

Rainbow Home (North East England)
(Registered charity, number 1173782)
Financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

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**Rainbow Home (North East England)
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

Full name Rainbow Home (North East England)

Registered charity number 1173782

Principal address

c/o Northern Lights, MCC, St James Church, Northumberland Road, Newcastle
Upon-Tyne, NE1 8JF

Trustees

Jacqueline Jobson, Co-chair
Andrea Cowie
Dave Smith, from 12/06/2025
Charlotte West, until 28/01/2025

Richard Rhodes, Co-chair
Patrick Ngabonziza
Shervin Nouri, from 12/06/2025
Steven Takunda, until 13/06/2024

Independent examiner

Eva Stevens, employee of Community Accounting Plus, Units 1 & 2 North West, 41
Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5GL

Governance and management

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 08/07/2016 and
most recently amended 08/12/2024.

Prospective trustees complete a Fitness to Practice Form; receive a copy of the
accounts and annual report plus read the Charity Commission information regarding
being a trustee. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-trustee-whats-involved>.
Prospective trustees meet with the co-chairs to discuss the charity and their interests
and are then invited to attend a board meeting to observe. As part of our governance
review, we are reviewing our processes re trustee recruitment, appointment and
retention, including a skills audit. We are keen to attract more trustees from the
global majority, including those with lived experience of the asylum system and
exploring ways in which to do so. Currently, all our trustees are from the LGBTQ+
community, and 2 have lived experience of the issues we aim to address. We also
have non trustee board members, bringing further experience and expertise.

Rainbow Home (North East England)

Objectives and activities

The objectives of the charity are to provide relief, assistance and to promote social inclusion to those seeking asylum; those granted refugee status and any other migrants, and their families and dependents, and in particular such of those said persons who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender, by preventing them from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society.

(For this purpose "socially excluded" refers to "those who are excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one or more of the following factors: ill health; disability; unemployment; poverty or financial hardship; race; nationality or ethnic origin; language; gender; sexuality; poor education or skills attainment; being within or having experience of the public care system, detention or prison).

We provide specialist support to LGBTQ+ people navigating the asylum system across the North East in a range of ways, offering 1:1 case support to help people tell their story to the Home Office and others with as much dignity as possible, and in a trauma informed way. We provide practical and emotional support, helping people find their feet, to feel safe and welcome and live the best lives possible while they wait for a decision on their case, or become settled after a decision is made regarding their asylum status. We support people and walk their journey with them, until their case concludes, or beyond if required.

We have a proven framework for practice, which our members have shaped over time.

We also provide social opportunities for our beneficiaries to connect with others from LGBTQ+ communities. We remove barriers to access, including practical blocks such as covering all costs to meet us and meeting in locations and in ways where members are comfortable and safe. We provide interpreters and provide choice of in person/phone where possible as we have learned this helps confidence. We learn what people need to engage and aim to meet this to promote inclusivity and meet their needs. The UK in many ways has become a more hostile and challenging place for the people we support over the past year, and many report being more afraid than they previously were, likening fear and events of the summer riots, for example, to the trauma they faced in their own countries. People report experiencing racism, magnified due to their asylum status and the negative intense rhetoric, compounded by their profound fear of their sexuality and/or gender identity being discovered. The impact of intersectionality is hugely significant. Sadly, our members are often excluded from both the LGBTQ+ and asylum/refugee communities, often unintentionally.

Our members express such great relief about being able to talk openly about their sexual orientation and/or gender identity with their Rainbow Home case worker and the wider Rainbow Home team, often for the first time in their lives, certainly without fear. The majority of those accessing refugee/asylum support services locally and regionally keep their sexuality hidden and do not feel comfortable to be themselves.

Rainbow Home (North East England)

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

Our activities promote community cohesion, inclusivity and integration through improving wellbeing and providing spaces for people to connect and find out about their community.

Public benefit statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Summary of the main achievements during the period

Rainbow Home have experienced many successes during this reporting period. We have worked with 68 people directly, providing a blend of emotional and practical support, 1:1 casework and detailed statements of support for member's asylum claims. As a result, 10 of our members were granted Leave to Remain. Alongside this, we have supported people to settle, build networks and community and participate in life where possible, including support to access education and voluntary work.

Sadly, during this time, many others have either been unsuccessful and therefore appealing the decision, or are waiting for an outcome.

Demand for our specialist service continues with an active waiting list for support. To meet this demand, we have increased staff hours in providing more capacity and resource due to support from funders towards both core costs and restricted grants enabling, for example, our successful member led, Members Club. We thank everyone who has supported us during this time and our funders, enabling people to receive crucial support and positive experiences.

Rainbow Home have also developed our strategic document, outlining our core objectives going forward that shape our delivery, aligning with ambitions and funding applications:

1. Contribute positively to the lives of LGBTQ+ people seeking and/or granted asylum in the NE of England.
2. To challenge and raise awareness of the unique and intersectional discrimination faced by the LGBTQ+ asylum community.
3. For Rainbow Home to be a fully member led organisation.
4. Create financial flexibility.

Rainbow Home are developing our Members Advisory Board to further influence our service offer and growth of the organisation. Supporting this aim is a funded partnership with Newcastle University further exploring members' experiences including training members to become Peer Listeners through Citizens UK and peer workshops with researchers.

Rainbow Home (North East England)

We continue to value and develop partnerships with other organisations and allies, building effective networks that support the needs of our members, including our longstanding relationship with Northern Lights and the closed support group, facilitated by Mind with Rainbow Home staff. Members have shared how important this is as if they are unable to access mental health support; they often feel unable to share their sexuality and real experiences. Peer support in this format has proven to be empowering, safe and supportive.

We would like to say a heartfelt thanks to our funders, supporters and allies. Thank you. Alongside grant funding, without which we could not operate, we receive wonderful donations from supporters. Please read testimonials from our members:

'My name is XXXXX, my pronouns are he/him and I'm a bisexual man from Sierra Leone, West Africa. I want to take a moment to share a piece of my experience with Rainbow Home with you all. Before I met Rainbow Home I was going through a difficult time, challenging moments when I felt overwhelmed, isolated, and unsure of how to move forward. But in the midst of that storm, Rainbow Home stood by me in ways I will never forget. Being in the asylum system was an overwhelming and stressful journey, a journey that I couldn't have made it this far without your support. Rainbow Home listened to my story and believed in me. They support me in every single step of my journey to freedom. Freedom to be open and free as a bisexual man.

From the kind words during appointments with me, from the safe space you created, to the encouragement that lifted my spirit, I felt loved, heard, and seen. The Mind group and trips with other members of the group have contributed immensely to my mental well-being. Each message, hug, and moment of understanding during appointments, meetings and outings reminded me that I'm not alone. You showed me what true community and chosen family look like.

Because of your support, I'm now free from that constant fear that was weakening my self-worth. Now I'm finding my strength again, I'm learning to be kinder to myself, to embrace the next chapter of my life, and to move forward with courage.

I'm deeply grateful for every one of you. Thank you for being my light in a dark time. I carry your love in my heart with me, always.

Love always, XXXXX'

'I cannot express in words just how grateful I am for everything you have done for me. From the very first moment I reached out to you, when I felt completely alone, you were there. You were the only ones who offered me a helping hand when I had no one else to turn to.

Your support throughout my asylum process has been incredible. You found me a place to stay when I had nowhere to go, connected me with a lawyer when I needed guidance, and were always there to provide whatever I needed, no matter how small.

Rainbow Home (North East England)

What touches me the most is how you continuously checked in on me, always asking if there was anything else I needed. Your kindness and generosity have made me feel like I have a family here, like I'm truly home. I've never felt so supported, and I owe that all to you.

Rainbow Home isn't just an organization to me; it's a lifeline, a community that has embraced me and given me hope when I needed it the most. I honestly don't know how I would have made it through this without you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything you've done. I will forever be grateful. With all my thanks and appreciation.

I truly don't have the words to fully express what Rainbow Home has meant to me. During the darkest and most uncertain time of my life, when I was navigating the fear and loneliness of the asylum process, they were the only ones who stood by me. They found me a safe place to stay when I had nowhere to go, and made sure I never felt abandoned. They didn't just offer practical help they offered me dignity, warmth, and genuine care. They always checked in, asked how I was doing, and made sure I had what I needed, even when I didn't have the strength to ask for it. Their support was constant and unwavering, and because of them, I never had to face any of it alone. Now that I've been granted asylum, I look back with overwhelming gratitude. Rainbow Home wasn't just a helping hand they were my safe place, my anchor, and my family when I had none. I honestly don't know where or how I would be today if there was no Rainbow Home.

"Rainbow Home" is Home ❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️'

Rainbow Home (North East England)

Financial review

Rainbow Home are currently waiting to hear about applications for multi-year grants, and other funding pots. We are expanding reserves over our planned amounts in case we are unsuccessful.

Risks

We are dependent on grant funding - the financial risks to the organisation are if funding ceases. Demands on funds across the sector continue to rise and the nature of the work Rainbow Home does is impacted by the political environment locally, nationally and globally. We have increased our staffing capacity, due to increased demand on services and receiving funding which has enabled us to do so.

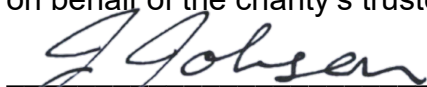
The charity's policy on reserves

The Board will ensure that Rainbow Home has free reserves on hand, not designated for specific purposes or otherwise committed, equivalent to not less than 8 months working expenditure. Where no designated funds are available to cover core costs such as Staff salary, Staff costs and other core costs, the reserves should rise to at least 8 months' reserves. Reserves may be allowed to rise above this level where the Board intends to authorise and undertake substantial schemes in the furtherance of Rainbow Home objectives in the future if needed.

Any designated funds must be approved by the Finance Subgroup with final approval obtained by the Board. Plans are currently in place to actively manage down the surplus to address strategic objectives.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed



Jacqueline Jobson, Trustee

Date 18/01/2026

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of
Rainbow Home (North East England)
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Rainbow Home (North East England) (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 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 Act').

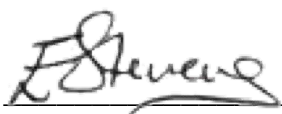
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Signed  Date 21/01/2026
Eva Stevens BSc, CPFA
Employee of Community Accounting Plus

Rainbow Home (North East England)
Receipts & payments account
for the year ended 31 March 2025

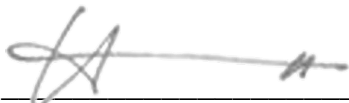
2024			Unrestricted	Restricted	2025
Total		Note	Funds	Funds	Total
Funds			Funds	Funds	Funds
£			£	£	£
	Receipts				
629	Bank interest		666	-	666
41946	Grants & donations	2	30283	22485	52768
2488	Sales/Fees		499	-	499
<u>45063</u>	Total receipts		<u>31448</u>	<u>22485</u>	<u>53933</u>
	Payments				
-	Activities & trips		354	1239	1593
15538	Management		15984	1199	17183
324	Equipment, repairs & renewals		-	-	-
-	IT costs		581	-	581
-	Fundraising costs		469	-	469
263	Hospitality/Refreshments		51	-	51
242	General office expenditure		1015	1071	2086
1092	Insurance		818	-	818
33	Travel		315	2162	2477
2816	Legal & professional		300	-	300
-	Payroll service		276	-	276
-	Printing & stationery		85	-	85
933	Rent & services		48	36	84
-	Staff training		137	-	137
468	Sundry payments		211	-	211
-	Telephone & postage		425	-	425
-	Trustee expense		200	-	200
5898	Wages, NI & pension		22947	715	23662
<u>27607</u>	Total payments		<u>44216</u>	<u>6422</u>	<u>50638</u>
17456	Net receipts/(payments)		(12768)	16063	3295
71875	Cash funds at start of this period		89331	-	89331
-	Transfers between funds		(25)	25	-
<u>89331</u>	Cash funds at end of this period		<u>76538</u>	<u>16088</u>	<u>92626</u>

Rainbow Home (North East England)
Statement of assets and liabilities
at 31 March 2025

2024			2025
£	Cash assets	Note	£
89271	Bank accounts		92482
60	Cash in hand		144
<u>89331</u>			<u>92626</u>
	Other monetary assets		
-	Prepayments	4	481
<u>-</u>			<u>481</u>
	Liabilities		
(505)	Creditors	5	(751)
<u>(505)</u>			<u>(751)</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed



Richard Rhodes, Trustee

Date 18/01/2026

Rainbow Home (North East England)
Notes to the accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

2. Grants & donations

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Mobile Cheque Barbour	1500	-	1500
North East Law Centre	4000	-	4000
Newcastle University	1500	3575	5075
National Lottery Community Fund	-	18910	18910
Lloyds Bank Foundation	2575	-	2575
Joicey Trust	1000	-	1000
Community Foundation	5500	-	5500
LGBT Federation	750	-	750
Garfield Weston	5000	-	5000
Newcastle Frontrunners	2500	-	2500
Northern Lights Metropolitan Church Council	1320	-	1320
Gift Aid	312	-	312
General Donations	4326	-	4326
	30283	22485	52768

3. Funds analysis

	Opening balance £	Receipts (Payments) £	£	Transfers £	Closing balance £
Restricted funds					
C4C	-	3575	(262)	-	3313
Monthly Members Club	-	18910	(6135)	-	12775
NBS	-	-	(25)	25	-
	-	22485	(6422)	25	16088
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	89331	31448	(44216)	(25)	76538
	89331	31448	(44216)	(25)	76538

The transfer from the General fund to the NBS fund is to cover the deficit on this activity.

Rainbow Home (North East England)

Connecting 4 Change (C4C) - a funded collaboration with Newcastle University, working with members and academics.

Monthly Members Club National Lottery Awards for All - funding activities and groups for members.

Newcastle Building Society (NBS) restricted fund - to support members with housing and homelessness, education and training and food poverty.

4. Prepayment

	£
Insurance	442
Zoom Subscription	39
	<u>481</u>

5. Creditors

	£
HMRC	547
Pensions	204
	<u>751</u>

6. Trustees' remuneration

Trustees received no expenses, remuneration or benefits in this period.

7. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in this period.

8. Glossary of terms

Creditors: These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid during the accounting period.

Prepayments: These are services that the charity has paid for in advance, but not used during the accounting period.

Restricted funds: These are funds given to the charity, subject to specific restrictions set by the donor, but still within the general objects of the charity.