



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. Brinkley



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



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Harrogate District of Sanctuary

1183095

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01-Jan-22

To

31-Dec-22

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.