraine.

Plans for the future

CRRC's work has adjusted and expanded over the course of the last year. We have been learning about the needs of more recently arriving refugees from Afghanistan and the Ukraine. We have extended important collaborations with local agencies and supporters to work towards CRRC's overarching aim to promote supportive conditions for integration to enable refugees to achieve independence and settle harmoniously. Settling in a new country can be difficult and complex and CRRC's goal is to provide newly arrived refugees with connections to people able to support them with these tasks.

CRRC will face major challenges related with the ongoing economic crisis and an increasing colder social climate. We plan to critically analyse the needs of beneficiaries and CRRC's priorities over the course of the next financial year to strengthen our strategy. We want to ensure to be able to remain resilient, as an organisation, to sustainably provide critical services to refugees to facilitate achieving economic stability and becoming self-reliant. We will aim to further expand on the engagement of established refugee and diaspora communities. We are enthusiastic to continue to draw on the large number of volunteers in Cambridge and Cambridgeshire, committed to assist refugees to realise their potential and to contribute to the receiving society.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 27.04.2022 and signed on their behalf by:

Dan Ellis
Trustee

Note: The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and its compliance with all legal requirements. They are also responsible for safeguarding the reputation of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities. The trustees take pride in maintaining the integrity of information included on the charity website and other social media.

Statement of financial activities
(Incorporating an income and expenditure account)

For the period to 30 June 2021

	Period ended 30th June 2022 £	Period ended 30th June 2021 £	Period ended 30th June 2020 £
Income from:			
Donations & Legacies	61,342	46,568	47,156
Total income	**61,342**	**46,568**	**47,156**
Expenditure on:			
Raising Funds	0	0	0
Charitable activities	57,869	29,485	39,502
Total expenditure	**57,869**	**29,485**	**39,502**
Net movement in funds	+3,473	+17,083	+7,654
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds introduced	54,177	37,093	29,438
Total funds carried forward	**57,650**	**54,176**	**37,093**

All of the above funds are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.

Balance sheet as at 30 June 2022

	30th June 2022 £	30th June 2021 £	30th June 2020 £
Current Assets:			
Debtors	0	0	0
Cash at bank and in hand	57,650	54,176	37,093
	57,650	54,176	37,093
Liabilities:			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	0	0	0
Net current assets	**57,650**	**54,176**	**37,093**
Total net assets	**57,650**	**54,176**	**37,093**
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted funds	0	0	0
Unrestricted general funds	34,678	31,466	22,222
Designated funds	22,971	22,710	14,871
Total charity funds	**57,650**	**54,176**	**37,093**

on behalf of the Board
of Trustees

Dan Ellis
Trustee

Michael Robert (Robin) Turner
Treasurer

Notes to the financial statements for the period ended 30 June 2022

Accounting policies

a) **Statutory information**

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) in the UK. The registered office address is c/o Friends Meeting House, 12 Jesus Ln, Cambridge CB5 8BA.

b) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (September 2015) and the Companies Act 2006. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

c) Public benefit entity

The CIO meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

d) Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the CIO's ability to continue as a going concern. The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

e) Income

Income is recognised when the CIO has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, and it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

f) Fund accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure, which meets these criteria is charged to the fund. Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received/generated for the charitable purposes. Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

g) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds relate to the costs incurred by the CIO in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose.
- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises those costs incurred by the CIO in the delivery of our programmes. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the CIO. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the CIO's activities.

h) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

i) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments. Cash balances exclude any funds held on behalf of service users.

j) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the CIO has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

k) Staff and pensions

The CIO currently has no employees or pension obligations.

l) Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities expressed in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the exchange rate ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the end of the month in which the transaction occurred.

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign (Charity number **1172836)**

on the accounts for the year ended 30 June 2022

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

It is my responsibility to:

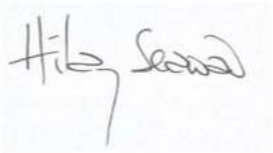
- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

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 trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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



Hilary Seaward, FCA — 1 September 2022

Chartered Accountant
9 Sherlock Road
Cambridge, CB3 0HR

How you can help Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign

Campaigns

The Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign (CRRC) does not just help with the day-to-day support that local refugee families need (important though that is). It also supports and runs campaigns focused on the needs of our beneficiary families and other similar people around the country who are affected by government policies that should be changed.

Volunteer

CRRC always needs enthusiastic people to volunteer for the organisation. The team cannot offer money, although expenses are reimbursed, but it is extremely rewarding to see your work directly helping local refugees. You will meet a bunch of fascinating people if you work with CRRC. Recently, there has been a *huge* increase in offers of help and CRRC's volunteer administrators are working their way through these. Please check our website for updates on volunteering opportunities. For example, CRRC is always looking for trained ESOL teachers who can teach in a private home, and for childcare help during these English lessons.

Can you offer employment and work experience?

Once a refugee family begins to settle into their home, their children are at school and their own English classes are progressing, the adults need to become independent and self-sufficient by earning their living in legitimate and worthwhile work**.** CRRC seeks opportunities across a wide range of employment areas based on the jobs and skill-development these adults have had in the country they have just fled.

Calling all landlords and landladies

CRRC still needs you! Please see our website for further details.

Photo: Key Goodridge

Donate

Donate money

The organisation relies entirely on the generosity of our supporters to continue the work for refugees resettling here in Cambridge. As CRRC is run entirely by volunteers from their own homes there are no staff, office, or administration costs. Your donation will go directly towards helping the refugee families themselves.
Donations can be made through our website or through Kindlink.

Donate items

Refugee families in Cambridge are often in need of items to support them in setting up their new lives and CRRC works on a request-only basis for its beneficiaries (as CRRC has limited storage). Current requests are advertised on the website and social media.

Find more about our work at cambridgerefugees.org or email info@cambridgerefugees.org to discuss ways to support CRRC.

CRRC sincerely thanks our many generous donors, sponsors and volunteers, whose contributions make a real difference to our beneficiaries.

Charities, foundations and organisations

Al-Alamin Store, Cambridge
BAM4Change
Besom Project
Cambridge Assessment English
Cambridgeshire Community Foundation (CCF)
CamCRAG
Cambridge Hub
Cambridge Mosque
Cambridge University Press
Cambridge
Emmaus, Cambridge
Hartington Grove Quaker Meeting, Cambridge
Hope into Action
Laptops4Learning
MAUL (Martial Arts Uniting Lives)
OWL Bikes
Papworth Trust
Project Linus
Radley Charitable Trust
Refugee Education UK (REUK)
Refugee Support Network
South Cambridgeshire District Council
Synaptics, Cambridge
Warwick and Dominey Fund
The Arts Theatre
Barrow Cadbury Covid Emergency Fund
The Bike Project, London
Cambridge City Football Club
Cambridge Community Kitchen
Cambridge Food Bank
Cambridge Junction
Cambridge Refugee Support Group
Central Language School for English Language, Doulas, UK
The EU's Asylum, Migration & Integration Fund
Faraj's Kitchen
Jesus Lane Cambridgeshire Quakers
Literature Cambridge
One Hope Foundation
Oxford University Press
Peterborough Asylum and Refugee Community Association (PARCA)
Reach Community Solar Farm
Rotary Club Cambridge
Studio Cambridge
University of Cambridge Primary School

….. **and all other individuals who donated items large and small, all of which count in CRRC's joint efforts.**

A heartfelt thank you to all individuals and organisations, who donated generously to CRRC and supported our work with time and expertise during the reporting period!

CAMBRIDGE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT CAMPAIGN

England & Wales - Charity number 1172836

Accounts

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign

Trustees Annual Report & Financial Statement

Period ended 30 June 2021

Registered Charity (CIO - Foundation) in England 1172836

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign (CRRC) is a volunteer-led, Cambridge and Cambridgeshire based organisation providing a broad range of support, assistance, and activities for displaced persons within the local communities.

CRRC c/o Friends Meeting House • 12 Jesus Lane
Cambridge CB5 8BA

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Cover photo
Chris Cellier

Published
April 2022

Queries regarding CRRC should be directed to:
info@cambridgerefugees.org

A warm thanks to all of CRRC who have contributed to the report.

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Board of Trustees at 30 June 2021

Emma Briggs
Joanna Burch
Dan Ellis
Ann Goodridge
Marya Kakai
Adrian Matthews
Heidi Radke
Sue Spencer
(Michael) Robert Turner
Catharine Walston

Registered Address

CRRC c/o Friends Meeting House, 12 Jesus Ln, Cambridge CB5 8BA

Constitution

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign (CRRC) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO – foundation, number 1172836) registered on 2 May 2017 with the Charity Commission for England, following a transfer of assets from the Unincorporated Association (UIA) of the same name on 1 July 2017.

Bank

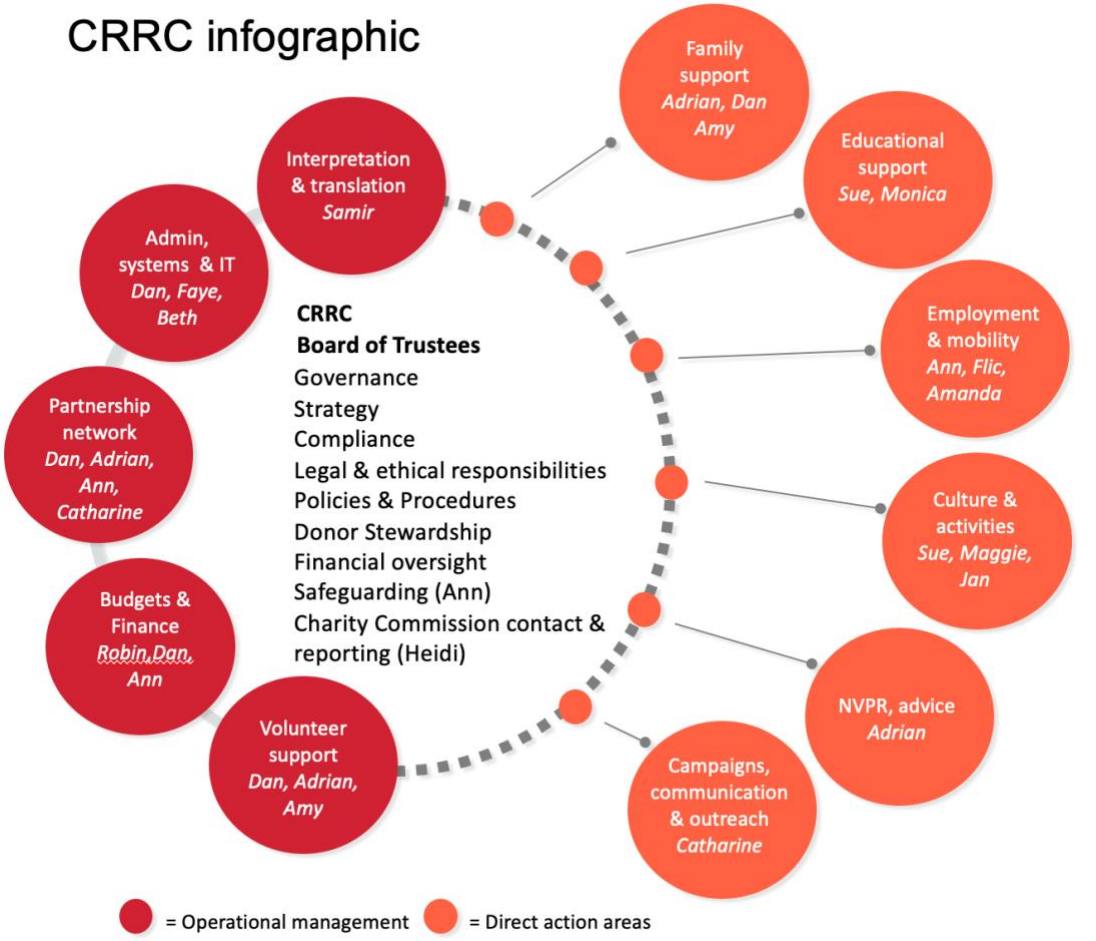
Cooperative Bank, PO Box 101, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester M60 4EP

Report of the Trustees

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual report and financial statement for the year ended 30 June 2021. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out by the Charities Commission and comply with the charity's constitution.

Introduction

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign (CRRC) is a Cambridge and Cambridgeshire based organisation, founded in September 2015 as a community group and registered with the Charity Commission as CIO (Foundation) on 2 May 2017. CRRC is entirely volunteer-led and relies on volunteers' time and donations to deliver its statement of purpose. CRRC is led by the Board of Trustees, and there is a core group of volunteers who coordinate the different areas in subgroups or are involved in behind-the-scenes operations. Each subgroup has one or more dedicated Trustee and other volunteer contact(s).



NVPR = refugees not associated with a Vulnerable Persons Resettlement (VPR) scheme

Structure, governance and management

This is CRRC's fourth report as a CIO, during which it was governed by between eight to 11 charity trustees at given times. Marya Kakai was welcomed as a trustee in May 2021.

The constitution provides for a minimum of five and a maximum of 12 trustees. Being a Foundation CIO, the only voting members are its trustees. Trustees are appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees. New trustees can be appointed by existing trustees. Any charity trustee is eligible for reappointment and can serve for three consecutive terms. Trustees commit to giving their time and expertise freely. No trustee remuneration was paid during this period. All relevant interests must be disclosed by trustees and registered with the other trustees. In accordance with the charity's best practice, a trustee must withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest arises. There were no such conflict of interests or decision withdrawals in this period.

Trustees met at least two-monthly in video or in hybrid meetings. Each meeting was chaired and minuted. Quorum for trustee meetings is two charity trustees or the number nearest to one third of the total number of charity trustees, whichever is greater. Actions, approvals, charity progress, accounts, and any other business are reviewed in each meeting. Between meetings trustees communicate using email and WhatsApp. Trustees review the broad strategy and areas of activity for the charity on a yearly basis.

Volunteers and supporters

We could not carry out our work without the tremendous contributions of our many volunteers and supporters. CRRC works in a collaborative manner, recognising that the nature of a volunteer-led group requires flexibility, whilst ensuring that we fulfil tasks that we commit to within given time frames to achieve our objects. We actively seek and value volunteers with diverse life experiences and perspectives.

There has been a high level of ongoing engagement from those getting in touch with CRRC to express their interest in getting involved, suggesting that the operational model is effective.

Thirty-four new volunteers joined CRRC between July 2020 and June 2021, and we have completed a range of basic and enhanced DBS checks, using either the Government online service for basic DBS checks, or our new online enhanced DBS provider for enhanced checks. We have greatly reduced our direct and indirect costs in completing DBS checks and have reduced the DBS checking time down from three to four weeks to an average of one week. As a result, CRRC had 93 active volunteers registered at the end of June 2021, and 48 applicants waiting for an opportunity to come up. The huge number of hours given forms a vital part of the CRRC community.

Regular volunteer social gatherings for existing volunteers to exchange thoughts and ideas, and to introduce new prospective volunteers to understand what they were signing up for, were continued, online and in person, whenever Covid-19 restrictions allowed.

Our heartfelt thanks to all volunteers and supporters of CRRC for their commitment and tremendous contributions to CRRC's work!

Beneficiaries

Who benefits from CRRC's activities?

- Refugees settling or resettled by the authorities predominantly into Cambridge and Cambridgeshire benefit by being assisted in their settlement and integration into the community.
- Local communities including community groups and faith groups into which the refugees are settling or being resettled, profit by fostering and promoting diversity and social cohesion.
- Relevant statutory authorities, politicians, and others involved in policy-making and decision-making on issues affecting refugees benefit by being supported in the delivery of their statutory function.

CRRC accepts referrals from refugees themselves or from other individuals, organisations or authorities, and considers whether assistance sought is consistent with the organisation's purposes. Decisions on providing assistance are made at quorate meetings of the trustees or as otherwise permitted by the constitution. The trustees have regular meetings, where decisions are tabled at an open discussion. There is also the opportunity for suggestions to be submitted within our online group forum. Once decisions have been submitted, the trustees discuss and then vote for the preferred option. The trustees discuss and adapt to changing local and national circumstances and the needs of the beneficiaries.

Objectives and activities for the public benefit

The charity's objects

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign (CRRC) is constituted for the following purposes:

a) To promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of persons who have become displaced persons or refugees from the countries of their origin or domicile by reason of hostilities, persecution, oppression, discrimination, natural disasters or other like causes, including through the relief of poverty, the advancement of education and training, and the promotion of good citizenship.

b) To advance the education of the public in general about issues relating to persons who have become displaced persons or refugees from the countries of their origin or domicile by reason of hostilities, persecution, oppression, discrimination, natural disasters or other like causes.

The charity's main activities

- CRRC provides a range of **practical support** to refugees and liaises with local stakeholders. CRRC works closely with the County Councils, District Councils, City Councils, local charities, and other organisations that support and campaign around refugee issues, and enables the people of Cambridgeshire to volunteer to support refugees.
- CRRC organises **social events** for refugees and CRRC's volunteers.
- CRRC facilitates and provides **language tuition** and interpreting services to refugees.
- CRRC provides **welcome packs** and secures **household necessities** for refugees.
- CRRC assists refugees to develop **employability skills** and works with local employers to identify appropriate openings.
- CRRC provides **funds** to refugees for participation in community based social activities and for educational purposes.
- CRRC provides **emergency grants** to local refugees who are experiencing severe hardship, a disaster or emergency.
- CRRC helps to identify, secure and prepare **accommodation** for refugees.
- CRRC explores fostering opportunities and other forms of **support for unaccompanied refugee children**.
- CRRC **informs** faith groups, community groups, politicians and other organisations and individuals where appropriate about the situation of refugees and involves them in CRRC's projects.
- CRRC organises and co-organises **fundraising** events.

Benefits

In setting CRRC's objectives and planning our activities, trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit:

By supporting and promoting the welfare and inclusion of all refugees predominantly in Cambridge and Cambridgeshire, there is a public benefit to refugees, the local communities and stakeholders in creating a welcoming and safe environment for refugees. CRRC achieves this by providing a range of practical support (including providing welcome packs and household necessities to refugees), organising social events for the refugees, CRRC volunteers and the local communities, and securing and preparing accommodation.

By supporting refugees to adapt to their new environment, the local communities benefit from the refugees' contributions and involvement in the local community, whether by way of employment, social cohesion etc. In addition to the examples provided above, CRRC assists refugees to develop employability skills and works with local employers to identify appropriate opportunities.

By providing practical support to local authorities in accommodating refugees, both benefit from CRRC's assistance in overcoming logistical and economic challenges (among others) during the process of settling in. CRRC renders this assistance by, as mentioned above, securing accommodation for refugees and fostering opportunities and other forms of support for unaccompanied refugee children.

By publicising and celebrating the contribution of refugees to local communities, UK society and culture, refugees, local communities and the public at large benefit from embracing diversity and challenging hostility and discrimination in society. CRRC achieves this by organising social and fundraising events for refugees, local communities and volunteers, informing faith and community groups and other influencers on the plight of refugees and their contributions to UK society.

Risk Management

The trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed, have reviewed them and put in place mitigations. The main risks that trustees have identified are:

External environment The hardships faced by our beneficiaries have been exacerbated by changes to the benefits system, rises in utility bills and transport costs and misunderstandings about their responsibilities as benefits claimants. Some beneficiaries have suffered from hostility toward refugees or to their religion in their locality. The Covid-19 pandemic has posed challenges to our beneficiaries in many ways and has put pressures on beneficiaries and volunteers working closely with the families. We have worked to mitigate effects by assisting the families and providing information and practical support. Where necessary we provided emergency support and encouraged our beneficiaries and volunteers to adjust to changes by taking advice early.

Financial security Our ability to continue CRRC's work relies on monetary donations and donations in kind from groups and individuals. We encourage donations within the local community through social media, fundraisers and PR work. Where appropriate we request gift aid for donations, and, as part of this request, require the individual to complete gift aid information in order for us to reclaim the tax. In the event of a large, significant donation (over £10,000) we request the individuals' / companies' address details and undertake due diligence checks to satisfy the trustees as to the source of the donations and ensure that the prospective gift does not conflict with the charity's objectives. The majority of payments are by cash, cheque or bank transfer. There have been no concerns to date in relation to public donations, and a full income and expenditure spreadsheet has been maintained. Donors' names are acknowledged in our publicity and accounts with the consent of the donor.

Operational risks Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign carries out risk assessments for all activities to ensure that risks are understood, and policies and procedures are in place to mitigate these. CRRC has continued to review and update policies and procedures around some key risk areas including safeguarding and DBS checks.

History

On 15 December 2015, Cambridge welcomed the first refugees and their families resettled under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. CRRC had established itself at that time as a community group in Cambridge, campaigning for the resettlement of refugees at the height of the refugee crisis.

At the start of our campaign, CRRC persuaded Cambridge City Council to agree to settle a minimum of 50 individual refugees in our city pledging our support. We were delighted that when we asked for that target to be increased to 100 the City Council agreed. By the end of the financial year in June 2019 over 100 individual refugees were being resettled under the Government's Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Schemes in Cambridge. In addition to welcoming and supporting these families, CRRC provided services and support to a number of other refugees and asylum seekers who had arrived in Cambridge outside of the resettlement schemes. CRRC became an Unincorporated Association in March 2016, before being registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in May 2017. We have continued to work closely with the Cambridge City Council and the Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum, and we have organised or participated in events with a range of others, such as East of England Strategic Migration Partnership, Cambridge University Student Action for Refugees, Anglia Ruskin University, City of Sanctuary, Cambridge Assessment English, CamCrag, Help Refugees, Cambridge United Football Club, Cambridge Mosque and Cambridge Buddhist Centre. CRRC has been a member of Cambridge Council for Voluntary Services since 2016.

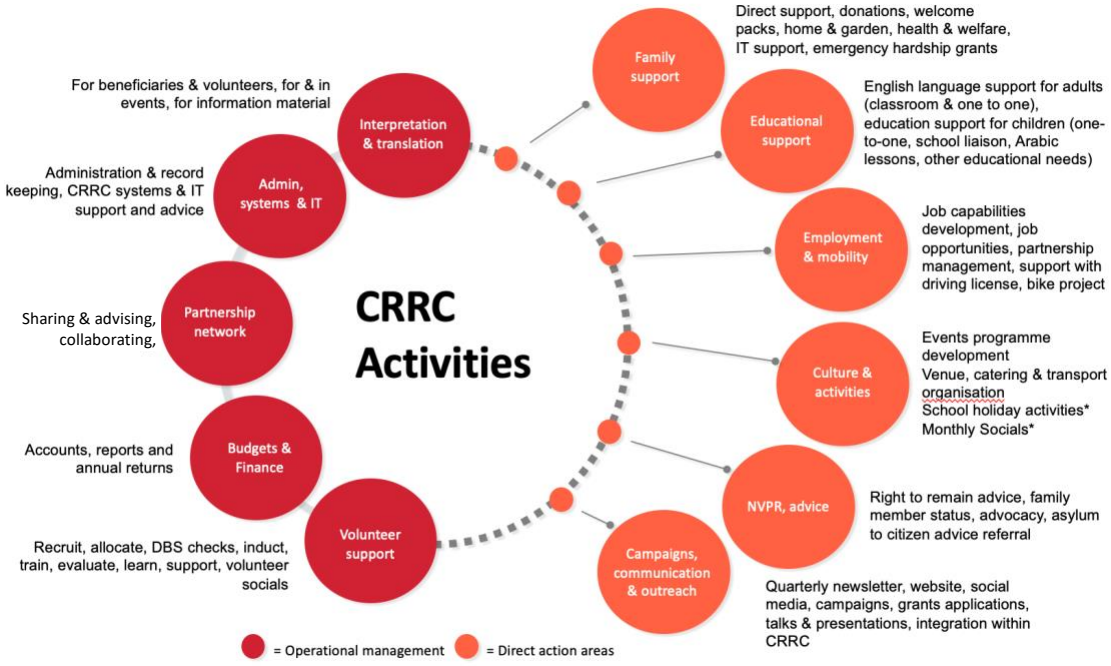
The emphasis of CRRC's work, as envisaged and intended, focussed on developing ways to provide personal and professional development opportunities and employment support. English language support for adults and children, Arabic language lessons for children, code-club for children and teenagers, monthly socials, holiday activities, and direct family support remained key areas of CRRC's activities and were carried out in person and remotely during Covid-19.

"Becoming a focal point to a Syrian family has broadened my horizons as I have learnt so much about Arabic culture, Islam and the background that led to their flight. Contributing my knowledge of the UK and Cambridge, I hope that I have been able to help them on their journey, and I feel great pride to see them adapting so well to their new life, studying hard, making friends, riding bikes, cooking delicious food and extending that great tradition of hospitality ''Ahlan wa Sahlan''.

Josephine, April 2022

Achievements and Performance

CRRC's activities in the year July 2020 to June 2021*



*Some adjustments were required to the in-person activities during the Covid-19 pandemic

Support for Families and Individuals

Who is CRRC supporting?

By June 2021, CRRC was supporting 25 families being resettled under the UK Government's resettlement programmes with an additional eight individuals or families living in Cambridge, who had arrived in the area other than through the resettlement programmes – some asylum seekers and some refugees. Resettlement into the UK had stopped in March 2020 following the cessation of resettlement by UNHCR and IOM (International Organisation for Migration) due to the Covid pandemic. While UNHCR and IOM lifted its suspension on resettlement in June 2020, the Government continued to prohibit any further resettlement into the UK during the period covered by this report. However, two additional family groups arrived in Cambridge through other routes.

The Covid-19 pandemic during the reporting period and the impact on family support

At the start of the reporting period, in July 2020, England was just emerging from the first national lockdown and was beginning to introduce local lockdowns. Restrictions on gatherings were re-introduced in September 2020 and a 'tiered' system of restrictions was implemented in October. On 5 November a second national lockdown came into force ending in early December when England returned to a stricter three-tier system. By Christmas most of England was in Tier 4 restrictions – the highest level. In early January 2021, England entered the 3rd national lockdown. Schools remained closed until early March. Between March and the end of the reporting period there was a phased easing of restrictions.

The Covid-19 restrictions throughout the reporting year made it very hard for CRRC volunteers to provide the levels of service we had in previous years. Much of the contact was maintained by phone, and where face to face contact was needed this happened on the doorstep.

One main loss was the absence of the monthly social gatherings. Through the absence of monthly socials, we realised that we needed a better way to keep in touch with families and decided to expand the focal point arrangement. A focal point is a befriender, often one or two people allocated to one family to visit or contact them on a regular basis, assess their needs and communicate with the family support team so that these can be best met. In this annual period, we recruited and established 10 new focal points, nine of whom remain active to date.

Through the focal points and the core members of the family support team, including our all-important Arabic-speaking interpreters, significant assistance continued to be given in several areas including provision of goods such as laptops, phones, scientific calculators, school revision guides and printers to assist with learning under lockdown. We recruited an IT coordinator to help with a good part of this.

"I and my family would like to thank you and CRRC in general for the great support. You paid for my summer English language course, my new washing machine and also bicycles. All these things help us a lot. CRRC is one of the best charity organisations looking after people who are really in need. May God bless CRRC. Regards Emmanuel." Emmanuel, CRRC beneficiary, 2021

To support managing covid we purchased and delivered thermometers for each family with school age children to check for evidence of a fever. We delivered food parcels of both dried staples and fresh vegetables for those reluctant or unable to leave their houses. Cambridge Community Kitchen delivered ready-made vegan meals to some of the CRRC families and the One Hope Foundation delivered halal meat on a request basis.

Several families had to move house during the periods of respite from the harshest restrictions, due to their private tenancies ending or other reasons. CRRC volunteers assisted with coordinating the moves and refurbishing the new properties. We source furniture from the local charity Emmaus, The Besom Project and through our own donation channels, coordinated by the CRRC donations team. CRRC also funds replacement of broken white goods. We also provided emergency assistance to three siblings – the children of an existing beneficiary, right at the start of the second lockdown.

A happy team after a long and successful day of decorating.

The majority of the CRRC families do not have cars and we were alerted to a build-up of unwanted items both inside and outside of their homes. We spent considerable effort organising to have this refuse cleared through hiring a man with a van, using volunteers' efforts and vehicles, and paying for the city council street collection of bulky-goods service.

Transition from 'Refugee Leave'

The first five families to arrive in Cambridge under the Government's resettlement schemes completed their five years of 'Refugee Leave' during the reporting period. This means that Cambridge City Council is no longer funded to support them, and they are expected to be independent of council assistance after this. CRRC is not constrained in the same way as the Council and is committed to continue to provide support and friendship for all families transitioning from Refugee Leave to 'Indefinite Leave to Remain' where continued support is needed or wanted.

A very first issue in making the transition is for the whole family, including all the children, to make their way down to Croydon where the Home Office will take their 'biometrics' (photographs and fingerprints) and issue them with new residents' cards endorsed with 'Indefinite Leave to Remain'. This is the individual's proof of their right to remain in the UK, and access employment and services like any other permanent resident. CRRC assisted all five families with travel arrangements to Croydon and paid the travel costs which, for a whole family, can be significant, particularly for families who rely on benefits or are on a low income.

Supporting growing families

A doula is a birth attendant; a non-medical but trained person who can accompany the expectant mum to medical appointments and be a birth partner if desired. They can explain and offer support to navigate the antenatal and postnatal system as it exists currently in Cambridge. They can help with breastfeeding concerns and are generally there to calm and reassure the parents through the whole process of pregnancy, labour, birth and postnatal care. They can act as an advocate and also a home help. The role is varied and varies according to the expectant mum's needs and wishes. CRRC has a working relationship with the charity and organisation Doulas UK, who offer, through volunteering for CRRC, the refugee mother the chance to have a professional doula accompany her.

During the time period of this annual report CRRC arranged for a doula to support one pregnant mother throughout her pregnancy. It was especially important when the baby showed signs of a serious tongue-tie and could not feed properly. The doula acted quickly and sourced a tongue-tie practitioner to carry out the procedure within days of the problem being diagnosed. Soon after, the baby was feeding well and mum and child have not looked back. The donations team supplied this family with new bunk beds for older siblings, a double buggy, baby clothes and a range of other requested items.

One mother explains: "*CRRC helped me a lot when I was pregnant. And after that I received a baby grant for my baby. Thanks, CRRC.*"

Indeed, for each new baby CRRC gives a grant of £200 per child to help the parents buy necessary items.

Gardening project

During this reporting period, the CRRC gardening team limited the number of volunteer gardeners to five as this helped to work with some social distancing and has enabled a shared understanding of the need to keep volunteers and families safe from Covid-19. We are fortunate that all the volunteers are experienced and knowledgeable gardeners, who have been prepared to turn up and work on a regular basis.

We continued to help with the gardens of two single-parent families in the city. This has mostly involved mowing and clearing weeds plus providing seeds and seedlings. Although CRRC's aim is for all families to become independent gardeners, this is unlikely to happen while each of these parents has so many other issues to manage. The gardening team also worked in the gardens of three recently arrived families in Girton, Willingham and Trumpington.

After an initial visit and discussion with each family, basic gardening equipment was provided, according to need, and this typically included a push-mower, a spade, a watering-can and a trowel. Generally, potatoes, broad beans, climbing beans, tomatoes, courgettes, and herbs are planted, but the gardening team also tries to respond to specific requests such as strawberry plants for the children.

The pandemic has changed the way we interacted with families to some extent as volunteers have had to refuse their offers of hospitality, but we still have a chance to have a chat and are always made to feel very welcome.

Case Study

One of CRRC's beneficiaries who had arrived in late 2015 had three children from her previous marriage living in Gaza. CRRC assisted her make a family reunion application to the Home Office and, when this was refused, to lodge an appeal to the Immigration Tribunal. The appeal was successful and in August 2020 the three siblings were granted entry visas to the UK valid until mid-December 2020.

The CRRC beneficiaries' 'focal-point' made extraordinary efforts to support the very difficult task of getting the three young people out of Gaza in a Covid-compliant and otherwise safe way into Egypt where, through a local NGO we had contacted, the siblings were assisted to get a flight to the UK, arriving in London in November 2020. The mother had been in the UK since December 2015 and was on the point of applying for 'Indefinite Leave to Remain' (ILR) - for which refugees are required to apply after completing 5 years of 'Refugee Leave'. CRRC arranged for the three newly arrived siblings to be included in her application and they were all granted ILR in December 2020. Having ILR meant that the siblings could access the services and benefits needed to establish themselves in a new place. By January 2021, CRRC had assisted the siblings find somewhere to live, open bank accounts, sign on for Universal Credit and apply for college.

"I'd like to thank the Cambridge resettlement and refugee campaign once more; here is a list of what they did for us upon our arrival in Cambridge. They helped us find a beautiful apartment in the heart of the city when we arrived in November 2020, as well as help with preparing it and bringing all the furniture. Furthermore, they helped us to pay the rent and the bills for the electricity and gas. On top of that, we were given food and supplies, as well as help to register with a college to study the language, and we were gifted three laptops and a mobile phone to assist us in our studies. We were also assisted in finding a dentist and the treatment we needed, they supported us throughout the process. They are ready at any time to help – it's a group of very kind and sophisticated people."

Emergency hardship grants and loans

CRRC provides emergency hardship grants to local refugees, who experience severe hardship or an emergency. This type of support is intended as a short-term solution, rather than a long-term financial commitment. The application process for a hardship grant is overseen by the trustees and follows the emergency hardship grant policy. We provided two hardship grants in the financial year ending June 2021. CRRC acts as a distributor of vouchers for the Cambridge Food bank for beneficiaries in especially difficult circumstances, and with support from the One Hope Foundation, CRRC also provided, several emergency food parcels to beneficiaries.

Photo: Key Goodridge

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND EDUCATION SUPPORT

English language support for adults

This whole period has been overshadowed by Covid-19, which severely impacted on CRRC's ability to offer classes with childcare, one-to-one lessons, and to recruit trained and qualified ESOL volunteer teachers.

In July 2020, after planning and training in June, we offered weekly group lessons on Zoom with a follow-up one-to-one lesson. These lessons ran right through to June 2021. Three or four students attended regularly, including two who lived outside Cambridge and had not been able to access previous classes. A few others found it challenging to attend regularly because of home-schooling children, access to broadband, pregnancy, or difficulty in learning remotely.

We decided to keep the group just for women, as they were working from their own homes, often their bedrooms. This had the added benefit of allowing us all to enjoy some much-needed light relief in dark times. Particularly memorable was the occasion one student pulled back her scarf to reveal she had dyed her hair pink to cheer up the dreary lockdown days.

We worked on relevant topics and increasing accuracy, including describing feelings in lockdown, using the past simple to tell our life stories and to describe accidents and talking to the teacher. The follow-up one-to-one lessons enabled students to reinforce the language learned in the group lesson and to expand into other areas of their choice. Many thanks are due to the volunteers who rapidly learned and adapted to new teaching techniques.

In their self-assessments, the students reported progress and more confidence. One moved house during this time and has made good friends with her new neighbours. One started at Cambridge Regional College (CRC) and, having been assessed, was moved into a higher-level class.

In December 2020, three young people arrived as part of a family reunion. As this coincided with Christmas lockdown, they were unable to start CRC classes or socialise. From January to April 2021, we offered them twice-weekly lessons on Zoom, at two different levels, to aid acclimatisation and create confidence whilst they were waiting for college places. All three transferred successfully to CRC when it re-opened.

One-to-one teaching in students' homes stopped because of Covid restrictions. Even as these were eased, many volunteers were still cautious, as they are vulnerable because of age or shielding. It was not possible to match any new volunteers with students.

Rachel Hall, who had co-ordinated ESOL volunteer recruitment, moved on to use her skills as a Covid vaccination volunteer. We are very grateful for her work over the last three years. Many thanks, Rachel!

In May and June, we were able to offer one-to-one lessons in a garden to one busy mother, who was under pressure to provide evidence that she was engaged in learning English. The evidence was accepted, and she was not sanctioned.

Two students benefitted from the generosity of the Studio School in offering them full-time places.

One beneficiary, who completed a full year with the Studio School, received a glowing report describing her as: '*an extremely pleasant, highly self-motivated learner. She has worked consistently well and is supportive of her peers. She has made excellent progress from Elementary to Intermediate.*'

Thanks are also due to the Central Language School which provided places over the summer 2021.

Planning for the future of the support with the English language has proven to be very difficult. There is a steady demand for one-to-one provision, and for the resumption of a class with childcare. Others, who are working or job-seeking, require more specific language support. Those whose progress has been badly affected during the pandemic require extra help to catch up. As the needs of the adults resettling in Cambridge change, we are committed to providing the appropriate support.

CRRC Childcare during English language learning

A very dedicated and motivated team of childcare volunteers have provided service to take care of under school age children alongside adult English language learning since 2016. Before the Covid-19 lockdown, we had a rota to arrange a small activity such as learning colours, numbers and letters by using different methods of play or craft activities. We also read books to the children as well as singing together and play games.

We have noticed that the children love to come to the sessions, and their parents are happy and very grateful to be able to leave them with us so that they can concentrate to their learning, and the children are in easy reach if needed for example for personal care and hygiene or just to comfort in case of any upset. We have been in different venues in Cambridge where we have been both in the same room/hall where the adult language learning was happening or in a separate room with door open to keep us all together.

We have been lucky to have a core Childcare volunteer team who has been coming in to take care of the children regularly for many years. We have also had a pool of university students and extra volunteers helping the core team and introducing fresh energy during the play sessions. We all share the same passion for kindness, creativity, and learning. The childcare team have observed the children, who they had years back, doing very well in their learning and settling into their school environment. The team feels very proud of them, as well as very proud of having been able to help them to gain confidence and the communication skills needed to start a happy and independent journey in their new chapters in life.

After lockdown, the classes have been held only once a week and more of a free play style was adopted with the children. We hope to go back to our usual structured sessions with a small activity during each session.

Educational support for the children

Nearly all school-aged children from CRRC's beneficiaries have been enrolled in the one-to-one tuition programme provided by CRRC's children's tuition team. Some pre-school children also have tutors. CRRC volunteers are matched with the families, and they generally meet the children once a week, usually on a Saturday. The aim of this support is to help the children: develop language skills; encourage conceptual understanding; increase knowledge of their cultural community; and to build confidence and self-esteem.

Many of the CRRC's children's tuition volunteers are also students and lecturers of Cambridge University and Anglia Ruskin University. These young people often continue their interest in the refugee crisis after graduating. Although the group of volunteers used to meet once a month to exchange ideas, resources and concerns, we still keep in touch through telephone calls and written reports. Many volunteers have signed up for web-based training with FutureLearn and, indeed, many helped to create this on-line training.

The one-to-one teachers of school-age children often also help, after obtaining written consent from the family, with liaising with the child's school so that the child is supported in following the curriculum at the appropriate level. Schools send a significant number of emails or letters to families, which they may struggle to understand. With written consent from the family, it has been possible to get routine emails from schools directed to a CRRC member so that important messages, such as notice of a parent's evening can be flagged to the family.

Several of the one-to-one tutors have become close friends with the children and the entire family and have engaged with many different aspects of family life over time. Since July 2020, 35 tutors have been supporting the children of the families. Despite the difficulties arising from the Covid-19 pandemic and having to connect virtually, recruitment of volunteers has remained robust. Refugee Education UK also provided three mentors to support the children.

First language support for the children

CRRC commissioned further Arabic classes, and Saussan Khalil, who teaches the classes, reported that, despite the challenges of online learning, six of the 12 children enrolled attended regularly by Zoom and were making good progress.

FOCUS ON EMPLOYMENT AND MOBILITY

Employment support

The good news is that several of the refugee adults have succeeded in getting themselves into some form of work. Often these were part-time jobs to allow them to continue at college to improve their skills, especially in English. The need for better English continues to be an employment barrier for many of them, especially in reading and writing. Our English classes have been hampered by Covid restrictions. Inventive ideas have been applied and we are now getting back on track.

Other advances made include the following:

- Peterborough Asylum and Refugee Community offered a great service by which an adviser meets with individuals to find out their current capability and work interests, and then assesses what they need to do to be ready to apply for jobs or to set up their own business.
- A Department of Work and Pensions manager advised us on the range of services the Careers Service in Cambridge and Huntingdon makes available to refugees, both offices are used by our folks.
- Organizations like PAZ extend their services to UK refugees, but as they are mainly aimed at professionals relatively few of our refugees may benefit.

CRRC volunteers have been asked to find out from the family members what works best as an approach to gaining employment, and let the trustees know. As the pandemic lessens its grip, we shall contact local employers to see what might be available for refugees – as volunteers; as apprentices or trainees; and as employees. CRRC has several volunteers who are willing to offer mentoring support to individuals and we shall pursue those opportunities.

Those beneficiaries who have started their own food businesses are slowly picking up custom as they develop their business acumen. We look forward to extending our means of supporting the refugee families to enable them to achieve finical independence and personal dignity.

Mobility support

Bicycle project

Bikes help people get around Cambridge, visit friends, and enjoy holiday breaks, but a side effect of the pandemic was global supply problems, and, as a result, second-hand bikes dramatically increased in price.

Enthusiastic cyclists: Salma, Wesal, Rahaf with her children, Amanda and Lavery (from top left to bottom right)

The need for bikes for all, led to the recruitment of Amanda as bike coordinator who has worked in part with The Bike Project in London to provide each beneficiary of CRRC, both adult and child, with a working bike, plus helmet, lights and a secure lock. Bike training has been delayed due to lockdown restrictions but is planned.

Support with passing the UK driving test

In 2014 – a year before the first wave of resettling refugees arrived in the UK – the Government introduced new rules that required the driving theory test to be taken in English (or Welsh) rather than a range of foreign languages that had been available until then. This meant that refugees arriving in the UK with little or no English, despite being drivers in their home countries, were effectively barred from driving until their English could reach a standard allowing them to undertake the theory test. The driving theory test became as much a test of the nuances of the English language as it did about understanding the highway code and the rules of the road. With plummeting test pass rates and under pressure from a range of interest groups, the government changed tack in April 2020 and made the theory test less 'wordy' and more visual. This had a significant effect on the ability of CRRC's beneficiaries to have a realistic chance of passing the theory test.

In recognition that becoming a driver would assist greatly with employment prospects, in April 2020, CRRC Trustees had agreed a bold plan to support beneficiaries who wanted to take the driving test. In addition to practical assistance with materials and practice for the theory test, a financial package was agreed for those who had passed the theory test to take driving lessons. Previous drivers were given the financial support to undertake 10 hours of lessons, and new drivers, 20 hours of lessons. By the end of the reporting period, 5 of beneficiaries had obtained full vehicle driving licences, and another a motorbike licence.

ACTIVITIES AND CULTURE

School holiday activities

The easing of lockdown did not lead to the hoped-for summer activities programme in 2020. The risks of returning to 'normal life' were too great for many people, and we were unable to organise excursions.

However, several online events were enjoyed, including cookery classes and a wonderful online exhibition about a previous generation of refugees in Cambridge. The families were offered exercise classes online with MAUL (Martial Arts Uniting Lives), thanks to Wendi and her team!

In April 2021, an online cook-along session with Faraj (Faraj's Kitchen), a local chef originating from Syria, was so successful that a second one was organised just before Refugee Week in June 2021.

We were fortunate in being able to defer a generous grant from Cambridgeshire Community Foundation (CCF) for activities in the excellent summer programme 2021 covered in our next annual report.

CRRC Socials

CRRC has been running socials since December 2015 when we welcomed the first beneficiary families. As the number of beneficiaries and volunteers grew, the socials grew.

The Socials are normally held at a large primary school in Cambridge, one Saturday of every month and organised by a small team of volunteers with regular liaison with the board of Trustees. Very sadly, for the year July 2020 to June 2021, we were unable to run the socials due to COVID 19. During this time, we liaised with some of the families to gauge their thoughts on returning to the Socials. We discussed how we would proceed once we are all able to meet up again. The main concern was how to continue to run the socials and all remain safe.

The CRRC socials serve three main purposes:

• Social space for beneficiaries. They provide a regular social outlet for beneficiary families, many of whom live scattered across the city and county and rarely have the time or means to see each other elsewhere. It is a space in which conversation, information, celebration, games, music and food can be shared.

• CRRC contact with beneficiaries. CRRC rents the venue for an hour before the event time in order to use the space to meet with volunteers and beneficiaries to discuss paperwork or queries, offer advice or introduce new volunteers to the work. Translators are available to help in such matters. The One-to-one tuition group holds their regular monthly meeting before the socials. During the socials important public announcements are often made, new beneficiaries or babies welcomed, services CRRC is offering are detailed.

• Involvement of Volunteers. Once registered with CRRC, many new volunteers begin by helping at a social – in the kitchen, with the children's activities, setting up and tidying up. From this small commitment many volunteers become more involved in other work – one-to-one tuition, language teaching, focal points etc. Those with less time to give can continue to lend a hand once a month at socials and their help is greatly valued.

In short, the socials provide the face-to-face contact on which CRRC prides itself, involving the whole community, while offering private meeting space for confidential conversations.

We gratefully thank all volunteers of the socials team, some of whom sadly moved away or were unable to continue.

At the end of the reporting period, busy preparations were under way to start running the socials again (outside only) in September 2021.

Eid Mubarak

It was frustrating that both Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of Ramadan and of fasting, and Eid al-Adha, which remembers the sacrifice of Ibrahim and is traditionally celebrated with a lamb feast, had to be small family events this year.

CRRC were able to mark the events by commissioning one of the beneficiaries, Anas, who is an excellent chef with his own business called Stars Food, to make traditional Syrian sweets as gifts for the families.

Similarly for Eid al-Mawlid al-Nabawi, the birthday of the Prophet Mohammed, Anas once again made a traditional treat to offer the beneficiary families, this time opting for *mahalabia,* and our volunteers helped deliver the delicacies.

One happy recipient described receiving the sweets as
"a ray of sunshine in the pouring rain".

AWARDS

Despite the challenging individual and pandemic-related circumstances, luckily, there were also reasons to celebrate. These can be daily successes however small they may seem, moving forward towards independence through various ways, or just a moment of being grateful for being safe. CRRC stands closely with all beneficiaries on any occasion, as this annual report aims to illustrate.

This section, however, celebrates two very official accomplishments:

Hend was awarded the Cup for Courage and Loyalty by Soham Village College. What an impressive achievement.

Dear Hend, many congratulations from CRRC once again!

Muayad was delighted to celebrate his graduation in Architecture (BSc) from the University of East London with his mother Wesal and his brothers.

Dear Muayad, CRRC wishes you all the very best for continued success!

CAMPAIGNS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND OUTREACH

Campaigns

Conducting much of our business online, due to Covid-19, had the unexpected benefit of greatly increasing engagement, particularly with the two major campaigns of the year. The first of these was conceived as part of the *Europe Must Act* movement to highlight the plight of asylum-seekers trapped on the Aegean islands by EU regulations. However, this quickly developed into a joint project with Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group (CamCRAG) and student groups to persuade Cambridge City Council to make three key pledges: to resettle more refugees as the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme comes to an end; to state its support for the principle of relocation of asylum-seekers from overcrowded and dangerous camps to places of safety to have their applications processed; and to agree to explore the possibility of Cambridge becoming an asylum dispersal area.

Galvanised by the horrific blast at Beirut port in August 2020, which affected some of the VPRS families already settled in Cambridge, and by the appalling fire in Moria camp on Lesvos in September 2020, the *Cambridge Will Act for Refugees* campaign saw our online petition become the largest virtual petition the Council had ever received, supplemented by in-person signatures gathered by students on Kings Parade. CRRC Trustee Adrian Matthews gave an interview in October 2020 to BBC Radio Cambridgeshire on the campaign just before presenting the petition to the full Council meeting. All three pledges were agreed, with the ruling Labour group announcing that they would like to resettle up to 200 more refugees over the next five years. As well as promoting this campaign, our social media platforms were very active in support of collections of clothes and aid run by CamCRAG for the survivors of the Moria fire.

The second major campaign of the year kicked off in March 2021 with the opening of the public consultation into the Government's New Plan for Immigration. Human rights, refugee and asylum support organisations reacted with outrage to this plan, organising into a broad coalition movement called *Together With Refugees* to resist the proposed legislation. CRRC was proud to sign up to this movement and co-ordinated a webinar with CamCRAG and the student-run legal aid charity Solidaritee to talk participants through possible responses to the misleading questions in the consultation. Around 20 participants took part and came away with well-researched and useful information, for which we are very grateful to Lexy Netty and Nadine Finch.

Accommodation

We have continued to seek local properties for potential let to refugee families arriving through the VPRS schemes, and, towards the end of the year, for those arriving from Afghanistan under the ARAP (Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy). Initial discussions with Landlords/ladies who contacted us to discuss this possibility were followed by signposting to the relevant re-settling bodies such as the City Council or the East of England Local Government Association (EELGA). In some cases, if they had a room to offer in their own house, those contacting us were signposted to Refugees at Home or Room for Refugees. In other cases, inquirers were given information about Community Resettlement schemes and bodies to help them with that. We have fulfilled a useful role in attracting such offers through our website and enabling inquirers to make informed decisions and actions.

Refugee week

Refugee is a nation-wide festival celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary. Events during Refugee Week were all virtual, with CRRC participating remotely in sessions at the Jesus Lane Friends Meeting House and the Fitzwilliam Museum and organising an online Introduction to Arabic Language and Culture with Cambridge University's Centre of Islamic Studies. Counterpoints Arts curated a film programme 'Moving Worlds'. All films could be viewed at home. Daily film suggestions and post-viewing discussion guides to continue the conversation were also available.

Financial review and reserves policy

During this fourth year of operations, the budget has been reviewed during regular trustee meetings, ensuring that new expenditure is checked and authorised by the trustees. The Board of Trustees is responsible for ensuring that expenditure remains within agreed limits. The net receipts for the year were £17,083.

At 30 June 2021, CRRC's free cash reserves were £54,176. The charity does not have a reserves policy. Trustees review spending regularly, adjust budgets as required, encourage donations within the local community and plan fundraising activities to ensure that ongoing and planned support of beneficiaries and all CRRC's activities can be maintained.

Plans for the future

Over 2020/2021, we continued to learn about CRRC's families, volunteers and working with agencies, Councils, and sister charities, all in the pursuit of resettling refugee families. We have encouraged our local Councils and through them our Government to bring more refugee families into the area and we hope to support them too in due course. Our areas of support all aim to offer skills (English), opportunities (social and work), comfort (advice and care), and fun (general and specific activities).

Causes for refugee displacement can include war and civil war, human rights violations, environment and climate issues, and economic hardship. No one part of the world has escaped such turmoil, and the role of CRRC is likely to increase as humanitarian crises continue in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

On top of these upheavals, we have had the Covid-19 pandemic, which is not yet over, and we may face similar unpredictable and dangerous viruses in the future. Despite the success of vaccines in the UK, and the great sacrifices that people have made to keep themselves and their loved ones and neighbours safe, the educational and social disruption has been considerable, with huge costs to society and the economy, which will have to be addressed at some point. With pressure on wages, and household bills, it will become more crucial to make prudent choices in providers such as for heating and media/internet, to help spread what money there is. Most refugees have lost everything in their journey to the UK, the process of integration will become even more important as society feels the strains from poverty.

To meet these continued and expanding needs CRRC is likely going to have to pay more attention and time to fund-raising from the public and grant giving bodies. With our robust organisation, our wonderful community of volunteers, the great variety of skills that we can offer, we shall continue to make new friends, and help settle and integrate displaced persons, to the great benefit of our multicultural open society.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 27.04.2022 and signed on their behalf by:

Dan Ellis
Chair

Note: The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and its compliance with all legal requirements. They are also responsible for safeguarding the reputation of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities. The trustees take pride in maintaining the integrity of information included on the charity website and other social media.

Statement of financial activities
(incorporating an income and expenditure account)

For the period to 30 June 2021

	Period ended 30th June 2021 £	Period ended 30th June 2020 £	Period ended 30th June 2019 £
Income from:			
Donations & Legacies	46,568	47,156	22,461
Total income	**46,568**	**47,156**	**22,461**
Expenditure on:			
Raising Funds	0	0	0
Charitable activities	29,485	39,502	26,022
Total expenditure	**29,485**	**39,502**	**26,022**
Net movement in funds	+17,083	+7,654	(3,561)
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds introduced	37,093	29,438	32,999
Total funds carried forward	**54,176**	**37,093**	**29,438**

All of the above funds are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.

Balance sheet as at 30 June 2021

	30th June 2021 £	30th June 2020 £	30th June 2019 £
Current Assets:			
Debtors	0	0	0
Cash at bank and in hand	54,176	37,093	29,438
	54,176	37,093	29,438
Liabilities:			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	0	0	0
Net current assets	**54,176**	**37,093**	**29,438**
Total net assets	**54,176**	**37,093**	**29,438**
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted funds	0	0	0
Unrestricted general funds	31,466	22,222	19,628
Designated funds	22,710	14,871	9,810
Total charity funds	**54,176**	**37,093**	**29,438**

Dan Ellis
Chair

Michael Robert (Robin) Turner
Treasurer

Notes to the financial statements for the period ended 30 June 2021

Accounting policies

a) **Statutory information**

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) in the UK. The registered office address is c/o Friends Meeting House, 12 Jesus Ln, Cambridge CB5 8BA.

b) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)(September 2015) and the Companies Act 2006. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

c) Public benefit entity

The CIO meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

d) Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the CIO's ability to continue as a going concern. The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

e) Income

Income is recognised when the CIO has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, and it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

f) Fund accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure, which meets these criteria is charged to the fund. Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received/generated for the charitable purposes. Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

g) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds relate to the costs incurred by the CIO in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose.
- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises those costs incurred by the CIO in the delivery of its programmes. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the CIO. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the CIO's activities.

h) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

i) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments. Cash balances exclude any funds held on behalf of service users.

j) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the CIO has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

k) Staff and pensions

The CIO currently has no employees or pension obligations.

l) Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities expressed in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the exchange rate ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the end of the month in which the transaction occurred.

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign (Charity number **1172836)**

on the accounts for the year ended 30 June 2021

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

It is my responsibility to:

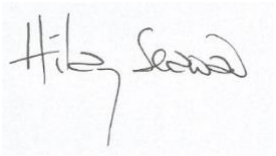
- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

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 trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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



Hilary Seaward, FCA 8 December 2021

Chartered Accountant
9 Sherlock Road
Cambridge, CB3 0HR

Campaigns

The Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign doesn't just help with the day-to-day support that local refugee families need (important though that is). We also support and run campaigns focused on the needs of the families we support and other similar people around the country who are affected by government policies that should be changed.

Volunteer

We always need enthusiastic people to volunteer for the organisation. We can't offer money but it's extremely rewarding to see your work directly helping local refugees. You will meet a bunch of fascinating people if you work with us. Recently, we have experienced a *huge* increase in offers of help and our volunteer administrators are working their way through these. Please check our website for updates on volunteering opportunities. For example, we are always looking for trained ESOL teachers who can teach in a private home, and also for childcare help during these English lessons.

Can you offer employment and work experience?

Once a refugee family begins to settle into their home, their children are at school and their own English classes are progressing, the adults need to become independent and self-sufficient by earning their living in legitimate and worthwhile work**.** At CRRC, we are seeking opportunities across a wide range of employment areas based on the jobs and skill-development these adults have had in the country they have just fled.

Calling all landlords and landladies

We still need you! Please see our website for further details.

Donate

Donate money

We rely entirely on the generosity of our supporters to continue the work that we do for refugees resettling here in Cambridge. As CRRC is run entirely by volunteers from their own homes we have no staff, office, or administration costs. Your donation will go directly towards helping the refugee families themselves.
Donations can be made through our website or through Kindlink.

Donate items

Refugee families in Cambridge are often in need of items to support them in setting up their new lives. We operate on a request-only basis for CRRC's beneficiaries (as CRRC do not have storage). Current requests are advertised on our website and social media.

Find more about our work at cambridgerefugees.org
or email info@cambridgerefugees.org to discuss ways
to support CRRC.

Photo: Key Goodridge

We sincerely thank our many generous donors, sponsors and volunteers, whose contributions make a real difference to our beneficiaries.

Charities, Foundations and Organisation

Al-Alamin Store, Cambridge
The Arts Theatre
Barrow Cadbury Covid Emergency Fund
Besom Project
The Bike Project, London
Cambridge Assessment English
Cambridgeshire Community Foundation (CCF)
Cambridge Community Kitchen
CamCRAG
Cambridge Food bank
Cambridge Hub
Cambridge Junction
Cambridge Mosque
Cambridge Refugee Support Group
Cambridge University Press
Central Language School for English Language, Cambridge
Doula, UK
Emmaus, Cambridge
The EU's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund
Hartington Grove Quaker Meeting, Cambridge
Faraj's Kitchen
Hope into Action
Jesus Lane Cambridgeshire Quakers
Literature Cambridge
MAUL (Martial Arts Uniting Lives)
One Hope Foundation
OWL Bikes
Papworth Trust
Radley Charitable Trust
Refugee Support Network
Studio Cambridge
Synaptics, Cambridge
Warwick and Dominey Fund

Heartfelt thanks to all individuals and organisations, who donated generously to CRRC and supported our work with time and expertise during the reporting period!

..... **and all other individuals who donated items large and small, all of which count in our joint efforts.**