

Harrogate and Knaresborough District of Sanctuary

England & Wales · Charity number 1183095

Details

Other names HARROGATE DISTRICT OF SANCTUARY, HDS

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2019-04-24

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 37C Kent Road
Harrogate
North Yorkshire
HG1 2ET

Phone 01423 564207

Email info@harrogatedistrict.cityofsanctuary.org

Website <https://harrogatedistrict.cityofsanctuary.org>

Activities

Objects: A. TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL, ESPECIALLY IN HARROGATE, ABOUT THE ISSUES RELATING TO REFUGEES AND THOSE SEEKING ASYLUM. TO PROVIDE OR ASSIST IN THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES FOR RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATIONS IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO HAVE NEED OF SUCH FACILITIES. C. THE PROMOTION OF EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY PROMOTING ACTIVITIES TO FOSTER UNDERSTANDING AND ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN PEOPLE FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS. D. THE PREVENTION AND RELIEF OF POVERTY AMONGST THOSE GRANTED REFUGEE STATUS AND THOSE SEEKING ASYLUM IN HARROGATE

Activities: Our aims are to help refugees and asylum seekers who come to live in the Harrogate and Knaresborough district by offering friendship, practical support and educational experiences. We strive to raise awareness about the issues faced by refugees, and we also campaign for a humane asylum system by lobbying local and national politicians.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- North Yorkshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£40,249	£27,412	-	-
2024-12-31	£31,090	£25,684	-	-
2023-12-31	£34,530	£36,856	-	-
2022-12-31	£25,587	£17,312	-	-
2021-12-31	£9,448	£5,937	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Margaret Adele Bond	Chair	2022-04-11
Dennis Brickles BA, PGCE		2017-11-07
Dr Hilary Gardner		2022-10-20
John Frank Cuthbert		2025-07-16
Tamanna Krami		2022-10-20

Harrogate and Knaresborough District of Sanctuary

England & Wales - Charity number 1183095

Accounts

Report from the chair - 18th November 2025

The Trustees

There are some changes to the Board of Trustees to report: past Chairman John Harris retired a few months ago. We much appreciate the important part he played as Chair and trustee.

We are very pleased to have a new Trustee, John Cuthbert. John quickly became involved in various areas of the charity's work and an additional bonus is that he is a volunteer for the Refugee Council which is a useful point of contact for us.

The one change in the board of Trustees which came as a great shock and disappointment was the resignation last Friday of our Volunteer Coordinator, Derek Gibson. Derek will be greatly missed for all his work, his commitment and his experience.

You may recall that this time last year we pointed out that the existing team of Trustees could not go on indefinitely and we asked for people to come forward to join the board. Earlier on this year Dennis and I were planning on stepping down as from this AGM and again asked for anyone prepared to take on a role to come forward. This was sent out by email to all volunteers and members. The same request was made at the training day on 8th November. There has been absolutely no response to any of these messages. Dennis and I therefore agreed that we could not walk away with no one lined up to take over and so we have said that we will stay on in our current roles - Dennis as Treasurer, me as Chair and Secretary, until the 2026 AGM, but at that point we will definitely step down and no longer be trustees. This period of notice allows plenty of time for new trustees to join and to learn from us what is entailed. If you wish this charity to continue to exist please think about what role you could play and ask yourself whether you know of other people who would be interested in putting themselves forward.

The website

Some time ago we were warned by City of Sanctuary of possible threats from the far right and were recommended to remove anything from our website which allowed people to be identified. We complied with this and I asked all volunteers to make sure they had my phone number in case of safeguarding issues as the documentation is no longer online. The website is therefore very bare now, which is the case for all affiliated groups.

Refugees:

We had expected new arrivals this year but this has been very slow, though not for the want of refugee families who need rehousing. I understand from Jonathan Spencer that hold-ups are due to delays in upgrading council properties. We know of two properties, one in Knaresborough, one in Harrogate which are currently undergoing work so hopefully these will be ready before too long.

Asylum seekers:

This year we have helped four families of asylum seekers.

Asylum seekers are not the responsibility of North Yorkshire. They are dealt with by the Home Office. Once they are granted leave to remain, they are placed in home office housing for a limited period at the end of which they have to make alternative arrangements. They are the responsibility of a company subcontracted by the Home Office, who don't inform anyone that a family has moved in to an area and we have been approached to help through various channels - in one instance we were approached by a school who were given no notice of the arrival of a non-English speaking young teenager; on another occasion I was contacted by phone by a Sudanese lady in need of help and on two other occasions by email. These are the ones we know about and who we have been able to help in various ways.

Social Events

Last January we hosted a New Year party for Afghan families and decided to present it as an English afternoon tea for a change. We put on a splendid spread, much of which was donated by Betty's. Unfortunately this did not go down well with the families and it was sad to see so much good food go in the bin. On the other hand, the children had a lovely time entertained by Rascals and a face painter.

In the summer we organised a picnic at Conyngham Hall. In spite of a forecast of rain quite a few families turned up and seemed to enjoy themselves and the rain held off until eating was over!

Harrogate Symphony Orchestra has very kindly donated 20 tickets for each of their concerts this year for Ukrainians. These are very much appreciated.

English classes

We continue to fund English classes through NYC grants for the Ukrainians. These are very well supported and valued.

Funding from NYC also allows us to pay for English at Home for the resettled families which is coordinated by Nina.

Also, Nina is running an online Life in the UK course with over 20 signed up.

Sewing group:

Ivana has continued to give her time generously and we would like to support this activity long-term but it has been difficult to secure the commitment from the women to make it viable. The rental of the sewing room is quite steep and so we need a minimum of 8 to 10 regular attendees to justify the expenditure.

Yoga:

Tamanna has been trying to provide yoga classes for Afghan women but as with the sewing classes, to make them viable there has to be a minimum number of committed participants.

Football

Sabriah, who is here with us this evening, is hoping to start football training for refugee children. We have provided her with the equipment – balls, bibs, goals etc. So far the initiative has not got going for various reasons but we are hopeful that it will in due course.

Refugee Week 2025

We were very pleased with the success of this year's Refugee Week- Harrogate's best effort to date, masterminded by Dennis. Harrogate Film Society put on an animation called The Breadwinner; the Mercer Gallery worked with some Afghan women to produce a small exhibition of craft work; there was a quiz loosely based on refugee matters, and the climax was a superb concert with supper at the West Park Centre, featuring the Beati choir and a wonderful Ukrainian concert pianist, Natalia Smirnova. The various activities raised our profile and were the incentive for several applications to become volunteers. The following week there was an Afghan Kitchen evening to round everything off.

After the financial report this evening, as is the norm, all trustees will tender our resignation. We will stand for re-election but anyone else can also put their name forward if they so wish, and voting will take place.



Harrogate District of Sanctuary
Statement of Accounts Financial Year 2025

Balance brought forward from 2024	£22718
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Income 2025

Subscriptions	£200
Donations	£809
Grant Ukraine classes	£34,036
Grant English in UK	£900
Other grants	£1612
Fundraising	£539
Refugee Week	£1853
Loan repaid	£300
TOTAL INCOME	£40249

Expenditure 2024

Equipment, stationery, meetings	£424
Insurance, DBS, Fees	£1412
Loan	£300
Family support	£2991
Refugee Week	£947
Two Ridings Foundation small groups project	£673
Football project	£463
Language provision – Resettlement families	£1215
Language provision - Ukrainians	£18395
English in the UK	£410
Social events – Resettlement families	£182
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£27412
In year net total	£12837
Opening balance 1st January 2025	£22718
Closing balance 31st December 2025	£35555



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Harrogate and Knaresborough District of Sanctuary

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st of December 2025

**Charity no
(if any)**

1183095

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended **31/12/2025**.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:

A. Q. Khan

Date:

Name:

Abdul Qudeir Khan

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

FMAAT
FCPA

Address:

Unit 27, Batley Enterprise Centre

513 Bradford Road, Batley

WF17 8LL

Harrogate and Knaresborough District of Sanctuary

England & Wales - Charity number 1183095

Accounts



Harrogate and Knaresborough District of Sanctuary AGM November 26th 2024 - Summary of Business

The Trustees

The Board of Trustees currently comprises six of us – Margaret Bond, Chair; Past Chairman John Harris; Dennis Brickles, Treasurer; Derek Gibson, Volunteer Coordinator; Hilary Gardner, Public Awareness; Tamanna Krami, Resettled Families. Since our last AGM Charlotte McEvoy who joined us as secretary has resigned.

The existing team cannot go on indefinitely and new Trustees are needed if HKDoS is to survive and not befall the same fate as Ripon City of Sanctuary, so if you feel inclined to become a Trustee, please get in touch for more information. I would be particularly pleased to welcome someone with website skills, even if these are rudimentary.

chair@harrogedistrict.cityofsanctuary.org

Refugees

There are at present around 50 resettled families in the district, with no plans for any more to arrive before the end of the year. However, the go ahead has been given by NYC to take part in the Local Authority Housing Fund Round 3 but it will be some time before all the properties are purchased and made ready. There will be up to 11 properties and Jonathan Spencer from NYC has asked for the bulk to be in the Harrogate/Knaresborough/Ripon area but the reality will depend upon affordability so it's unlikely that all 11 will be in our area. The scheme is spread over 2024/25 and 2025/26. Hopefully, 5 properties will be purchased by next March and the remainder by March 2026.

There have been several new arrivals this year and all have been provided with a befriender.

Social events

There have been several social events for refugees since our last AGM.

Around Christmas time 2023 we paid for a large group to attend the pantomime at Harrogate Theatre and in January 2024 we funded a Christmas / New Year party for Ukrainians at Chain Lane.

In May we hosted a gathering at the Friends Meeting House for over 100 Afghans, including those from Skipton and the relatively new families from Ripon, to give all the families old and new a chance to get to know one another. Rascals entertainment and a face painter did a wonderful job keeping all the children very happy. We used an outside catering company from Batley who arrived with the biggest pots imaginable of rice and various dishes, all still hot in spite of the 30 mile journey. We had expected to cover all the costs of this event from our funds

but actually NYC picked up the tab, thanks to Jonathan Spencer who thought it was such a worthwhile event.

Our next planned event – a summer picnic at Conyngham Hall – unfortunately did not happen. These days we tend to think that weather forecasts are fairly accurate and so when, on the Thursday before the event, the Met Office predicted non-stop rain for the weekend, we took them at their word. There is nowhere to shelter at Conyngham, so we felt we had to cancel. It was therefore embarrassing to say the least, and disappointing, when Saturday dawned dry and sunny and remained so all day.

Recently 18 of our Ukrainian refugees were guests of Harrogate Symphony Orchestra who kindly gave us tickets for their first concert of the season. We were very moved by some of the comments received afterwards – here are a couple of extracts: “I found peace of mind” and “this opportunity gave the feeling that we continue to live”

Our next planned event is a New Year Party for the Afghan families on Sunday 12th January at the Friends Meeting House. We have booked Rascals again to entertain the children and have decided to do English Afternoon Tea for a change. This is probably going to be quite labour-intensive on the day so please volunteer to come along to help if you can. Please let Derek know if you are willing to help.

derekgibson149@gmail.com

English classes

Through NYC grants we continue to fund English classes for Ukrainians. Mel and Anna each teach two classes per week, both of which are full, with high attendance levels and which are much appreciated. And to quote Mel: “the real joy comes from seeing their faces when they have learned something new and they can show me that they understand it”.

Elina also continues to run her conversation classes for which we pay the room hire at St Robert’s Club.

Funding from NYC also allows us to pay for English at Home which Nina Jolly coordinates with her volunteers.

Sewing Group

We are very grateful to Ivana Gardner whose initiative it was to run a sewing group. This has been very successful. HKDoS has paid for the hire of the Sewing Sanctuary in Princes Street and for materials and Ivana has given her time free. She and her group of eight ladies from Afghanistan, Ukraine and Hong Kong have met weekly and have concentrated on making floor seats and cushions to donate to newly arrived refugee families. So far, they have made 15 of each! To quote Ivana “... it has been a great privilege to enable the ladies to come somewhere where they can chat and forget about their problems”.

Homework club

The group set up in Knaresborough and supported by us folded earlier this year as attendance fell.

Similarly the Ukrainian school which ran for a few months, folded at the start of this academic year.

Currently we fund the room hire for a small English conversation group running in Knaresborough for women for whom the NYC lessons are too challenging.

We had hoped to extend the homework club idea into Harrogate although logistically this wasn't feasible as the area is too big to have a central location. The issue of refugee children's needs has however continued to concern us. Dennis and I have recently spoken at length with two Primary school headteachers and it is very clear to us that if they are typical, in the primary sector refugee children are receiving excellent care and help where needed. The issues which could well need more one to one help arise in the secondary sector, so we have been delighted to recruit as a volunteer a teacher of English from Harrogate High School who is tutoring refugee students studying GCSE English and we feel that this is something that could be expanded if we are made aware of specific needs and if we can gain the support of more secondary teachers.

Refugee Week 2024

This year we joined forces with Harrogate Film Society, presenting two films relevant to the occasion. The first was a cartoon from Ukraine which was enjoyed by a large audience many of whom were Ukrainian. The second film was The Old Oak, a Ken Loach film telling the story of the arrival of a Syrian refugee family placed in an impoverished former mining village in County Durham. A bonus that evening was the appearance of the main star of the film, Dave Turner, who spoke with great enthusiasm about the making of the film, about Ken Loach, and about his own unexpected rise to stardom from being a retired firefighter. Our public awareness group made good use of the opportunity to promote the charity and their display gave a good overview of the plight of refugees.

Refugee week 2025

We are currently planning for refugee week June 2025, We have contacted many cultural groups in the Harrogate, Knaresborough and Ripon area hoping to encourage them to contribute in some way to celebrating the week. The Mercer Gallery has agreed to work on a project with Refugee women culminating in a small exhibition and several other organisations have expressed an interest in participating.

Schools of Sanctuary

Dennis is working with the Federation of Schools comprising Beckwithshaw, Ripley and Kettlewell on their application to become Schools of Sanctuary and we hope that they will have fulfilled all the criteria by Easter 2025. The journey is quite challenging and requires whole-school commitment.

REMINDER to all volunteers: please ensure that you DBS certification is up to date – ie under three years old. If you need it renewing, please contact Dennis:

treasurer@harrogatedistrict.cityofsanctuary.org

*IF YOU NO LONGER WISH TO RECEIVE COMMUNICATIONS FROM HKD_oS PLEASE LET US
KNOW AND YOUR NAME WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE LIST OF MEMBERS / VOLUNTEERS*

Best wishes to you all for a Happy Christmas and New Year, and thank you for your support.

Margaret



Harrogate District of Sanctuary
Statement of Accounts Financial Year 2024

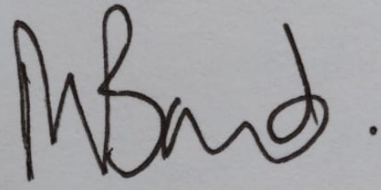
Balance brought forward from 2023	£17312
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Income 2024

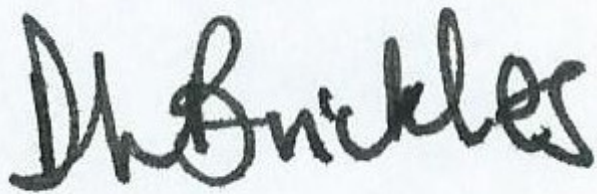
Subscriptions	£335
Donations	£2360
Grants	£26470
Fundraising	£625
<i>Afghan Kitchen</i>	<i>£1000</i>
<i>Loan repaid</i>	<i>£300</i>
<i>TOTAL INCOME</i>	<i>£31090</i>

Expenditure 2024

DBS,training,schools	£128
Insurance	£444
Family support	£1241
Stationery, equipment and meetings	£974
Refugee Week and campaigning	£229
Two Ridings Foundation small groups project	£2327
Afghan Kitchen	£1000
Language provision – Resettlement families	£1651
Language provision - Ukrainians	£16668
Social events – Resettlement families	£102
Social events - Ukrainians	£920
<i>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</i>	<i>£25684</i>
<i>In year net total</i>	<i>£5406</i>
Opening balance 1st January 2023	<i>£17312</i>
Closing balance 31st December 2023	<i>£22718</i>

A handwritten signature in black ink on a grey background. The signature reads "M Band." with a period at the end.

Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink on a white background. The signature reads "D Buckles" in a cursive style.

Treasurer



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Harrogate and Knaresborough District of Sanctuary

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st of December 2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

1183095

Set out on pages

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**Responsibilities and
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examiner's statement**

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- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed: A. Q. Khan

Date: 21. 3. 2024

Name: Abdul Qudeir Khan

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

FMAAT
FCPA

Address:

Unit 27, Batley Enterprise Centre
513 Bradford Road, Batley
WF17 8LL

Harrogate and Knaresborough District of Sanctuary

England & Wales - Charity number 1183095

Accounts

Summary of Chairman's report for AGM, 6th November 2023

1. Over the past few months there have been a number of changes in the board of trustees. After a bout of ill-health John Harris took the decision to stand down as Chair and I took over. Happily John is once again a picture of health.
2. We were also sorry to receive the resignation of Margaret Smith who has played a stalwart role keeping us in touch with, and involved in, national issues. We are pleased that Margaret continues to work on a number of projects for us.
3. Most recently, Issy Mercer, our secretary, has submitted her resignation with effect from this evening. We are really sorry to lose her but understand that pressure of work and family commitments make it difficult to undertake what is quite a taxing role in addition to those responsibilities.
4. During the year we have been pleased to welcome two new trustees, Hilary Gardner who comes to us with a wealth of experience befriending, and hosting, and Tamanna Krami, who is herself from one of our resettlement families. It is a real bonus to have Tamanna on board as she is a valuable liaison between the families and us, and a font of much knowledge.
5. As from the AGM we also welcome to the Trustees Derek Gibson. Derek is a newcomer to the district having moved from Louth in Lincolnshire where he worked with Syrian refugees welcomed under the Community Sponsorship scheme and so he comes to us with valuable experience. For the past few months he has been acting as our Volunteer Coordinator whilst deciding whether to commit to becoming a trustee. We are pleased that he has taken the decision to do so.
6. One more significant change that has taken place over the past few months is the close working relationship we now have established between Harrogate District of Sanctuary and Chain Lane Community Hub in Knaresborough. We are working closely with Sue Vasey and Charlotte McEvoy on some projects and they are dealing with a number of administrative matters on our behalf, funded by a grant which Sue managed to secure.
7. The final change to report is that sadly Ripon City of Sanctuary has recently folded. Nina Jolly has formed a support group to compensate for this, and we at Harrogate will be offering to involve the Ripon families in our future social events.

Now to move on to sum up what we have been doing during the past year for our refugees.

1. Resettlement Families: there are now 30 families in the Harrogate and Knaresborough district. There have been three new Afghan households established here in the last three months and we know of another that will be joining imminently. Who knows how many more will be coming our way once the Government carries out its threats to close down all

the hotel accommodation currently in use. I'm pleased to say that we have strengthened our links with the Refugee Council which has enabled the sharing of more information to help the families as they move into our district.

2.

Many of our families who have been here for a number of years are self sufficient but others are still to a greater or lesser degree dependent on their befrienders. Between us, we do what we can to sort out their problems. For example we have recently managed to facilitate transport to and from school for a disabled child with a disabled parent, and we helped an asylum seeker from Syria join his resettlement family in Harrogate.

3. An ongoing issue is the need for English lessons and ways of aiding integration. Currently there are classes at Harrogate College overseen by Nina Jolly and paid for by North Yorkshire. In addition Harrogate District of Sanctuary funds English at Home lessons.

On a less structured basis "Speak up" for women is underway in Knaresborough, run by Hilary Hughes and financed by HDS. Unfortunately, Time for Talk which had been running in Starbeck for quite some time has folded but we are currently looking into possibilities to reinstate something similar in Harrogate town centre.

4. We are also aware of the need for support for the resettlement children. Anne Morley and her team have set up a "homework club" in Knaresborough in a first move to tackle this issue. This has started on a small scale but is something that could well be developed.

5. Moving on to Social events for the resettlement families: last Christmas we partially funded tickets for the pantomime, an event organised by Pat Ki which will be repeated this year.

We hosted an Iftar during Ramadan; gave financial support for the Eid party, and in July we organised a picnic at Conyngnam Hall which was enjoyed by all.

The snacks which we provided at the start of the AGM were made by Nahid Hamidi. We have been delighted to support Nahid financially in establishing her pop up restaurant, The Afghan Kitchen. So far there have been three such events, in Knaresborough and Harrogate and Nahid is now pretty much self-sufficient, with the help of Zoe Haggas who has been from the start a very hands-on, efficient manager.

We are very proud of Nahid for her enterprise, her skills and her determination. This venture serves many purposes. Clearly it's a great opportunity for us – the Harrogate general public - to learn about another culture and to savour the delights of a cuisine hitherto unknown to most of us, but much more than that, it is a great opportunity for Nahid to help her fellow Afghan ladies to integrate, to have a purpose outside the home and to develop their self-confidence in what is still an alien environment.

If you haven't experienced the Afghan kitchen yet, please look out for future dates.

6. One final point connected with the resettlement families: many of them are of course Muslim. For this reason as well as a desire to support multi-culturalism in our area, the Trustees recently took the decision to contribute £1000 to the appeal to fund the building

work for the Harrogate Mosque. Although the premises in Tower Street still need a lot of work and much more financing, they hope to have it in a usable state by early next year.

Moving on to our Ukrainian Refugees:

1.

We don't know exactly how many Ukrainian refugees there are in Harrogate. We believe that at one point there were approximately 350. We know that some have gone home, a few more have come and that many have now established themselves in private rentals and in work. The ability to find employment is determined to no small extent by their command of English and much of our efforts have been in the provision of language classes. In addition to those provided by North Yorkshire, we fund lessons here in this building several times a week, led by Melanie Soden and also by Elina who is herself a Ukrainian refugee, and also at Chain Lane. We have been able to fund these lessons through various donations and also by grants from North Yorkshire.

2. Since the first arrivals in Harrogate we have run a weekly drop-in on a Monday evening. This has served both as a social evening and also as an opportunity for problems to be shared and sorted. Adam Nicholas from Citizens' Advice is the designated support for the Ukrainians in North Yorkshire and he has paid regular visits to the drop-in which have been well-received and appreciated.

However as time has gone on we have found that attendance has dropped significantly which I think is good news as it means that things are going well and that people are now confident and settled in the district. We have therefore decided to reduce the meetings to monthly as from now.

3. We have funded several social events for the Ukrainians over the past year, in collaboration with Chain Lane. In January there was a Christmas celebration; in May there was a big celebration at the Majestic Hotel for Eurovision, and in the summer months there were a number of outings – to Fountains Abbey, to Whitby, and to Thorp Perrow.

That concludes my report on the Ukrainians. There just a couple more things to tell you about.

First: the Public Awareness Raising activities led by Margaret Smith. The aim of this committee is self-explanatory. They have been proactive in involving Harrogate International Festivals, Raworth Literature Festival and the Sunday Concert series, libraries and shops in promoting our literature and hence bringing our cause to a wider audience, and during Refugee Week in June there were displays at 18 multi-faith locations in Harrogate and Knaresborough.

Finally: we are very pleased that after discussions today the Federation of Schools comprising Ripley Endowed C of E, Primary School, Beckwithshaw Community Primary and Kettleing Community Primary are committed to becoming a Federation of Schools of Sanctuary. We will keep you posted on their progress through their journey.

Margaret Bond

Chair of Trustees, Harrogate District of Sanctuary



Harrogate District of Sanctuary Statement of Accounts Financial Year 2023

Balance brought forward from 2022	£19637
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Income during 2023 to November 1st

Subscriptions	£370
Donations	£6992
Grants	£17525
Fundraising	£2466
Afghan Kitchen	£7077
Loan repaid	£100
TOTAL INCOME	£34530

Expenditure during 2023 to November 1st

DBS, training, schools	£85
Insurance	£411
Accountant's Fee	£900
Family support	£1858
Stationery and equipment	£279
Room Hire/Meetings	£529
Publicity and campaigning	£1097
Afghan Kitchen	£8551
Language provision - Resettlement families	£2748
Language provision - Ukrainians	£16135
Social events - Resettlement families	£826
Social events - Ukrainians	£3437
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£36856

In year net total	£-2325
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Opening balance 1st January 2023	£19,637
Closing balance 31st December 2023	£17,312

Signed: *Albinley (Treasurer, Trustee)* *Ward (Chair of Trustees)*



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Harrogate District of Sanctuary

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st of December 2023

**Charity no
(if any)**

1183095

Set out on pages

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**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:

A. Q. Khan.

Date:

3.5.2024

Name:

Abdul Qudeir Khan

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

FMAAT
FCPA

Address:

Unit 27, Batley Enterprise Centre

513 Bradford Road, Batley

WF17 8LL

Harrogate and Knaresborough District of Sanctuary

England & Wales - Charity number 1183095

Accounts



Harrogate District of Sanctuary

TRUSTEES REPORT 2022

CHARITY NUMBER:1183095

Trustees during 2022

Dennis Leonard Brickles	Appointed	7.10.2017
Isabelle Matea Mercer	Appointed	24.1.2022
John Charles Harris	Appointed	28.2.2022
Margaret Adele Bond	Appointed	11.4.2022
Dr Hilary Gardener	Appointed	20.10.2022
Tamanna Krami	Appointed	20.10.2022
Margaret Smith	Appointed	14.9.2021

Trustees resigning in 2022

Dawn O'Rooke	Resigned	6.10.2022
Hazel Clark	Resigned	8.6.2022

All Trustees are re-elected at the Annual General Meeting. Harrogate District of Sanctuary functions to enhance the public good in all its operations.

The final accounts for 2022 are shown on the next page. These accounts show that reserves at the end of the year were £19,637. The charity's policy is to ensure that reserves meet expenditure expectations for the following nine months

This report was approved by Trustees at their meeting of 7.3.2023

Signed:



Chair:

Treasurer: *M. Snickles*



Harrogate District of Sanctuary Final Statement of Accounts Financial Year 2022

Balance brought forward from 2021	£11362
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Income during 2022

Subscriptions	£415
Donations	£14369
Grants	£10000
Fundraising	£803
TOTAL INCOME	£25,587

Expenditure during 2022

DBS/GDPR and other training	£261
Insurance	£386
Women's Group	£250
Schools of Sanctuary	£97
Family support	£3094
Stationery and equipment	£260
Room Hire	£450
Publicity/events/refreshments/Christmas Party/Refugee Week	£495
Transport	£1620
Language provision - Resettlement families	£4278
Language provision - Ukrainians	£5145
Social events - Resettlement families	£652
Social events - Ukrainians	£324
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£17,312

In year net total
£8275

Opening balance 1st January 2022	£11,362
Bank balance 31st December 2022	£19,637

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Introduction

Covid restrictions had a considerable impact on the activities of HDS. Consequently, 2022 has been a period for the rebuilding of the charity and the organisation of activities, not least responding to the impact of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia which resulted in many refugees coming to Harrogate and Knaresborough to join those families already here, mainly from Syria and Afghanistan.

The basic mission of HDS remains the same - to create an environment across the district where refugees and asylum seekers feel safe, welcome and included - valued for what they bring to the community and supported to become independent and integrated into daily life.

HDS also aim to raise awareness locally about the issues faced by refugees and asylum seekers, to campaign for a humane asylum system nationally and to counter negativity that surrounds these issues by balanced presentation of facts.

The refugee resettlement scheme

The resettlement scheme envisages permanent residence in the UK and at the time of writing there are 25 families in Harrogate and Knaresborough from Syria (10), Afghanistan (10), Iraq (4), South Sudan (1) constituting c. 115 people with half being young people under the age of 18.

Some families have been here for several years - a few for only a few weeks.

After an initial period, the befriender role undertaken through the Refugee Council is augmented and then taken over by the volunteer HDS Befrienders - as the word implies to be a source of advice and support and friendship to families who have lost everything in fleeing for sanctuary. We arranged to have a Befriender Co-ordinator for the families in Harrogate and another for those in Knaresborough working with the volunteer teams.

Of critical importance is the issue of language and a key support activity for HDS is to organise language sessions - formal and informal. Funding is available via North Yorkshire County Council but supplemented by HDS funds.

It is encouraging that employment has been gained in many cases - formal education is critical for the young people and can be a key to success for the family - a number of social events have been held as covid allowed and a future programme organised.

Given modern IT, families in the UK maintain contact with their family members and friends still seeking escape and in acute danger; the concern and fear on their behalf contributes to the ongoing trauma of settling in a foreign country.

The sponsor/hosting scheme

For Ukrainians the system is based on three-year visas with two routes - through family members already in UK or through volunteer hosts who commit in the first instance to a number of months accommodation.

At the time of writing there are 251 visa holders in Harrogate District i.e. in the borough area as a whole. More than half are under the age of 18 and most are single parent family groups. HDS liaise with NYCC which administers the government scheme locally. These refugees are in close contact with those still under attack from Russia and the heart-breaking stress and trauma is consequently exacerbated.

HDS invited charities and other groups which wished to support the Ukrainians to a briefing session. This led to the formation of the Ukrainian Support Network which liaises on a regular basis - HDS joined with other charities, the Knaresborough Chain Lane Community Hub and Harrogate Mind Acorn Centre in organising weekly drop-in sessions, regular social events and activities, and ad hoc trips to the sea/country - USN also liaises with North Yorkshire County Council and Harrogate Borough Council and Citizens Advice which now provides a funded advice and support service. A new website with comprehensive national and local information has just been launched.

Again, language sessions have featured strongly with HDS funding those costs not covered by NYCC funding including match funding.

HDS are very conscious that advice and support needs arise for sponsors/hosts as well as those shielded by them.

Support issues

As the resettlement scheme runs on, attention is being given to the nationality question with Life in The UK sessions to prepare for the citizenship examination. Language continues as a priority focus as it is so critical for inclusion.

For the sponsor/hosting scheme concern increases as the initial commitment period begins to wind down - it is already known that not all offers will be renewed, and the borough district is short of accommodation offers. Nationally as well as locally, this is becoming an acute concern.

There is a dearth of information about refugees from Hong Kong and currently HDS are not in touch with any although anecdotally there are said to be a sizeable number living locally.

HDS are conscious of the stress and trauma being experienced and consider whether some 'well-being' activity could be put in place.

Campaigning

It is a disappointment that our commitment to the UK having a humane asylum system has given rise to a considerable number of issues about which we felt the need to challenge the government, which, in our opinion, still has a hostile environment stance to many of the issues connected with refugees and asylum seekers.

We have campaigned on the Nationality and Borders Act , the Channel Crossing response, the Rwandan deportation scheme and the associated but now abandoned Linton Camp proposal, the restrictive and bureaucratic visa application system (especially in relation to those remaining in Afghanistan, and to those fleeing Ukraine), the number of refugees in hotels for long periods, the lack of official asylum application routes. Families living locally have raised many issues about friends and family members under threat in Afghanistan and in desperate need of acceptance by the UK government. We have been disappointed in the response of the government and the lack of commitment to a long-term resettlement programme.

We have been disappointed at the response of the Government on these issues and that of the local Member of Parliament who supports all government policies but has however responded supportively on individual cases raised.

Awareness

HDS has promoted publicity in the local media and on social media. A number of local groups and societies have been addressed. A weeklong public display (visited by the Mayor of Harrogate) was organised for Refugee Week.

It is gratifying that a number of schools are exploring status as Schools of Sanctuary based on appreciation of and commitment to humanitarian practice. HDS were very involved in supporting Harrogate College and were therefore very pleased to be present at a public event to celebrate Harrogate College being awarded College of Sanctuary status (the first in North Yorkshire).

Organisational issues

HDS have been identifying individual volunteers who have generously agreed to take on the responsibility of organising the range of activity provided.

As well as identifying the need for a Harrogate Befriender Co-ordinator and a Knaresborough Befriender Co-ordinator, HDS has also formed two groups. One for the organisation of raising public awareness, and one for Refugee Social and Support Activity, this being designed to bring about needed forward planning and organisation now that the UK is in a post-covid situation. Volunteers are organising the range of activities undertaken.

We have revised our general leaflet and application form for membership/ volunteering. It has been agreed to produce presentational material for display at events and talks.

Our database has been updated and reviewed; it was a priority to have this task completed.

The general email address of info@harrogatedistrict.cityofsanctuary.org is publicised as the general point of enquiry and is monitored regularly to provide a response.

Governance

There have been some wholesale changes at trustee level - Belinda Goode stood down as chair for health reasons and Hazel Clark also stood down after several years; HDS are grateful to them for their invaluable support as trustees over a number of years. Paul Sykes resigned as Volunteer Co-ordinator.

John Harris joined the trustees as chair, Dennis Brickles (Treasurer and Schools of Sanctuary) and Margaret Smith (Campaigns and Chair - Public Events Group)

agreed to be joint deputy chairs; other recruits as Trustees were Issy Mercer as Secretary, Margaret Bond as PR and Volunteer Co-ordinator, and Dawn O'Rooke as Volunteer Administration. We conclude that further recruitment from the wider community would be beneficial.

In addition to these roles by Trustees, we seek a successor to Jenny Travena (former HDS chair) who has been the Harrogate Befriender Co-ordinator; Anne Thickett has been joined by Dot Rodham in handling the Knaresborough Befriender Co-ordinator role; Kathy Foley has agreed to be chair of the Social and Support Group and Isabel Sutcliffe has taken on the Safeguarding role. Maryse Haywood and Margaret Bond have been the key organisers of the joint charities Ukraine Support Network activity. Nina Jolly and Melanie Soden organise the language sessions.

This necessity to undertake a deal of re-organisation has coincided with the considerable pressure to respond to the Ukrainian invasion by Russia and the influx of refugees to our area. The progress needs to bed down but HDS support for refugees has responded robustly to the current demands.

The database of members, volunteers, and supporters needed updating and has been completed. A volunteer does not have to be a paid-up member of the HDS charity company - and a member does not have to be a volunteer; but only paid-up members can formally participate and vote at the AGM and special charity meetings. We hope that volunteers will join as members which involves a modest but welcome addition to our finances.

Conclusion

A small local charity like HDS exists only because of committed volunteers.

Since its formation in 2016, there has been a series of committed individuals who have devoted enormous time and effort to the need for a genuine humanitarian response to vulnerable traumatised families and individuals arriving in our midst who have abandoned or lost everything.

As the voice of the charity, the trustees (themselves volunteers) place on record their appreciation for this selfless commitment which has brought encouragement and hope to so many traumatised individuals who seek safety, a welcome, and the opportunity to become members of our local community.

20.10.22



Harrogate
District of Sanctuary



Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	01-Jan-22	To	31-Dec-22
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Suscriptions	415	-	-	415	672
Donations	8,969	5,400	-	14,369	4,441
Fundraising	803	-	-	803	1,335
Grants	-	10,000	-	10,000	3,000
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	10,187	15,400	-	25,587	9,448
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	10,187	15,400	-	25,587	9,448
A3 Payments					
Training	261	-	-	261	238
Insurance	386	-	-	386	138
Women's Group	-	250	-	250	133
Schools of Sanctuary	97	-	-	97	-
Family support	3,094	-	-	3,094	295
Stationery and equipment	260	-	-	260	300
Room hire	450	-	-	450	-
Publicity and social events	1,472	-	-	1,472	3,736
Transport	1,620	-	-	1,620	-
Language provision	-	9,423	-	9,423	1,071
Sundry expenses	-	-	-	-	25
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	7,639	9,673	-	17,312	5,937
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	7,639	9,673	-	17,312	5,937
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,548	5,727	-	8,275	3,511
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	9,967	1,395	-	11,362	7,852
Cash funds this year end	12,515	7,122	-	19,637	11,362

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank current account	12,515	7,122	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	12,515	7,122	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Harrogate District of Sanctuary

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 December 2022

**Charity no
(if any)**

1183095

Set out on pages

1-2

(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 31/12/2022.

**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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:

Date:

14 June 2023

Name:

Stuart Wright

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

ICAEW

Address:

The Granary, Haggs Farm Business Park, Haggs Road
Follifoot, Harrogate, HG3 1EQ

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight 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.