

Charity Number: 1181331

COMMUNITY AND SANCTUARY SEEKERS TOGETHER

CAST

UNAUDITED TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

**COMMUNITY AND SANCTUARY SEEKERS TOGETHER
CAST**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Trustees:	Washington Ali	Chair
	Tsebo Letsie	Secretary
	Jennifer Gora	Trustee
	Charles Dhlwayo	Trustee

CEO: Stanford Biti CEO

Charity registered number: 1181331

Principal Office Address:

59. Queens Road

Southend on Sea

SS 1 1NL

COMMUNITY AND SANCTUARY SEEKERS TOGETHER

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Trustees present their annual report together with the Annual Financial Statements of Community and Sanctuary Seekers Together for the year 1st April 2023 to 31 March 2024. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the charity comply with the current statutory requirements of the charities governing document and the provision of the Statement of Recommended Practice(SORP),applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015)

Structure governance and management

The charity is unincorporated, governed by its constitution dated 26/04/2016 and amended 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 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 2024 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

Objectives

CAST is a grassroots community activist group based in Southend-on-Sea which aims to support the self-determined needs of asylum seekers and refugees.

CAST aims to bring communities together to address isolation and loneliness through hosting and friendship projects which build relationships of trust, inter-dependency, respect, and solidarity within Southend.

We assist asylum-seekers and refugees, offering advice and support and signposting them to appropriate services, and liaise with local community and statutory organisations and are active in night shelters and Southend Homeless Action Network. At the same time, CAST is an activist organisation that advocates for fairer representations of non-status peoples, and aims to challenge the structures which stand in the way of this.

CAST is organised by a diverse, non-hierarchical group of volunteers, many of whom were once asylum-seekers, and all of whom share a vision of creating strong, welcoming communities.

Activities

CAST undertakes its work through the following six main areas of activities which are also the main classification used in our financial accounts.

Destitution Services- by supporting those who are pushed to the brink of our society and those living in NASS accommodation.

Integration Services, helping newly recognised refugees to make challenging first steps towards integrating in the UK

Advocacy and Awareness Raising by drawing from experience and evidence from our direct services, working to ensure that refugees have an influential voice in policy discussions that impact their lives and raising our supporters and the public awareness of the issues refugees and asylum seekers face;

Therapeutic Services, through our friendship projects helping those who have suffered torture, trauma, violence or sexual exploitation, victims of modern slavery.

Hosting and Housing by offering accommodation to asylum seekers who have reached the end of their asylum claim, victims of domestic violence , modern slavery especially those with No Recourse To public funds.

Friendship projects , bringing people together to address loneliness and Isolation through arts, music, Refugee Rhythms , and celebrating refugee contribution to the society.

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 having reimaged how services are delivered our team is continuing to pull together to provide the vital services with very limited resources.

Our Strategic goals for 2023- 2027

- Goal 1. Achieve Charitable Status
- Goal 2. Gain funding for and run integrated mental health support groups for R&AS
- Goal 3. Lead the introduction of Syrian Refugees into Southend on Sea
- Goal 4. Train at least two members of staff to level 2 of OISC to enable advocacy and advice work stream to develop
- Goal 5. CAST becoming the Local Authorities recognised solution to the difficulties experienced by R&AS in Southend
- Goal 6. Gain such funding that would enable CAST to plan for 3/5 years projects
- Goal 6. Identify accommodation for CAST offices that are externally funded
- Goal 7. Managed 5 houses for temporary accommodation, some of which is suitable for people with no recourse to public funding.
- Goal 8. Run ESOL classes for all Southend refugees and asylum seekers
- Goal 9. Provide comprehensive Immigration Services

Achievements and Performance

Goal 1 achieved our charitable status. We continue to provide services to our target communities.

Goal 2- We continue to strive on long term funding. This year alone funding has been a great challenge. We continue to provide services through pro bono service providers.

Goal 3 We lead the Syrian vulnerable Persons Project. This has been successful and Southend has received new refugees from the Afghan, Ukrainian schemes which we are now supporting. We are currently supporting 60 families from these schemes

Goal 4 We now have two OISC trained immigration advisers and are now at advance to register with OISC

Goal 5-We surpassed our expectations. We are now the leading accommodation provider for newly granted refugees, not only in Southend but covering the whole of Essex. We have further developed partnerships with Colchester City Council which will have influence on our work and how engage with local authorities.

Goal 6 We continue to pursue funding that will allow us to be sustainable for the long term. We are also developing earned income streams to sustain our work.

Goal 7 We now have office space which we are currently using as our headquarters. We also have the housing team which are operating from a different office.

Goal 8 . We continue to run ESOL classes. We have also embarked on English for beginners classes after realising that not all people can be rushed to take ESOL classes.

Goal 9 We have managed to arrange pro bono solicitors to work with our clients providing comprehensive immigration advice.

We have achieved so much without external funding. We have reduced our number of staff to match the resources available without affecting provision of services.

a) Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future .For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

b) Review of activities

The charity CAST undertook the following activities in the year

2023 was a challenging year for CAST. It has been a watershed with the continued and deepening hostile environment. The chaotic roll out of the changes to asylum immigration system and the changes to home office eviction practice coming through the new Illegal Migration Act.

We entered 2023 with hope and ambitious plan to deliver even more to our community than we had managed to do during the COVID. As the only Asylum and Refugee organisation in Southend which kept its doors open during lockdowns, we saw a huge increase in demand of our services. We humbled by the out pouring support from the community which allowed us to keep our services available with limited staff and resources. In July 2023, the broader impact of the Cost of living crisis became more apparent. By December the external environment had become worse, not better this led to restructuring of CAST. We had to adjust and in basic economics reality was that we only eat what we kill. We had to let a number of senior and dedicated staff leave.

We engaged external experts to guide us as we redesigned the organisation. They supported our leadership team and brought best practice knowledge of organisational restructuring and change management.

We continue to make great progress in delivering our strategy to 2025. We operate in a world of both chaos and complexity with our cause, one of the most political of our time. I am very proud of our staff and volunteers who are navigating this terrain with resilience and passion that is truly humbling. For it is our staff, volunteers, supporters and partners who make us who we are, and deserve huge credit in the achievements of the last 12 months.

We Look forward to the new financial year with renewed optimism, determination, a refreshed organisation and a stronger financial platform. This report shares our long term plans and priorities with our donors, inviting them to partner with over a new horizon to provide unprecedented security and stability for our organisation and most importantly the courageous and resilient people are privileged to serve.

Financial review

The Trustees are satisfied that the charity has sufficient funds available to continue operations.

Structure, governance and management

a) Constitution

The charity is constituted under the trust deed dated 26/04/2016 and is a registered number: **1181331**

b) Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

c) Organisational structure and decision making policies

The charity has Trustees and an administration committee

d) policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees. The trust takes legal guidance including providing trustees with information from the Charities Commission. The Trustees attend external trustees training days.

e) Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finance of the charity, and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Plans for the Future

The charity intends to expand community support and services which are currently being offered.

Cashflow Statement exemption.

As permitted under the charities SORP 2015, the Trustees have not prepared a Cashflow

Statement as the charity is not a large charity.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and financial statements, in accordance with the law applicable and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (UK GAAP)

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of state of affairs of the charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees' are required to:

- *Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- *Observe the methods and principles of the charities SORP(FRS102);
- *Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- *State whether UK Accounting Standards (FRS102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- *Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient.


to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial

statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust deed.

They 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.

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2024

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Washington Ali - Nasolo

Trustee

Date:

**Independent Examiner's Report to The Trustees Of
COMMUNITIES AND SANCTUARY SEEKERS TOGETHER
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 1181331**

Independent examiners report to the trustees of CAST SANCTUARY

I report to the charity trustees on my own examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 MARCH 2024

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination I followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

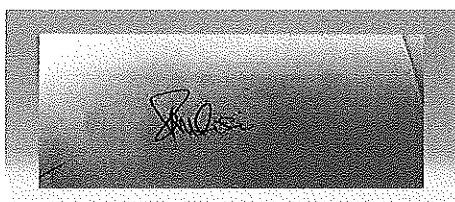
Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income is more than £400 000 I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of CIMA which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act;
2. or the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the statement of recommended practice for accounting and report by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and republic of Ireland (FRS 102)

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 reached



Silvercent Consulting and Accountancy Services Limited
122-124 HIGH STREET
SOUTHEND
ESSEX
SS1 1JT
Date. 27/08/2024

**COMMUNITY AND SANCTUARY SEEKERS TOGETHER
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

		Unrestricted	Total	Unrestricted	Total
	Notes	funds	Funds	funds	Funds
		2024	2024	2023	2023
		GBP	GBP	GBP	GBP
Income from:					
National Lottery Grant		0	0	0	0
Other grants		36,394.00	36,394.00	58,500.00	58,500.00
Loans		29,120.00	29,120.00		
Donations				999.00	999.00
Other	3	<u>335,863.36</u>	<u>335,863.36</u>	<u>288,721.00</u>	<u>288,721.00</u>
Total Income		<u>401,377.36</u>	<u>401,377.36</u>	<u>348,220.00</u>	<u>348,220.00</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising Funds	4			3,000.00	3,000.00
Charitable Activities	5	403,454.98	403,454.98	436,424.00	436,424.00

Total Expenditure		<u>403,454.98</u>	<u>439,424.00</u>	<u>439,424.00</u>
Net Movement in Funds -			<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
2,077.62 - 2,077.62 Reconciliation of Funds			<u>91,204.00</u>	<u>91,204.00</u>
Total funds brought forward		23,422.00 23,422.00		
Total funds carried forward		- 25,499.62 - 25,499.62	23,422.00	23,422.00
		- 67,782.00 - 67,782.00		

**COMMUNITY AND SANCTUARY SEEKERS TOGETHER
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BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	GBP	GBP
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets		
Leasehold Improvements	9 12,166.79	6,022.00
Computer Equipment	9 4,454.08	3,968.00
Furniture and Fittings	9 15,294.07	4,203.00
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and on hand		466.00
Other Debtors Loans	10	29,120.00
Deposits		33,912.00
Creditors amounts falling due within one year	11	- 58,157.08
Net Current Assets		5,340.92
Total Net Assets/(Liabilities)		<u>19,533.92</u>
Charity Funds		
Restricted Funds	12	
Unrestricted Funds	12	-
		<u>19,533.92</u>
		<u>19,533.92</u>

COMMUNITY AND SANCTUARY SEEKERS TOGETHER

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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. General Information

Community and Sanctuary Seekers Together charity is constituted under a declaration of trust

dated:26/04/2016 and amended resolution on **18/12/2018** and is a registered charity

whose charity number **1181331**

2.Accounting policies

2.1 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 1 January 2015).the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland(FRS102) 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. This departure has involved following the Charities SORP (FRS102) published on 16July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

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 otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2.2 Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income can be measured reliably.

2.3 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.

Direct costs attributable to a single entity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single entity are apportioned between

those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the charity to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

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

COMMUNITY AND SANCTUARY SEEKERS TOGETHER

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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

2.Accounting policies continued

2.9 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.

3 Other income

Interest receivable	0
Rents Receivable	335,863.36

4.Expenditure on fund raising

Cost of raising voluntary income

COMMUNITY AND SANCTUARY SEEKERS TOGETHER CAST

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

2.Accounting policies continued

2.3 Expenditure continued

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT

2.4 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	3 33.30%
Computer Equipment	33.30%
Furniture and Fittings	33.30%

2.5 Debtors

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

2.6 Cash at bank and on hand

Cash represents cash which is held in the bank.

2.7 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at balance sheet date as a result of a past event.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount the charity anticipates will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advance payment for goods and services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of amounts required to settle the obligation.

2.8 Financial instruments

The charity has only financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that only qualify as basic financial instruments.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank

loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

COMMUNITY AND SANCTUARY SEEKERS TOGETHER

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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

5. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type	Unrestricted funds		Unrestricted funds	
	Total funds		Total funds	
	2024		2023	
	GBP		GBP	
Direct costs		<u>403,454.98</u>	439424	
		<u>403,454.98</u>		<u>439424</u>

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities

Activities undertaken			Activities undertaken directly		Support costs
Support costs			2023	2023	
Total directly costs			GBP	GBP	
2024	2024				Total funds
GBP	GBP	GBP			2023
			286276	153148	GBP
	270,573.30	132,881.68			
403,454.98					439424

COMMUNITY AND SANCTUARY SEEKERS TOGETHER

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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities continued

Analysis of direct costs

	Direct	Total	Direct	Total
	costs	funds	costs	funds
	2024	2024	2023	2023
	GBP	GBP	GBP	GBP
Salaries	116,950.93	116,950.93	195011	195011
Public Liability Insurance	2,657.51	2,657.51	0	0
Utilities(Gas, electricity & water)	8,187.08	8,187.08	29525	29525
Office Rent	5,480.00	5,480.00	13000	13000
Internet		-	144	144
TV Licences		-	0	0
Property Rents	213,024.63	213,024.63	152352	152352
Council Tax	9,424.55	9,424.55	5392	5392
Legal fees		-	0	0
Postage and Telephones	425.50	425.50	1875	1875
Computing	486.08	486.08	494	494
Refreshments		-	118	118
Office expenses	1,016.60	1,016.60	6805	6805
Communication Mobiles phones	1,837.67	1,837.67	1455	1455
Printing & Stationery	1,277.49	1,277.49	654	654
Travel	1,495.33	1,495.33	661	661
Volunteer expenses	1,600.00	1,600.00	1050	1050
Accountancy & audit fees	5,005.00	5,005.00	7300	7300
Depreciation		-	10444	10444
Bank Charges	300.00	300.00	0	0
Misc		-		
Subscriptions		-	25	25
Membership Fees	500.00	500.00	0	0
Premises	6,144.79	6,144.79	12521	12521
Donations		-	0	0
Homewares cleaning	7,833.01	7,833.01	598	598
Workshops		-		
Training	4,500.00	4,500.00	0	0
Consultancy	<u>11,430.75</u>	11,430.75		
Total Expenditure	<u>399,576.92</u>	399,576.92	<u>439424</u>	<u>439424</u>

**COMMUNITY AND SANCTUARY SEEKERS TOGETHER
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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

6. Analysis of expenditure by activities continued

Analysis of support costs

	DIRECT	Direct	Total
	COSTS	costs	funds
	2024	2023	2024
	GBP	GBP	GBP
Employment		<u>195,011.00</u>	
	102,878.16		195,011.00
7. Independent examiner's remuneration			
	2024		2023
	GBP		GBP
			0

26,262.00	<u>3,780.00</u>	<u>1,450.00</u>	<u>31,492.00</u>
6,144.79	486.08	11,091.07	17,721.94
<u>32,406.79</u>	<u>4,266.08</u>	<u>12,541.07</u>	<u>49,213.94</u>
6,022.00	-	2,433.00 -	4,367.00 - 778.00
2,046.22		161.86	3,693.33 5,901.41
8,068.22	-	2,271.14 -	673.67 5,123.41

8. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

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

9. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Leasehold Improvements	Computer Equipment	Furniture & Fittings	Total
Cost or Valuation				
At 1 April 2023				
Additions				
As at 31 March 2024				
Depreciation At 1 April 2023 charge for the year				

As at 31 March 2024

Net Book Value 31 March 2024 24,338.57 6,537.22 13,214.74 44,090.53

10. Debtors

2024
GBP

COMMUNITY AND SANCTUARY SEEKERS TOGETHER

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Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

11. Creditors amounts falling due within one year

2024 GBP

Sundry Creditors	28,000.00
Loans Accrued	29,120.00
expenses	30,157.08

12. Statement of Funds

	Balance GBP	Income	Expend iture Balanc e GBP
Statement of Funds -current year	01-Apr-24		31-Mar-24
Unrestricted funds	23,422.00		

13. Analysis of net assets between funds 348,220.00 439,424.00 - 67,782.00

Analysis of net assets between funds- current year

Tangible fixed assets

Current assets

Creditors due within one year

Unrestricted Total

Funds	Funds
GBP	GBP
51,321.94	51,321.94
63,498.00	63,498.00
- 58,157.08 -	58,157.08
<u>56,662.86</u>	<u>56,662.86</u>