



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	01	09	2024		21	08	2025

01

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name **Derbyshire Refugee Solidarity**

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) **1179384**

Charity's principal address **53 Leaper Street**

Derby

Postcode

DE1 3NB

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Charlie Stevens	Fundraising lead		Trustee group
2	Steve Cooke	Chair, Treasurer		
3	Coral McDonnell	Safeguarding Lead		
4	Aso Gabare		From April 2024	
5	Taran Cheema		From April 2024	
6	Vanessa Tissington		From April 2024	
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

--

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

Constitution

How the charity is constituted
(eg. trust, association, company)

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Appointed by existing trustees and management team after inviting applications

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Trustees have the Charity Commission guidelines on Trustee responsibilities.

Everyone attending DRS sessions is a volunteer. Volunteers lead on specialist roles. Eg Music, gardening, English lessons, Bike maintenance, Kitchen duties, Cleaning , Sewing repairs, Help Desk

Julie James , volunteer coordinator and Steve Cooke Premises manager are day to day managers and keyholders.

Part of Derby City of Sanctuary network.

Major risks discussed in safeguarding team meetings Coral McDonnell , Julie James and Steve Cooke.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

1. The relief and assistance of refugees and those seeking asylum in any part of the world who are the victims of war or natural disaster, trouble, or catastrophe in particular by the supply of aid to such persons through providing: grants, items and services to charities and other organisations with similar objectives.

2. The relief and assistance of asylum seekers and refugees and their dependents living (temporarily or permanently) in Derby and Derbyshire by providing items, services and practical support.

3. To advance the education of the public in general about issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum by promoting and providing activities which foster understanding.

4. To empower refugees and asylum seekers in Derby by offering English conversation and/or grammar sessions, thereby increasing confidence, integration and employability between people from diverse backgrounds.

Trustees have been made aware of , and have regard to the CC guidance on public benefit.

The main activities are listed below in achievements of DRS through the year.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

No financial investments for gain.

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Section D Achievements and performance

1. The relief and assistance of refugees and those seeking asylum in any part of the world who are the victims of war or natural disaster, trouble, or catastrophe in particular by the supply of aid to such persons through providing: grants, items and services to charities and other organisations with similar objectives.

How has this objective been achieved?

Aid trips to Refugee camps

Two deliveries of aid to the Hastings delivery hub for onward delivery to Calais C4C

Donations to Refugee support groups

- Donations to other support groups totalled £.2000. This was nearly significantly less than the previous year.
- Beneficiaries include , Herts for Refugees (tents for Calais) Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh., FoRefugees and the DEC Gaza appeal

Moses baskets project

- Moses baskets project has ended but we still distribute donated baskets to TOGS Derby childrens clothing bank

Fundraising

- Grant applications totalled £32690 and was just over double the previous year. This year included grants from |Jeffery Weller trust, Places trust, Blue Thread, Urban Housing, Local Welcome CAD, Teachers union, Debys council for clothes.
- One off donations amounted to £14344 with some large individual donations.
- Rent the Rent is still surpassing the rent and internet cost **and totalled £3744** , ensuring general premises costs are also covered without eating into other donations. This is roughly the same as the previous year.
- During the year 37 individuals made direct debits.
- Clothes sales continued with ad hoc events achieving around £1284. This total includes the Harriet Merry auction sale.
- Gift Aid refund came to £1015

2. The relief and assistance of asylum seekers and refugees and their dependents living (temporarily or permanently) in Derby and Derbyshire by providing items, services and practical support.

How has this objective been achieved?

Activities in Derbyshire

- Regular distribution of clothes to new asylum seekers arriving at DRS each week. One item from each of shoes, coat, hoodie etc to each new person.
- Total spend on 'Items for Refugees' which includes clothes was £28275 which was just under £4k more than previous years
- Suitcases collected and distributed for those moving on from Derby
- Twice weekly community centre activities with increasing numbers attending every week. Table football, pool, english lessons, music, art and gardening at St Annes. Numbers continued to peak at over 120.
- Twice weekly allotment sessions at the the Lottie garden at Rowditch allotments. A significant investment was over £1000 for a new workshop shed.
- Several Shining Cliffs trip thanks again to the amazing Wild Things team for hosting the days with so many wonderful activities.
- Day out to Cromford
- Peak District outing enjoyed by everyone on a full coach to Hartington
- Bikes: Ongoing - supplying refurbished cycles to local refugees along with essential safety equipment. Bike expenses totalled £5381; a drop of £2390 reflecting decision to stop giving bikes to the hotel and hostel asylum seekers
- Around 150 bikes refurbished and delivered to local asylum seekers before the scheme was reduced.
- Continued volunteer work on bike repairs; up to 30 bike repairs every week.
- Regular signposting asylum seekers to other support organisations across Derby, for example the Warm Welcome monthly lunches.
- Music group played at various events during the year raising funds and raising awareness of the asylum process.
- Provision of crockery and cutlery at DRS from public donations
- Second hand laptops provided and waiting list created
- Monthly football sessions at The Willows Sports Centre and the annual Sports Day again proved really popular with adults and children taking part in everything from egg and spoon race to the Tug o' War.
- Small cricket team regular games.
- DRS runs the Derby 10k. 5 free places for asylum seekers and a team of 13 raised over £1000 and everyone finishing..
- DRS annual sports day again a big success with families and single asylum seekers all taking part together.
- Pride Park tours again very popular thanks to Derby County Community Trust
- Radio and TV interviews on Sky, Channel 4, BBC East Midlands and ITV
- DRS closed again during September a.
- National Refugee Week activities
- ParkRun with Refugees.... Thanks to Wirksworth running club, Team Derby Runners and Markeaton Parkrun for continued support and many pairs of trainers.
- Open day with at DRS and stands at the Welcome Derby open day at the Museum of Making
- Music group played regular sessions during the day.
- Regular local litter picking organised by asylum seeker volunteers

3. To advance the education of the public in general about issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum by promoting and providing activities which foster understanding.

- Visit and presentation by asylum seekers to St Marys school Chesterfield
- National Refugee week activities meeting general public.
- DRS volunteers attend protests in Long Eaton .
- Radio and TV interviews.
- Coop community evening presentation
- political candidates accepted invitations to visit DRS and talk about asylum issues.
- Daily protests at Loughborough Immigration office supporting asylum seekers who may be detained for deportation to Rwanda

4. To empower refugees and asylum seekers in Derby by offering English conversation and/or grammar sessions, thereby increasing confidence, integration and employability between people from diverse backgrounds.

How has this objective been achieved?

- Twice weekly English lessons continue with brand new 52 week English curriculum resources developed by volunteer.
- Increased team of tutors. The numbers vary but 6 – 10 tutors usually available
- Classroom used in church
- Continued Investment in resources and teaching aids, eg mobile whiteboard, mini whiteboards
- Regular games sessions including bingo to support English Learning and mental health
- Fr Giles , priest at St Annes continues to open the church for English and music sessions
- Regular help desk sessions with two volunteers helping with CV writing
- Regular visits from DWP helping with Universal Credit etc
- Help desk support increasing with twice weekly sessions with one to four volunteers

Finally and most importantly a massive THANK YOU to all our volunteers through the year without whom this long list of achievements would not have been possible

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

DRS policy is to donate surplus cash to other organisations helping refugees in other parts of the world. Eg Care4Calais in France.

Trustees agreed reserves to be around £2k to ensure we can pay main overheads for 1 year

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Direct Debit payments by 37 volunteers pays for rent and internet connection for DRS and adjoining church and mission house.

Funds also generated by music events , grant applications, clothes sales etc.

Expenditure always supports key objectives

We don't have financial investments.

Section F Other optional information

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

--	--

Full name(s)

Steve Cooke	
--------------------	--

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chair, Treasurer	
-------------------------	--

Date **06/05/2026**

DRS CASH FLOW

01/09/2024 - 31/08/2025

		9 2024	10 2024	11 2024	12 2024	1 2025	2 2025	3 2025	4 2025	5 2025	6 2025	7 2025	8 2025	TOTAL
		Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	2024/25
RECEIPTS	One off donation	£250	£6,325	£2,181	£1,522	£1,495	£1,239	£1,501	£3,812	£1,172	£2,382	£1,723	£534	£24,133
RECEIPTS	Dent the rent donation	£343	£338	£318	£348	£346	£338	£338	£343	£353	£353	£353	£336	£4,107
RECEIPTS	Regular donation	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£10	£15	£10	£0	£0	£0	£0	£35
RECEIPTS	Warehouse sales	£0	£0	£70	£0	£0	£0	£62	£0	£0	£0	£307	£46	£485
RECEIPTS	Event sales / donations	£0	£0	£0	£0	£2	£0	£30	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£32
RECEIPTS	Grants	£0	£0	£12,500	£6,500	£0	£1,000	£1,500	£1,000	£2,350	£8,000	£990	£350	£34,190
RECEIPTS	Merchandise sales	£111	£0	£35	£691	£0	£0	£0	£0	£18	£72	£0	£0	£926
RECEIPTS	Weigh in sales	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£60	£0	£0	£0	£0	£60
RECEIPTS	Gift Aid	£60	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£1,016	£0	£0	£0	£1,076
RECEIPTS	Petty cash banked	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
RECEIPTS	Paypal banked	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
		£763	£6,663	£15,104	£9,060	£1,843	£2,587	£3,446	£5,225	£4,909	£10,806	£3,372	£1,266	£65,043
EXPENSES	Bike scheme	£165	£783	£457	£836	£346	£428	£252	£956	£238	£312	£319	£289	£5,383
EXPENSES	Rent	£200	£200	£200	£200	£200	£200	£200	£200	£200	£200	£400	£200	£2,600
EXPENSES	Premises expenses	£136	£117	£167	£161	£81	£2,501	£911	£275	£308	£138	£96	£75	£4,965
EXPENSES	Refreshments	£194	£110	£292	£339	£552	£425	£515	£361	£283	£228	£99	£445	£3,843
EXPENSES	Sport / days out volunteers	£720	£52	£394	£0	£628	£932	£445	£557	£0	£1,433	£744	£0	£5,905
EXPENSES	Items for volunteers	£174	£2,535	£3,915	£2,711	£2,157	£3,004	£3,149	£3,223	£8,311	£3,551	£1,645	£1,640	£36,016
EXPENSES	Event expenses	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
EXPENSES	Advertising	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
EXPENSES	Bank Charges	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
EXPENSES	Donations to other charities	£0	£0	£0	£1,502	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£500	£0	£2,002
EXPENSES	Activity supplies	£0	£0	£0	£0	£65	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£65
EXPENSES	Entertainment	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£260	£0	£0	£0	£60	£320
EXPENSES	Merchandise expenses	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£200	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£200
EXPENSES	Travel expenses	£3	£0	£6	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£9
EXPENSES	Misc - to categorise	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
EXPENSES	Items for donation	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
EXPENSES	Paypal Charges	£1	£1	£1	£1	£1	£1	£1	£1	£1	£1	£1	£1	£12
		£1,593	£3,799	£5,432	£5,750	£4,029	£7,491	£5,674	£5,834	£9,341	£5,863	£3,804	£2,710	£61,319
TOTAL CASH IN / OUT		-£830	£2,864	£9,672	£3,311	-£2,186	-£4,904	-£2,227	-£609	-£4,433	£4,943	-£432	-£1,444	£3,724
BANK	Balance b/fwd	£11,890	£11,030	£13,864	£23,506	£26,787	£24,741	£19,805	£17,523	£16,561	£11,615	£16,426	£15,958	
PETTY CASH	Balance b/fwd	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	
PAYPAL	Balance b/fwd	£45	£75	£105	£135	£165	£25	£57	£112	£465	£978	£1,110	£1,145	
		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	
TOTAL CASH	Balance b/fwd	£11,935	£11,105	£13,969	£23,641	£26,952	£24,766	£19,862	£17,634	£17,025	£12,592	£17,536	£17,104	£11,935
TOTAL CASH	Balance c/fwd	£11,105	£13,969	£23,641	£26,952	£24,766	£19,862	£17,634	£17,025	£12,592	£17,536	£17,104	£15,659	£15,659



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

DERBYSHIRE REFUGEE SOLIDARITY

On accounts for the year
ended

31 / 08 / 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1179384

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust'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

~~[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Holly Swinckels

Date:

18/05/26

Name:

HOLLY SWINCKELS

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

Masters Degree Business Administration
(MBA)

(if any):

Address:

14 FERNLEIGH AVENUE
MAPPERLEY
NOTTINGHAM NG3 6FL

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.