

York City of Sanctuary

Charity Number 1176094

Trustees' Annual Report & Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

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York City of Sanctuary

Charity number 1176094

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York
City of Sanctuary



Trustees Annual Report; 1st April 2023 to March 31st 2024

Full name of charity; York City of Sanctuary

Registered Charity number; 1176094

Objectives and Activities

The summary of the purposes of the charity set out in its governing document states that the objects are;

- to advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum
- to advance the education and training of those seeking asylum and those granted refugees status and their dependents in need thereof so as to advance them in life and assist them to adapt within a new community
- the promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by promoting activities to foster understanding between people from diverse backgrounds

A summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts

- Advocacy services provide support and financial aid, assisting asylum seekers and refugees to be provided with legal advice, to make applications for housing, other public benefits, student loans, and applications for UK citizenship.
- ESOL service tutors provide English lessons in city wide locations, and provide referrals to advanced and online language courses.
- The 2 Ridings programme gathers and delivers household goods, including furniture and other items identified as basic needs for refugees and asylum seekers as they enter and adapt within the community. Grants are made to enable families to select their requirements. A discount is provided by York Community Furniture Store.
- Homestay programme identifies and provides short term safe and secure accommodation in York for asylum seekers and families awaiting the outcome of their application for refugee status.
- Public engagements include presentations and speaking engagements in schools, universities, faith communities, at civic occasions, and to a wide range of voluntary organisations. Matters raised by our speakers include equality and diversity.
- The public in general, and the charity's list of supporters, are informed about issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum through our website, regular newsletters, engagement with the local media, and social media presence, such as Facebook.

The Trustees consider that they have complied with their duties to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Achievements and performance in 2023-2024

A summary of the main achievements of the charity over the 12 month period, identifying the difference which the work of the charity has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries, and any wider benefits to society as a whole.

The Board of Trustees met 3 times during the year, and also held the AGM in November 2023. Officers of the Board meet informally on a frequent basis, to carry out the administration and oversee financial affairs of the charity.

The City of York Council grant gives major support to the York -Ukraine Support Team as they provide for Ukrainian refugees who came originally to stay with hosts in York from April 2022 onwards. By March 2023 that number had grown to 350 and remains fairly constant. The Two Ridings Foundation grant of £3470 and the York Minster grant of £3000 assist the demands for support with housing, resettlement, integration, essential items for new asylum seekers in the city, emergency support, and specific programmes such as the York Refugee Week, and the Ukrainian National Festival of Vyshyvanka Day.

Between April 2023 and March 2024, asylum seekers continued to arrive and depart the city centre York hotel accommodation. Numbers vary between 350- 430. York City of Sanctuary has taken part in appeals to gather essential clothing, provided welcome packs for those arriving in the city, and other items identified as important to their well- being. Those accommodated in the hotel are monitored to ensure they are provided with a safe, healthy, and secure environment. Regular meetings have been held of all front line agencies, including the contractors responsible for overseeing accommodation at the hotel. Home Office representatives very occasionally attend meetings. Hotels are not an ideal location for asylum seekers, presenting a clear target for far right agitators. The welfare of those housed in York are greatly improved by the actions of our charity and our partners.

A further 33 individuals seeking asylum, leave to remain permanently in the UK, claiming benefits, or applying for UK citizenship were also supported by the charity. The Homestay programme provided supported emergency rental payments for families awaiting asylum claims and the right to work. They were assured of a local, safe and secure environment, at a time when Asylum Support housing was severely overcrowded.

The Ukraine war shows no sign of ending soon. Gaza, Yemen, and Sudan are also amongst the generators of refugees. Climate change is driving people in sub-Saharan Africa to flee hunger and poverty. There is no likelihood of the flow of refugees reducing, however harsh the policies devised by the richer nations of the world.

Because of the close links with our partners, which we have worked hard to create, we are confident of continuing to deliver the support developed over recent years. This will protect the well-being and safety of new and existing sanctuary seekers. There are around 900 asylum seekers and refugees living here at the time of this report, and York continues to live up to its national status as a City of Sanctuary.



York City of Sanctuary

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Trustees' Annual Report

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period

The charity's financial position at 31st March 2024 was as follows. Income for the year totals £31,401 of which £3225 was donated by individuals; £1171 was given by Faith and community groups and £285 from fund raising. 3 Grants for restricted funds amounted to £6720. The CYC grant for the work of the York -Ukraine Support Team was £20,000. (The CYC grant for April- September 2023 was made in March 2023, and shows in the previous year's accounts.) Over the year, 89% of payments were used to deliver support and assist the needs of individuals and families. Retained funds for 2024 stood at £ 68,869 (2023- £79,919). Funding met the needs of those using our services over the year. The non- financial support from our volunteers far exceeds the financial output we are able to offer.

We expect to meet all commitments on spending for the planned programmes budgeted for 2024-25. Continued demand on our services as a result of re-settlement work with refugees means the need to maintain our increased income for the year ahead. Funding is assured to enable us to provide specific and dedicated work with Ukrainians in York. Applications for grants, fundraising and other donations are in hand to enable our other work to continue.

The Charity policy on holding reserves and why they are held

Maintaining a reserve enables us to guarantee continuity of work over the next 12 months. The amount of reserves held at 31st March 2024 was increased to £35,000. The figure is subject to review by the Trustees, dependent on assessment of essential running costs of the charity.

The charity does not have a policy of holding zero reserves. There are no funds materially in deficit as of 31st March 2024.

Uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern

The Trustees are confident that there are no concerns about the charity going forward into 2024-25.



York City of Sanctuary

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Trustees' Annual Report

Structure, governance and management

A description of the Charity's trusts

Type of governing document (e.g. trust deed, royal charter)

Association of Model Constitution

How the charity is constituted (e.g. unincorporated association, CIO)

CIO with voting members other than its charity trustees.

Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees

Applicants to Trusteeship complete an application form, and provide a CV to the Board. Those interviewed and selected are nominated and elected at the Annual General Meeting. The term of office is a 3 year period. The Board may number up to 9 members, and three retire each year at the AGM. Trustees may seek re-election and serve three consecutive periods before retiring for at least one year. In the event of vacancies, Trustees may be co-opted to the Board and seek nomination and election at the next available AGM.

Reference and administration details

Charity's full name	York City of Sanctuary	It has no other names
Principal address	10 Burniston Grove, Tang Hall Lane, York YO10 3RP	
Bank	The Co-operative Bank	Sort Code; 08-92-99 Account Number 65847664

Names of the Trustees managing the charity during period 1st April 2023 - 31st March 2024

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not whole year	Name of person entitled to appoint trustee
Ahmed Khaleel	Chair		
Claire Newhouse	Treasurer	Retired 4th November 2023	
Paul Wordsworth	Co-ordinator	Re-elected for three year term; 2023-26	
Dee Boyle			
Rasha Ibrahim		Re-elected for three year term, 2023-26	
Rose Berl			
Prof. Richard Bourne			
Oksana Jacecznyk			
Christina Funnell		Co-opted 22/02/2024	



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Trustees' Annual Report

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees Annual Report and Accounts for the year April 1st 2023 – March 31st 2024

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature

Full Name

Ahmed Khateel

Position

Chair - York City of Sanctuary

Date

02/11/2024

York City of Sanctuary

(Charity Number 1176094)

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of York City of Sanctuary

I report on the accounts of: **York City of Sanctuary**

For the year ended: **31st March 2024** Which are set out on pages 9 to 11

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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

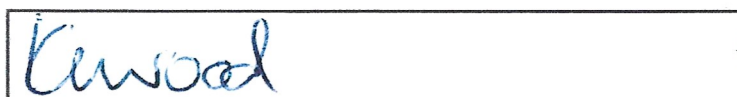
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust 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.



Karen Wood (ACMA)
2 Galligap Lane
Osbalwick
York
YO10 3NR

02/11/2024

Date

York City of Sanctuary

(Charity Number 1176094)

Receipts & Payments Accounts for the year ended:

31st March 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024 Total funds	2023 Total funds
Receipts	£	£	£	£
Individual donations	1,281	14	1,281	3,413
Just giving & other donations	3,115	-	3,115	25,523
Grants received	-	26,720	26,720	62,000
Fundraising activities & events	285	-	285	2,909
Total receipts	4,681	26,720	31,401	93,845
Payments	£	£	£	£
Event & project costs	-	2,079	2,079	1,270
Training fees & DBS	60	-	60	150
ESOL teaching & exam costs	-	-	-	1,165
Insurance	174	-	174	171
Office & computer costs	1,251	-	1,251	40
Fundraising expenses	-	-	-	398
Consultancy fees for YUST	-	32,610	32,610	30,196
Rent & room hire	-	2,600	2,600	1,798
Support for individuals	-	1,606	1,606	400
Grant payments	-	1,494	1,494	-
Review of accounts	330	-	330	180
Tax completion & filing	-	-	-	480
Vehicle hire, travel & expenses	31	-	31	712
Just giving fees	216	-	216	-
Total payments	2,062	40,389	42,451	36,960
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,619	(13,669)	(11,050)	56,885
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Balance brought forward	48,433	31,486	79,919	23,034
Balance carried forward	51,052	17,817	68,869	79,919

York City of Sanctuary

(Charity Number 1176094)

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at: 31st March 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024 Total funds	2023 Total funds
Assets	£	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand				
Current bank account	51,052	17,817	68,869	79,919
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024 Total funds	2023 Total funds
Liabilities	£	£	£	£
Independent review fee	350	-	350	330
	350	-	350	330

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Notes to the Accounts for the year ended:

31st March 2024

1. Basis of Accounts

The Trustees have taken advantage of section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 and prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

2. Restricted income funds

Fund name	Purpose
YUST	To meet the costs of the York - Ukraine Support Team (YUST) and specific Ukraine focused events.
Two Ridings	Support for individuals. grant payments, supporting the Homestay programme, and assisting our events programme such as York Refugee Week.
York Minster	
York University	

	Balance b/fwd	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance c/ fwd
	£	£	£	£	£
YUST	29,486	20,000	33,858	-	15,628
Two Ridings	2,000	3,470	3,281	-	2,189
York Minster	-	3,000	3,000	-	-
York University	-	250	250	-	-
Total restricted funds	29,486	23,470	40,389		17,817
Total unrestricted funds	48,433	4,681	2,062	-	51,052
Total funds	77,919	28,151	42,451	-	68,869

Approval of accounts for the year ended

31st March 2024

The report and accounts were approved at a meeting
of the trustees held on

2nd November 2024

Date



Signed for and on behalf of the trustees

2nd November 2024

Date

Ahmed Khalaf

Print name

Chair

Position (e.g. Chair etc)