

C.A.S.T
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1181331

C.A.S.T.

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LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

31 MARCH 2022

Charity registration number: 1181331

Principal address: 59 Queens Road
Southend on Sea
Essex SS1 1NL

Trustees:	Washington Ali	Chair
	Tsebo Letsie	Secretary
	Jennifer Gora	
	Charles Diwayo	
	Paul Hill	

CEO Stanford Biti

The charity's professional advisers are as follows:

Independent Examiner:

APH Accountancy Services Ltd
Office 2 The Reach
687-693 London Road
Westcliff on Sea
Essex
SS0 9PA

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The trustees submit their annual report and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is unincorporated, governed by its constitution dated 26/04/2016 and amended by resolution on 18/12/2018.

The charity and its property is managed and administered by a committee of elected Trustees. There is a management team, including a CEO, who monitor the day to day activities, administration and finances of the charity.

The trustees are elected annually at the Annual General Meeting and those who served during the financial period ended 31 March 2022 are listed on the attached schedule of Legal and Administrative Information. Each trustee's role on the Board would be reviewed at least every 3 years.

The constitution provides that there must be a minimum of 3 Trustees appointed, including a Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary.

Objectives and activities

Our Vision

To end destitution in the asylum-seeking process. Refugees and Sanctuary seekers will be able to access all appropriate support to enable them to integrate and thrive in our communities, without the experience or processes causing any harm. They will have the opportunity to get involved, know where support is available and be valued members of the local community.

Our Mission

To be a welfare organisation and voice of Refugees and Sanctuary Seekers in Southend and surrounding areas through advocacy, promoting community cohesion, delivering housing, education and community services and influencing practice in other community and public services.

Our values

We place our values at the heart of everything we do - Kindness, integrity, Accountability, Diligence, Perseverance and Discipline.

CAST

2021-2022 saw catastrophic events in Ukraine, the latest example of how man-made crises kill civilians and force millions to flee their homes, becoming dependent on humanitarian support for survival. We saw worsening humanitarian events and displacements in numerous countries including Afghanistan and an increase in the number of people arriving through the English Channel in boats. In Southend we saw several hotels being used to receive new arrivals who had been forced to leave their homes because of violence, persecution or war. They have been uprooted, leaving their entire lives behind. Like every other human being on this planet, they seek to live a life of dignity, freedom and security.







CAST had to reimagine how we delivered our services to cater for the huge numbers of people arriving at the same time. Our team pulled together to provide the vital services with very limited resources.

Ending Destitution

We want people to have support to end their immediate experience of destitution and have long term pathways out of destitution through policy, campaigning and practice.

What do we mean by destitution?

In our new strategy, we had the opportunity to reflect on the definition of 'Destitution'. It is usually defined as extreme poverty, when people cannot provide for themselves. We strongly agree with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation definition of destitution which says that people are destitute if they, or their children, have lacked two of six essentials over the past month because they cannot afford them.

 Shelter (have slept rough for one or more nights)	 Food (have had fewer than two meals a day for two or more days)
 Heating their home (have been unable to do this for five or more days)	 Lighting their home (have been unable to do this for five or more days)
 Clothing and footwear (appropriate for weather)	 Basic toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush)

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Our Strategic Goals for 2021 - 2025

- **Goal 1**

To end destitution within the UK immigration system through hosting and housing.

- **Goal 2**

To increase the number of R&AS who access our transformative routes out of destitution and services to address individual needs.

- **Goal 3**

Educate the public about issues relating to refugees and the needs of the wider community who may be facing poverty and homelessness.

- **Goal 4**

Support those seeking asylum, those granted refugee status or resettled and their dependents with wellbeing, education, employment training and skills of those in need thereof to enable them to adapt and integrate into the community.

- **Goal 5**

Promote equality and diversity by building links between sanctuary-seekers and longer-established communities to nurture integration and community cohesion.

- **Goal 6**

To be an independent, accountable, value-led and sustainable organisation

Data from our services paints a devastating picture of the sheer number of people in the asylum and wider immigration system who are forced to endure destitution because of their immigration status. It presents a robust evidence base on the scale and impact of destitution; we also know that this is just the tip of the iceberg, many people are profoundly impacted by destitution. There is reason for hope, however, in the year when state-funded emergency accommodation has been introduced. The roll out of the Nationality and Borders Act and the transition to a full dispersal model has seen Southend have to house new arrivals in hotels, adding pressure to our already stretched resources. In the latter part of the year, we also started to notice the increasing impact of the cost-of-living crisis at the back of two years of covid-19 combined with a challenging funding landscape. Most of our projects were being sustained by respond and adopt funding available, and we now have a huge financial challenge to sustain them.

Immigration Services

We partnered with local Citizen Advice Bureau on the EUSS (European Union Settlement Scheme) to help EU Nationals apply to continue to live in the United Kingdom after Brexit. We supported by making applications and any relevant support needed by our clients. We worked in partnership with CABS Southend and supported over 600 clients through the scheme. We continued to support other immigrants with their visa applications. We also saw a 90% rise in applications to challenge and change NRPFC Conditions because of Covid and the impact of the cost of living crisis on working conditions. Families were facing new challenges and needed support in order to avoid destitution. We assisted 106 new asylum claims using volunteers and pro bono solicitors. We continue to work towards our OISC accreditation.

Resettlement and Housing

The increased numbers of people settling in the UK meant a rise in those needing support with housing. We continued to offer accommodation to those who needed it while they were in the process of resettlement and we managed to house in total over 30 individuals during Covid. CAST has also supported families with no recourse to public funding being supported under section 17 of the Children's Act. We now have three houses for this purpose and have managed to house 22 people (more than 100% increase in the number of people who used the same project last year).

We continue to house newly granted asylum seekers who are usually destitute of the 28 day notice to vacate NASS provided accommodation. We saw 12 arrive in our temporary accommodation during this period and we still face a huge challenge to move them on as the local authority is struggling with affordable housing. We continue to host failed asylum seekers through innovation and use of host families.

We partnered with Essex Police Justice in Care to provide safe houses for victims of modern slavery. Throughout the year we housed 36 victims of modern slavery trafficked in the UK whose cases have received positive grounds from the NRM and are now being supported further by sister organisations.

Our housing stock continues to grow. We now have 6 specialist homes including Southend Sanctuary to house those who are destitute within the UK immigration system.

Friendship and Inclusion services

There has been a huge demand for our friendship projects to address isolation and loneliness. The people we support come to us at crisis point and we noticed that our projects are their lifeline.

We had the opportunity to provide culturally appropriate food parcels to our community and used the opportunity to invite individuals to come out of the house. Visiting our services allowed individuals to take a walk and the chance to interact with people again after Covid and get comfortable with engaging with the public again.

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Volunteers

Due to Covid we were not able to work with volunteers the same way. Our hosting project relies heavily on volunteer families who were also affected by restrictions and protocols which the government put in place which made it impossible to host someone. We are delighted so many existing volunteers participate in our peer support services and help the new arrivals from the Afghanistan and our befriending projects. They have provided consistent support. We appreciate their lived experiences and value their work and the expertise they have brought to us.

Financial review

The results for the year are set out in the statement of financial activities on page 5 and resulted in a deficit of £1,060 for the year.

Reserves policy

It is the policy that CAST should aim to hold in reserve the equivalent of 6 months general running costs. It is also in our policy to hold an amount aside for likely building works and equipment damage. This policy will be reviewed in twelve months' time. At the year end date the charity was not in a position to meet this aim, holding cash reserves of £10,315 (2021: £3,510).

The trustees carry out an annual review of the risks which the charity may face and set out the procedures to minimise any potential impact on the charity should any of the risks materialise.

Public interest

The charity's Trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the 2006 Act to have due regard to guidance on public benefit published by the Charities Commission.

Statement of the Board of Trustees' Responsibilities

Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity to ensure that the financial statements comply with The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008.

Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

No Trustees received any remuneration / expenses during the year.

The Board of Trustees confirms that the financial statements comply with the current statutory requirements and the terms of the Charity's governing document.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



Mr Washington Ali (Chair)
Trustee

Date: 16/03/23

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF C.A.S.T

We report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 set out on pages 5 to 8

Respective responsibilities of directors and reporting accountants

As the Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

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

Independent examiner's statement - matter of concern identified

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 Charities Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. 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.


.....
Adam Hotson FCCA

APH Accountancy Services Ltd
Office 2 The Reach
687-693 London Road
Westcliff on Sea
Essex
SS0 9PA

Date 16/3/2023

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Unrestricted funds Designated	General	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£	£	
Incoming Resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds:					
Charitable Activities:					
The National Lottery Community Fund grant	-	-	127,000	127,000	108,535
Other grants	-	-	45,900	45,900	35,800
Housing - Rent	206,039	-	-	206,039	106,935
Student fees	3,640	-	-	3,640	780
Other income	2,552	-	-	2,552	-
Donations:					
Donations	614	-	-	614	1720
Other:					
Bank interest received	-	-	-	-	24
Total incoming resources	-	212,845	172,900	385,745	253,794
Resources expended					
Charitable Activities:					
Property rents	119,227	-	-	119,227	70,020
Council tax	6,994	-	-	6,994	5,107
Premises costs	-	7,202	-	7,202	39,640
Security	27,345	50,123	-	77,468	0
Telephone & internet	2,413	-	-	2,413	2,235
Light and heat	-	12,755	-	12,755	10,204
Insurance	-	1,092	-	1,092	954
Travel	3,316	-	-	3,316	3,350
Transport hire	-	-	-	-	561
Gross salaries	-	108,397	-	108,397	68,831
Employers pension contribution	-	2,305	-	2,305	1,501
Employers National Insurance	-	5,307	-	5,307	1,698
Subcontractors	-	7,927	-	7,927	5,703
Computer/Software/Website	760	-	-	760	2,673
Subscriptions	336	-	-	336	559
Repairs and maintenance	-	8,180	-	8,180	1,944
Events	-	-	-	-	10
Workshops & training	144	-	-	144	501
Donations	-	-	-	-	32
Printing, postage and stationery	364	-	-	364	430
Refreshments	-	-	-	-	353
Office expenses	2,227	-	-	2,227	731
Legal fees	-	-	-	-	500
Sundry expenses	-	-	-	-	30
Independent examiner	900	-	-	900	840
Consultancy	4,632	-	-	4,632	2000
Depreciation charge	14,860	-	-	14,860	13,790
Total resources expended	-	183,517	203,288	386,805	234,197
Net movement on funds	-	29,328	(30,388)	(1,060)	19,597
Transfers between funds					
Net incoming resources (resources expended)	-	29,328	(30,388)	(1,060)	19,597
Funds at 01 April 2021	-	1,141	30,388	31,529	11,932
Funds at 31 March 2022	-	30,469	0	30,469	31,529

Unrestricted funds represents the free funds of the charity which are not designated for particular purposes.


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Statement of Assets and Liabilities

AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed Assets:			
Tangible fixed assets	4	15,947	29,492
Current assets:			
Other loans - staff	5	9,023	9,965
PAYE debtor		-	-
Cash at bank and in hand		10,315	3,510
		<u>19,338</u>	<u>13,475</u>
Current liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within 1 year			
PAYE/NEST creditor		(916)	(1,997)
Accruals		(900)	(2,840)
Washington Ali - loan		(3,000)	(5,000)
Rent Deposits		(4,816)	(11,600)
		<u>(4,816)</u>	<u>(11,437)</u>
Total Assets less current liabilities		<u>30,469</u>	<u>31,529</u>
Total net assets or liabilities		<u><u>30,469</u></u>	<u><u>31,529</u></u>
Funds of the charity			
Unrestricted funds - General		30,469	1,141
Restricted funds		0	30,388
Total funds		<u><u>30,469</u></u>	<u><u>31,529</u></u>

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:


.....
Mr Washington Ali (Chair)
Trustee

Date 16/2/22

Charity registration number: 1181331

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Notes to the financial statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1.Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charities SORP (FRS102) - 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 (FRS102) (effective October 2019) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a true and fair view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view.

COMMUNITY AND SANCTUARY SEEKERS TOGETHER meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless stated otherwise in the relevant accounting policy.

1.2 Income

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the resources, it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

1.3 Expenditure

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

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT

1.4 Going concern

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £000.

2.1 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are recognised at cost plus all costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition.

All tangible fixed assets are depreciated using the straight line method

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Leasehold improvements	33.30%
Computer Equipment	33.30%
Furniture and Fittings	33.30%

2.2 Fund accounting

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 and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

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Notes to the financial statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Notes continued:

3. Independent examiner's remuneration

2022 2021

900 840

4. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Computer Equipment	Leasehold Improvements	Furniture & Fittings	Total
Cost or Valuation				
At 1 April 2021	6152	29627	7503	43282
Additions	249		1067	1316
As at 31 March 2022	6401	29627	8570	44598
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2021	2049	9865	1876	13790
charge for the year	2132	9875	2854	14861
As at 31 March 2022	4181	19740	4730	28651
Net Book Value 31 March 2022	2220	9887	3840	15947

5. Other Loans - staff

2022 2021

Stanford Biti 9023 9023
Rayhan Ozyurt 0 942

9023 9965

6. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits in this capacity.

7. Related party transactions

At the year end date a total of £3,000 (2021 £5,000) was owed to Mr Washington Ali, the chair of Trustees, in respect of a loan he made to the charity. This loan is interest free and repayable on demand.