

# SOUTHAMPTON AND WINCHESTER VISITORS GROUP

England & Wales · Charity number 1183558

## Details

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**Other names** SWVG

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2019-05-23

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

## Contact

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**Address** S W V G  
Po Box 1615  
Southampton  
SO17 3WF

**Phone** 00000000000

**Email** [info@swvg-refugees.org.uk](mailto:info@swvg-refugees.org.uk)

**Website** [swvg-refugees.org.uk](http://swvg-refugees.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** For the relief of need, hardship and distress in the United Kingdom amongst refugees, asylum seekers and other immigrants by providing such charitable assistance as the trustees think fit, including providing such persons with information, advice, assistance, representation, counselling, in matters such as money, debts, welfare, benefits, housing, health, asylum, immigration, education, training and employment, and by educating the community about the needs of such persons, and advocating on their behalf.

**Activities:** Befriending and providing practical and financial support such as money, debts, welfare, benefits, housing, health, asylum, immigration, education, training and employment, to refugees, asylum seekers and other immigrants primarily living in the wider Southampton area.

## Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Accommodation/housing, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

## Geography

- Hampshire
- Southampton City

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£89,255	£92,693	-	-
2024-08-31	£118,637	£85,938	-	-
2023-08-31	£109,033	£107,795	-	-
2022-08-31	£93,641	£94,227	-	-
2021-08-31	£96,153	£77,762	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANDREW CLIVE TAYLOR		2024-03-31
Catherine Mary Hartley		2019-05-23
David Robertson		2023-12-04
Dr Hazel Margaret Inskip		2024-12-02
Jeyatharshan Vettivel		2020-12-07
KATHERINE XANTHE GEARING		2023-12-04
Khalid Omer		2023-12-04
Lesley Marie Sheldon-Browning		2025-11-22
Professor Christopher Roman Stevens		2024-12-02
Virginia Louise Allain		2025-11-22

**SOUTHAMPTON AND WINCHESTER VISITORS GROUP**

England & Wales - Charity number 1183558

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# Accounts

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Charity Number 1183558

**Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group**

**Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31st August 2025**

<b>Address</b>	Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group PO Box 1615, Southampton SO17 3WF Email: <a href="mailto:info@swvg-refugees.org.uk">info@swvg-refugees.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.swvg-refugees.org.uk">www.swvg-refugees.org.uk</a>
<b>Patrons</b>	Miriam Margolyes, OBE John Pilkington Dr. Shirley Firth
<b>Trustees</b>	Co-chairs: Catherine Hartley (appointed 2 December 2024) Hazel Inskip (appointed 2 December 2024) Chair: Mark Courtice (resigned 16 October 2024) Vice Chair: Chris Stephens (appointed 2 December 2024) Treasurer: David Robertson Co-ordinator: Susan Jessup (resigned 4 August 2025)  Judith Evans (resigned 6 May 2025) Katie Gearing Khalid Omer Andrew Taylor Jeyatharshan Vettivel
<b>Secretary</b>	Lea Hayes
<b>Administrator</b>	David Rees
<b>Bankers</b>	HSBC Bank Plc, 19 Minster Street, Salisbury SP1 1TE
<b>Independent Examiner</b>	Chay Champness FCMA, CGMA

## **Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group**

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025.

### **Formation**

The charity was formed as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation to take over the activities and assets and liabilities of the unincorporated charity of the same name. It was registered with the Charity Commission on 29 May 2019.

### **Governance and management**

The Trustee Board comprises a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 12 members elected at each Annual General Meeting. Trustees who held office during the year are listed on page 2.

The Board meets every six weeks and is supported by a number of sub-committees that report to the Trustees.

### **Aims and objectives**

The main objects of the Group as set out in its constitution are:

For the relief of need, hardship and distress in the United Kingdom amongst refugees, people seeking asylum and other immigrants by providing such charitable assistance as the Trustees think fit, including providing such persons with advice, assistance, representation, counselling, in matters such as money, debts, welfare, benefits, housing, health, asylum, immigration, education, training and employment.

### **Focus of our work**

The Group is a volunteer-led charity whose members work with people seeking asylum and refugees mainly living in Southampton and Winchester. Our work includes providing English and other teaching, and one-to-one support for individual people, who are assigned a trained visitor who meets with them regularly to offer friendship and practical help. We support approximately 200 people in government accommodation, who are resident either in a local hotel or in shared houses. We provide wellbeing support through social and cultural activities. We have also funded gym access, phones, and bikes.

SWVG runs the Avenue Multicultural Centre (AMC) in Southampton United Reform Church (URC). It hosts some of the work of partner charities that also support those seeking asylum, notably CLEAR and Southampton Action. AMC is a very popular drop-in centre, which runs every Friday morning.

We also work in partnership with SCRATCH, where a number of people volunteer, with New Forest National Park, where we run visits in conjunction with the rangers, and with John Hansard Gallery, MAST Studios, Sea City Museum and Southampton City Libraries for our culture project. We also have links to Refugee Action and Together with Refugees and are members of NACCOM and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic Migration Group.

### **Review of the year**

Our core work, namely the provision of support to people seeking asylum and newly given Leave To Remain has continued. We have supported many young men placed in a hotel in Southampton, as well as people in other accommodation locally.

The drop-in centre (AMC) at Avenue St Andrews URC has continued in operation and welcomes more than 150 people each week. Around 40 people per week access our help desks staffed by experienced volunteers, receiving a variety of support, including finding solicitors. A new database system allows us to monitor our activities, and, in the six months from February 2025, 582 different people visited our help desks, with more than 1,000 interactions, some people being seen more than once. We also organise a food bank as well as activities including English language lessons. CLEAR also runs a help desk at AMC and Southampton Action runs a clothes bank.

AMC hosts guest organisations including the City Library service; Medaille Trust, supporting people who have been trafficked; Yellow Door, working with survivors of trauma, violence and abuse; and a Smoking Cessation team. Volunteers run a music group and a yoga session. As well as an extra, specific help desk for accommodation

matters and school placements, a further desk is dedicated to managing gym memberships and the bike scheme and issuing mobile phones, and another to finding volunteer opportunities for people seeking asylum.

We continue to benefit from the strong sense of community generated at AMC. The management team and the AMC volunteers include a high proportion of people with lived experience of asylum.

The number of people seeking asylum in Southampton and Winchester who receive regular and individual support from a Visitor was 29 adults at the end of August 2025. They have 32 children between them. The Visitor relationship is now reserved mainly for people with complex needs. However, a considerable number of people who received Leave To Remain still need support to transition into independence. Finding accommodation is the most pressing problem. We cannot give precise figures for those who received a positive decision over the year because we do not see all the residents in hotels and houses, but up to 30% of our support is targeted at post Leave to Remain.

It is increasingly difficult for people accommodated in hotels where sharing rooms is the norm nowadays, leading inevitably to a rise in mental health issues and, occasionally, aggressive behaviour, because there are not enough support facilities. We have been involved in arranging and regularly attending a group including Migrant Help, the local authority, the Police and the Home Office to support the management of the hotel and the residents to monitor the problems. Since the summer, aggressive anti-migrant protests have been held outside the hotel each Friday evening, with a large demonstration in mid-August on a Sunday. This is frightening and distressing for the residents and SWVG offers support engaging with the local police and councillors.

Whilst we have seen some fast decisions, too many people still have to wait years to have their asylum claims assessed. A lack of legal support is a key issue nowadays, particularly at appeal. There are not enough immigration solicitors working for Legal Aid and many people now have to attend their substantive interview or even an appeal hearing without prior discussion with a solicitor.

### **English teaching**

Around 60 students are currently receiving English lessons either one-to-one or in a small group, though more have been taught across the year due to frequent movement in and out of the hotel. Around 100 more have attended lessons during the past year. About 38 teachers are currently teaching at least one student. We have had donations of text books and exercise books, and have purchased more when necessary.

We run a conversation group in partnership with Southampton Central Library, which can involve up to 20 people each week.

### **Volunteers and contracted staff**

We currently have around 100 active volunteers and continue to receive applications from potential volunteers. Our training activity has now been refreshed and the first contact new volunteers have is one-to-one with a member of the training team either online or in person. This is followed up with a full day's training. The Trustees have been grateful to note that the volunteer group now increasingly includes people with lived experience of the asylum system.

Our two part-time contracted staff continue to provide essential support services.

### **Campaigning**

The Campaigning Group supports national campaigns that call for a humane asylum system and we oppose policies that persecute people who claim asylum. We encourage members to raise the issues with their MPs and local councils, and we speak at local groups and forums. We think it important for politicians to talk to people who have lived experience of asylum. We have been pleased to organise visits to AMC from local MPs this year, and have shown Caroline Nokes, MP for Romsey and Southampton North, and currently a deputy speaker, and Liz Jarvis, MP for Eastleigh, around the Centre. Other MPs have been visited in their surgeries.

Refugee Week in June is a special time to celebrate the cultures and capabilities that refugees and other people who have sought sanctuary bring to our local communities. Together with many local organisations and community groups, we organised a series of events including drama, films, music, dance, a stall, artwork and a parade in the centre of Southampton. This improves the links between many local cultural groups who came to showcase their positive contributions to the city. We are also most grateful to people with lived experience who gave radio and TV interviews.

In preparation, we visited 13 local schools involving upwards of 1,600 local schoolchildren in discussion sessions, meeting people who are refugees. The children decorated tote bags with generosity and imagination, as gifts for people seeking asylum, in response to this year's theme, Community.

### **Wellbeing and Activities**

We arrange activities to support wellbeing, including 110 people joining trips to the New Forest and Bournemouth beach, and tree planting trips for the National Trust. Additionally we offer opportunities for people to work on our allotment and to cook meals, we source and repair bikes, enable volunteering opportunities, and organise cultural activities. Some 215 people have been on theatre trips (115 individuals, some attending more than once).

Cooking for Friends Saturday evening events and the associated fundraising dinners started two years ago. The issue of food is an important one for residents of the hotel as they do not have the opportunity to cook, nor to eat food from home. We developed a scheme that involves two of the hotel residents acting as chefs on a Saturday evening. They each invite up to six friends to eat with them. This has led to a regular sharing of food and good fun, and the scheme runs every Saturday evening (subject to venue availability). All the chefs are required to undertake basic food hygiene to Level 1, providing a useful qualification for their CVs and later employment. Several of the chefs have attained Level 2.

The success of this scheme has led to a spin-off series of fundraising dinners which raise about £1,000 a time. These are important not just because of money but also as an advertisement and celebration of community and shared values, with singing and dancing as well as a very varied menu.

### **Reporting Support**

We continue to co-ordinate and join a group of local people gathering at the police station where people on immigration bail have to report to Border Force officials on Monday mornings. We publicise the support available in Southampton, including from SWVG, give out information cards and offer to inform a solicitor or friend, should anyone be detained.

We aim to build on positive relationships in Southampton, Winchester and neighbouring towns, to improve the lives of refugees and people seeking asylum.

## **Finance**

Receipts for the year were £89,255 and payments were £92,693 producing a deficit of £3,438. This was part of the Trustees' plan to achieve a deficit in the year in order to bring the level of reserves in line with our reserves policy. The Trustees' plan for 2026 continues this approach expecting to deliver a small deficit in the year.

## **Receipts-Grants**

Grants from charitable trusts amounted to £49,750. We are most grateful for a further grant from the Tolkien Trust of £22,000 which covers a significant part of our support costs.

We are also grateful for an anonymous institutional grant of £10,000, the grant from French Huguenot Church of £5,000 and a grant of £1,500 from St Claire and St Francis Parochial Parish Council.

We have also received a grant of £5,000 from the Hilden Trust and £2,000 from the Misselbrook Trust.

We also gratefully acknowledge continuing support from the One Per Cent scheme which amounted to £3,150.

Details of grants received are set out on page 10 of this report.

## **Receipts-Other income**

We acknowledge the financial donation from the Girdlers Trust: £2,600 towards the Cooking for Friends initiative. We are also grateful for the donations we have received from churches, other organisations and many individuals who have continued to support us in difficult circumstances.

**Payments.** We have continued to shift our spending towards practical help and social activities. The AMC has continued to increase in size and costs have increased commensurately (2025 £17,575/2024 £12,766). The Cooking for Friends initiative, gym memberships and the bike project continue to grow (2025 £18,387/2024 £16,028). In the 2024/25 annual report and accounts the proportion of contracted staff's costs that are incurred at AMC have been shown against that cost line (2025 £7,611/2024 £6,504). In 2023/24 this was included under salaries in support activities, the comparative figures have been adjusted to reflect this change. We continue to supply mobile phones to those who require them, though the cost has dropped from the previous year (2025 £7,436/2024 £9,634). As noted above, increasingly people are being asked to attend interviews without legal representation. As a consequence they need funds for the translation of key documents, which ordinarily Legal Aid would fund if they had legal representation. We have supported people where this is the case (2025 £860) and we can see that this could be an increasing pressure going forward. The trustees had recognised that there was a requirement to modernise our record keeping to make it secure, simple and more efficient. During the year we invested in a new database system (£6,285) to do this.

We continue to manage our support activity costs tightly, although these have been impacted by inflation in the year. For 2024/25 the support costs account for 24% of our expenditure in the year.

## **Emergency Response Fund**

This fund was created in 2021 and now stands at £15,000.

## **AMC Designated Fund**

This fund holds the monies received relating to the running of AMC.

## **Reserves**

The Trustees have agreed that the value of unrestricted reserves should be in the region of £55,000 representing approximately 6 months normal expenditure plus a provision for three months for salaries. Unrestricted reserves at 31 August, excluding the Emergency Response Fund and AMC fund, were £82,799.



**This report was approved by the Trustees on 8th December 2025 and signed on their behalf by Catherine Hartley (Co-chair).**

# Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group

## Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group (the Group) for the year ended 31 August 2025.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Group you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

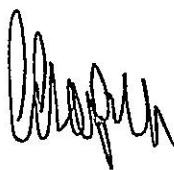
I report in respect of my examination of the Group's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Group as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

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



**Chay Champness FCMA, CGMA**

3 Old House Close

Epsom

Surrey

KT17 1LE

16/12/25

# Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group

Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025

## Receipts and payments

	2025		2024	
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
Donations from organisations	4,168	6,870	11,038	19,095
Donations from individuals inc. gift aid	17,604	240	17,844	21,459
Grants from charitable trusts	44,750	5,000	49,750	54,614
Proceeds of fund-raising events	7,908		7,908	9,368
AMC receipt	0		0	11,238
Interest	2,715		2,715	2,863
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>77,145</b>	<b>12,110</b>	<b>89,255</b>	<b>118,637</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
Direct activities				
Campaigning	0	1,913	1,913	1,152
Visitors' travel and other expenses	2,550		2,550	3,281
Accommodation and subsistence	1,711		1,711	4,484
Travel	6,090		6,090	6,262
English teaching	2,261		2,261	7,409
Mobile phones	7,436		7,436	9,634
AMC and social activities	22,275	12,110	34,385	28,794
Other	12,999	760	13,759	3,211
<b>Total direct activities</b>	<b>55,322</b>	<b>14,783</b>	<b>70,105</b>	<b>64,227</b>
Support activities				
Communications	98		98	142
Salaries	14,797		14,797	13,820
Fund-raising costs	306		306	318
Training	1,739		1,739	558
Insurance	787		787	848
Website	1,108		1,108	3,493
Other office and admin costs	3,753		3,753	2,532
<b>Total support activities</b>	<b>22,588</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22,588</b>	<b>21,711</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>77,910</b>	<b>14,783</b>	<b>92,693</b>	<b>85,938</b>
<b>Net excess of receipts over payments for the year</b>	<b>-765</b>	<b>-2,673</b>	<b>-3,438</b>	<b>32,699</b>
Balance brought forward	111,702	2,925	114,627	81,928
<b>Balance carried forward</b>	<b>110,937</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>111,189</b>	<b>114,627</b>

# Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group

Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025

## Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 August 2025

	01.09.24	Received	Paid	31.08.25
	£	£	£	£
<b>CASH FUNDS</b>				
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General Unrestricted Funds	85,464	75,245	77,910	82,799
Emergency Response Fund	15,000			15,000
Mark Courtice Education Fund	0	1,900		1,900
AMC Designated Fund	11,238			11,238
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>111,702</b>	<b>77,145</b>	<b>77,910</b>	<b>110,937</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>				
Legal Justice Fund	760		760	0
Cooking for friends	0	2,600	2,600	0
Campaigning	2,165		1,913	252
AMC Restricted Fund	0	4,510	4,510	0
Social activities	0	5,000	5,000	0
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>2,925</b>	<b>12,110</b>	<b>14,783</b>	<b>252</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>114,627</b>	<b>89,255</b>	<b>92,693</b>	<b>111,189</b>

Represented by:	31.08.25	31.08.24
	£	£
HSBC current account	40,669	15,827
Nationwide Building Society	0	28,000
Redwood Bank	70,000	70,000
Float for expenses	520	800
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>111,189</b>	<b>114,627</b>

### Creditors

For expenses	2,289	1,199
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Signed for and on behalf of the Trustees on 8th December 2025 by Catherine Hartley (Co Chair)

## Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group

Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025

Notes :

Grants	2025		2024	
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
The Tolkien Trust	22,000		22,000	22,000
Anonymous	10,000		10,000	10,000
Garfield Weston Foundation	0		0	7,500
One Per Cent Scheme	3,150		3,150	5,297
Hilden Trust	5,000		5,000	5,000
St Clare and St Francis Trust	1,500		1,500	1,500
Misselbrook Trust	2,000		2,000	2,000
NACOM	1,100		1,100	0
The French Huguenot Church		5,000	5,000	0
Southampton City Council - Refugee Week		0	0	1,317
	<b>44,750</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>49,750</b>	<b>54,614</b>

### TRUSTEE EXPENSES

Expenses reimbursed to trustees during the period amounted to £1,611 (2024 £824).

**SOUTHAMPTON AND WINCHESTER VISITORS GROUP**

England & Wales - Charity number 1183558

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# Accounts

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Charity Number 1183558

**Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group**

**Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31st August 2024**

<b>Address</b>	Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group PO Box 1615, Southampton SO17 3WF Email: <a href="mailto:info@swvg-refugees.org.uk">info@swvg-refugees.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.swvg-refugees.org.uk">www.swvg-refugees.org.uk</a>
<b>Patrons</b>	Miriam Margolyes, OBE John Pilkington Dr. Shirley Firth
<b>Trustees</b>	Chair: Mark Courtice (resigned 16 October 2024) Vice Chair: Catherine Hartley Treasurer: David Robertson (appointed 4 December 2023) Co-ordinator: Claudia Glyn  Jeyatharshan Vettivel Judith Evans (appointed 4 December 2023) Katie Gearing (appointed 4 December 2023) Khalid Omer (appointed 4 December 2023) Sue Jessup (appointed 4 December 2023) Andrew Taylor (appointed 31 March 2024) David Smith (resigned 4 December 2023) William Brook-Hart (resigned 4 December 2023) Paul Munns (resigned 2 September 2023)
<b>Secretary</b>	Lea Hayes
<b>Administrator</b>	David Rees
<b>Bankers</b>	HSBC Bank Plc, 19 Minster Street, Salisbury SP1 1TE
<b>Independent Examiner</b>	Peter Casson FCA

## **Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group**

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024.

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### **Focus of our work**

The Group is a volunteer led charity whose members work with people seeking asylum and refugees mainly living in Southampton. Our work includes providing English and other teaching, and providing one-to-one support for individual people, who are assigned a trained visitor who meets with them regularly to provide friendship and practical help. We support approximately 200 people in government accommodation, who are resident either in a local hotel or in shared houses. We provide well-being support through social and cultural activities. We have also funded the provision of gym access, phones, as well as laptops and data to some of the students.

SWVG operates a weekly drop-in centre at the Avenue Multicultural Centre (AMC) in Southampton United Reform Church (URC), which it previously ran in conjunction with CLEAR and Avenue St Andrews URC. AMC is a very popular drop-in centre, which runs every Friday morning for those seeking asylum. We staff a help desk with a small number of experienced volunteers providing information and signposting.

We also work in partnership with SCRATCH, where a number of people volunteer, with New Forest National Park, where we run visits in conjunction with the rangers, and with John Hansard Gallery, MAST Studios, Sea City Museum and Southampton City Libraries for our culture project. We also have links to Refugee Action and Together with Refugees and are members of NACCOM and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic Migration Group.

### **Review of the year**

Our core work, namely the provision of support to those seeking asylum and newly given Leave To Remain continued. We have supported many young men placed in two hotels in Southampton (though one closed this year). The Home Office introduced room-sharing in hotels so the overall numbers we support have not fallen significantly.

The drop-in centre at AMC continued in operation and welcomes more than 150 people each week. Some 20-30 people per week access our help desks (many on a repeat basis), receiving a variety of support, including assistance with finding solicitors. During the year the number of individual refugees and people seeking asylum we saw at the help desk was over 250.

The drop-in at AMC had been under threat as the partners found it difficult to continue to manage it. SWVG Trustees took on sole responsibility for it this year and devised management systems to ensure smooth running. A wider range of partners are welcomed to join in on a regular basis, including the City Library, the Medaille Trust

supporting people who have been trafficked, and the Refugee Employability Programme. As well as a specific help desk for accommodation matters and school placements, a further desk is dedicated to managing the laptop scheme, gym memberships and the bike scheme, and another to finding volunteer opportunities for those seeking asylum.

Our management of AMC has enabled us to increase the involvement of those seeking asylum and refugees in running the Centre. The team running the Friday morning sessions now includes a large proportion of people with lived experience, offering them a chance to volunteer. We have also introduced hot soup cooked by volunteers who are seeking asylum.

The number of people seeking asylum in NASS accommodation who receive regular and individual support from a Visitor has dropped over the year, to eight, after more people received positive decisions about their asylum claims. The help desk enables us to support greater numbers of people (many of whom we see on a regular basis). The Visitor relationship is now used for those with complex needs. However, a considerable number of people who received Leave To Remain still need support to transition into independence. Finding accommodation is the most pressing problem. We cannot give precise figures for those who received a positive decision over the year because we do not see all the residents in hotels and houses but we estimate up to 30% of our support is targeted at post Leave to Remain.

We ran a separate help desk at the second hotel during the year until the end of March, when the hotel was closed by the Home Office and its residents were moved to the remaining hotel or elsewhere in the country.

Whilst we have seen some fast decisions, too many people still have to wait years to have their asylum claim assessed. A lack of legal support is a key issue nowadays. There are not enough immigration solicitors who work for Legal Aid and many people seeking asylum now have to attend their substantive interview or even an appeal hearing without prior discussion with a solicitor.

It is increasingly difficult for those accommodated in hotels where sharing rooms is the norm nowadays, which inevitably leads to a rise in mental health issues and occasionally aggressive behaviour, because there are not enough support facilities. We have actively been involved in arranging and regularly attending a group including Migrant Help, the local authority, the Police and the Home Office to support Clearsprings and the residents to monitor the problems.

### **English teaching**

Around 70 students are currently receiving English lessons, either one-to-one or in a small group, though the numbers fluctuate across the year due to frequent movement in and out of the hotel. Over 120 more have attended lessons during the past year, including from the hotel that closed in February. About 36 teachers are currently teaching at least one student.

We run 2 conversation groups (one in partnership with Southampton Library). This can involve up to 30 people each week.

We have had donations of text books and exercise books, and have purchased more when necessary.

### **Data and IT**

We have continued, on a smaller scale than before, with the scheme to lend laptops to people learning English, and to provide 22 people (currently down to three) with mobile data packages for online learning. A new initiative has supported people to buy their own laptop by making a regular contribution to pay off the cost of the machine. Our IT and data schemes have also benefited housemates including family members.

### **Volunteers and contracted staff**

We currently have around 100 active volunteers and continue to receive applications from potential volunteers. Our training activity has now been refreshed and is carried out in person. The Trustees have been grateful to note that the volunteer group now includes people with lived experience of the asylum system. Our two part time contracted staff continue to provide essential support services.

### **Campaigning**

The Campaigning Group supports national campaigns that call for a humane asylum system and we oppose policies which persecute people who claim asylum. We encourage members to raise the issues with their MPs and

local councils and we speak at local groups and forums. We think it's important for politicians to talk to people who have lived experience of asylum.

Refugee Week in June is a special time to celebrate the cultures and capabilities that refugees and other people who have sought sanctuary bring to our local communities. Together with many local organisations and community groups, we organised a series of events including drama, films, music, dance, a stall, artwork and a parade in the centre of Southampton. This improves the links between many local cultural groups who came to showcase their positive contributions to the city. We are grateful for the support of Southampton City Council, Go! Southampton representing the business community and City of Sanctuary Southampton. We are also most grateful to those people with lived experience who gave radio and TV interviews.

In preparation, we involved 8 local schools with upwards of 1,600 local schoolchildren in discussion sessions meeting people who are refugees; the children also created amazing works of art in response to this year's theme of our home.

Following on from this, Southampton City Council has reaffirmed its commitment to being a City of Sanctuary. We are grateful to the Leader of the Council and the Lord Mayor for hosting a reception and for inviting SWVG's Chair and two refugees to speak at this event.

### **Wellbeing and Activities**

We provide activities to support wellbeing, including 160 people joining trips to the New Forest and Bournemouth Beach, working on our allotment, cooking meals, providing and repairing bikes, enabling volunteering opportunities, and organising cultural activities, including theatre trips (85 attendances at 9 shows),

Cooking for Friends Saturday evening events and associated fundraising dinners have been introduced this year with great success. The issue of food is an important one for residents of the hotel as they do not have the opportunity to cook, nor to eat food from home. We developed a scheme that involves two of the hotel residents acting as chefs on a Saturday evening. They invite up to six friends to eat with them. This has led to a regular sharing of food and good fun, and the scheme runs every Saturday evening (subject to venue availability). All the chefs are required to undertake basic food hygiene to Level 1, providing a useful qualification for their CVs. Five of the chefs have moved on to Level 2.

The success of this scheme has led to a spin-off series of fundraising dinners which raise about £1,000 a time. These are important not just because of money but also as an advertisement and celebration of community and shared values, with singing and dancing as well as a very varied menu.

### **Reporting Support**

At the end of April, the government announced that they would use the regular asylum bail reporting sessions to detain those they wished to remove to Rwanda. This caused great distress and fear. It also inspired a coalition of local activists to set up a reporting support team. SWVG provides the underpinning organisation behind this work, collaborating with various others including Stand Up to Racism Southampton and Southampton Action.

We aim to build on these positive relationships in Southampton, Winchester and neighbouring towns, to improve the lives of refugees and people seeking asylum.

### **Awards and achievements**

SWVG was awarded a Solent University Civic Charter Impact Award. Students at Solent University were inspired and helped by SWVG volunteers to support people seeking asylum in a variety of ways.

Hampshire Football Association (FA) Award. A Hampshire FA Foundation Award is awarded for a contribution to one of Hampshire FA Foundation's three key pillars: Disability Football, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, and/or Community Coaching. SWVG and St Peter's Church, Winchester, were joint recipients of this award for the 2023/24 season.

A proud moment for SWVG was the award of British citizenship to Tharshan Vettivel, one of our Trustees with lived experience. Tharshan works tirelessly for SWVG and we are delighted that he has been fully embraced by our country.

## **Finance**

Receipts for the year were £118,637 and payments were £85,938 producing a surplus of £32,699. This surplus included receiving £11,238 when we became the lead for AMC and took over the administration during the year; this has been placed in a designated fund. The remaining surplus was principally due to the closure of the Hostel in 2023 and replacement projects not yet being established. The trustees plan for 2025 includes establishing new projects for those we support and purchasing some one off items to improve the service we offer.

### **Receipts-Grants**

Grants from charitable trusts amounted to £54,614. We are most grateful for a further grant from the Tolkien Trust of £22,000 which covers a significant part of our support costs.

We are also grateful for an anonymous institutional grant of £10,000, a £7,500 grant from the Garfield Weston Trust and £1,500 from St Claire and St Francis Parochial Parish Council.

We have also received a grant of £5,000 from the Hilden Trust and £2,000 from the Misselbrook Trust.

We also gratefully acknowledge continuing support from the One Per Cent scheme which amounted to £5,297.

Details of grants received are set out on page 10 of this report.

### **Receipts-Other income**

We acknowledge the financial donation from the Girdlers Trust £2,750. We are also grateful for the donations we have received from churches, other organisations and many individuals who have continued to support us in difficult circumstances.

**Payments.** With the closure of the hostel, costs for accommodation and subsistence for destitute asylum seekers was £4,484 (2023 £37,343). Taking on the AMC drop-in has meant an increase in our costs for this year (2024 £6,262/2023 £2,135). In the 2022/2023 annual report and accounts the Group's share of AMC costs, £2,135, were included in "Other office and admin costs". With the Group taking on the management of AMC the costs of AMC are reported under "Social activities". The comparative figures have been adjusted to reflect the change in accounting testament of AMC. A shift in our spending pattern means more has been invested this year in social activities to improve well-being, including the Eating with Friends initiative, gym memberships and the bike project (2024 £16,028/2023 £12,301). We have provided an expanded English teaching programme including face to face teaching, internet access and books, this has cost £7,409 in the year. The increase in new residents at the hotels and newcomers to the city has meant more investment in mobile phones and sim cards. (2024 £9,634/2023 £3,257)

We continue to manage administration expenses tightly, however, cost inflation and the need to enhance our on-line presence has meant we have spent more on websites this year than previously, £3,493 (2023 £2,762)

Our contracted staff costs have been impacted by inflation, additionally, we have had a change of secretary this year and the need to have a hand over and train our new secretary meant we incurred some extra cost.

### **Emergency Response Fund**

This fund was created in 2021 and now stands at £15,000.

### **AMC Designated Fund**

This fund has been created this year from the funds received relating to the running of AMC.

### **Reserves**

The Trustees have agreed that the value of unrestricted reserves should be in the region of £55,000 representing approximately 6 months normal expenditure plus a provision for three months for contracted staff costs. Unrestricted reserves at 31 August, excluding the Emergency Response Fund and AMC fund, were £85,464.



This report was approved by the Trustees on 21 October 2024 and signed on their behalf by Catherine Hartley (Vice Chair).

## **Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group**

### **Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees**

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group (the Group) for the year ended 31 August 2024.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the Trustees of the Group 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 Group's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Group as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

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



**Peter Casson FCA**

*29<sup>th</sup> October 2024*  
13 Skylark Road  
Trumpington  
Cambridge  
CB2 9AQ

## Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group

Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

### Receipts and payments

	2024			2023
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Total
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
Donations from organisations	17,095	2,000	19,095	8,367
Donations from individuals including gift aid	21,459		21,459	36,281
Grants from charitable trusts	53,297	1,317	54,614	54,466
Proceeds of fund-raising events	9,368		9,368	8,365
AMC receipt	11,238		11,238	0
Interest	2,863		2,863	1,554
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>115,320</b>	<b>3,317</b>	<b>118,637</b>	<b>109,033</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
Client-facing activities				
Campaigning	0	1,152	1,152	4,193
Visitors' travel and other expenses	3,281		3,281	3,365
Professional fees	0		0	1,966
Accommodation and subsistence	4,484		4,484	37,343
Travel	6,262		6,262	6,360
English teaching	7,409		7,409	9,341
Mobile phones	9,634		9,634	3,257
Social activities (inc AMC & EWF)	22,290		22,290	14,436
Other	2,861	350	3,211	2,874
<b>Total payments to or for clients</b>	<b>56,221</b>	<b>1,502</b>	<b>57,723</b>	<b>83,135</b>
Communications	142		142	551
Salaries	20,324		20,324	17,212
Fund-raising costs	318		318	216
Training	558		558	182
Insurance	848		848	616
Website	3,493		3,493	2,762
Other office and admin costs	2,532		2,532	3,121
<b>Total administration expenses</b>	<b>28,215</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28,215</b>	<b>24,660</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>84,436</b>	<b>1,502</b>	<b>85,938</b>	<b>107,795</b>
<b>Net excess of receipts over payments for the year</b>	<b>30,884</b>	<b>1,815</b>	<b>32,699</b>	<b>1,238</b>
Balance brought forward	80,818	1,110	81,928	80,690
<b>Balance carried forward</b>	<b>111,702</b>	<b>2,925</b>	<b>114,627</b>	<b>81,928</b>

# Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group

Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

## Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 August 2024

	01.09.23	Received	Paid	31.08.24
	£	£	£	£
<b>CASH FUNDS</b>				
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>				
General Unrestricted Funds	65,818	104,082	84,436	85,464
Emergency Response Fund	15,000			15,000
AMC Designated Fund		11,238		11,238
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>80,818</b>	<b>115,320</b>	<b>84,436</b>	<b>111,702</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>				
Legal Justice Fund	760			760
Bike project	350		350	0
Campaigning	0	3,317	1,152	2,165
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>1,110</b>	<b>3,317</b>	<b>1,502</b>	<b>2,925</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>81,928</b>	<b>118,637</b>	<b>85,938</b>	<b>114,627</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>				
			<b>31.08.24</b>	<b>31.08.23</b>
			£	£
HSBC current account			15,827	13,128
Nationwide Building Society			28,000	14,000
Redwood Bank			70,000	54,000
Float for expenses			800	800
<b>Total Funds</b>			<b>114,627</b>	<b>81,928</b>
<b>Debtors</b>				
Tax on gift aid donations			1,193	1,657
Other debtors			482	533
			<b>1,675</b>	<b>2,190</b>
<b>Creditors</b>				
For expenses			1,199	432
			<b>1,199</b>	<b>432</b>



Signed for and on behalf of the Trustees on 21 October 2024 by Catherine Hartley (Vice Chair)

## Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group

### Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

#### Notes :

<b>Grants</b>	<b>2024</b>			<b>2023</b>
	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
The Tolkien trust	22,000		22,000	20,000
Anonymous	10,000		10,000	10,000
Garfield Weston Foundation	7,500		7,500	0
One Per Cent Scheme	5,297		5,297	4,496
Knight Charitable Trust			0	300
Hilden Trust	5,000		5,000	0
St Clare and St Francis Trust	1,500		1,500	1,500
Misselbrook Trust	2,000		2,000	0
Girdlers Trust	0		0	1,600
The French Huguenot Church - social activities			0	5,000
The National Lottery - subsistence and teaching			0	6,492
Winchester City Council - teaching, social etc			0	1,360
Energise Me - football			0	1,218
Southampton City Council - Refugee Week		1,317	1,317	2,500
	<b>53,297</b>	<b>1,317</b>	<b>54,614</b>	<b>54,466</b>

#### TRUSTEE EXPENSES

Expenses reimbursed to trustees during the period amounted to £824 (2023 £1,028).

**SOUTHAMPTON AND WINCHESTER VISITORS GROUP**

England & Wales - Charity number 1183558

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# Accounts

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Charity Number 1183558

**Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group**

**Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31st August 2023**

<b>Address</b>	Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group PO Box 1615, Southampton SO17 3WF Email: <a href="mailto:info@swvg-refugees.org.uk">info@swvg-refugees.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.swvg-refugees.org.uk">www.swvg-refugees.org.uk</a>
<b>Patrons</b>	Miriam Margolyes, OBE John Pilkington Dr. Shirley Firth
<b>Trustees</b>	Chair: Mark Courtice Treasurer: David Smith Co-ordinator: Claudia Glyn  Catherine Hartley William Brook-Hart Jeyatharshan Vettivel Stash Kozlowski (resigned 15 December 2022) Rev. Dr. Stephen Sizer (resigned 31 January 2023) David Retter (resigned 15 December 2022) Jackie Batchelor (resigned 7 August 2023) Leila Karimi (resigned 20 October 2022) Paul Munns (appointed 28 August and resigned 2 September 2023)
<b>Secretary</b>	Jessica Hasan
<b>Administrator</b>	David Rees
<b>Bankers</b>	HSBC Bank Plc, 19 High Street, Salisbury SP1 1TE
<b>Independent Examiner</b>	Peter Casson FCA

## **Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group**

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023.

### **Formation**

The charity was formed as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation to take over the activities and assets and liabilities of the unincorporated charity of the same name. It was registered with the Charity Commission on 29 May 2019.

### **Governance and management**

The Trustee Board comprises a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 12 members elected at each Annual General Meeting. Trustees who held office during the year are listed on page 2.

The Board meets every six weeks and is supported by a number of sub-committees which report to the Trustees.

### **Aims and objectives**

The main objects of the Group as set out in its constitution are:

For the relief of need, hardship and distress in the United Kingdom amongst refugees, asylum seekers and other immigrants by providing such charitable assistance as the Trustees think fit, including providing such persons with advice, assistance, representation, counselling, in matters such as money, debts, welfare, benefits, housing, health, asylum, immigration, education, training and employment.

### **Focus of our work**

The Group is a volunteer led charity whose members work with asylum seekers and refugees mainly living in Southampton. Our work includes, providing English and other teaching and providing one-to-one support for individual clients, who are assigned a trained visitor who meets with them regularly to provide friendship and practical help. In addition we support approximately 170 people who are resident in two local hotels. We provide well-being support through social and cultural activities. We also have funded the provision of phones, laptops and data to some of the students and hotel residents.

SWVG is the leading partner in the Avenue Multicultural Centre (AMC) in Southampton URC and runs it in conjunction with CLEAR and Avenue St Andrews URC. AMC is a very popular drop-in centre, which runs every Friday morning for those seeking asylum. We staff a help desk with two experienced visitors and the SWVG administrator. This drop-in is frequented by the residents in Home Office government asylum accommodation and one of the hotels. For the second, bigger, hotel we run a separate help desk at the hotel once a week on Wednesdays together with CLEAR.

We also work in partnership with SCRATCH, where a number of clients volunteer, with New Forest National Park, where we run visits in conjunction with the rangers, and with John Hansard Gallery, MAST Studios, Sea City Museum and Southampton City Libraries for our culture project.

We also have links to Refugee Action and Together with Refugees and are members of NACCOM and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic Migration Group.

### **Review of the year**

The drop-in centre at Avenue St Andrews URC continued in operation and is attended by well over a hundred clients and helpers/teachers every week. During the year the number of refugees and asylum seekers we saw at the help desk was over 250.

We supported 24 clients, and in some cases their families, with regular visits; most of them live in NASS accommodation. Out of these, 12 clients were granted Leave to Remain during the year. In addition there are a number of English students with LTR, as well as hotel residents for whom we cannot give precise figures because we do not see all the residents.

A decision was taken to close the hostel because it was no longer fulfilling its original objectives and the trustees felt that there were better alternative uses for the resources. On average only three of the hostel's six rooms were occupied for most of the year

Several of our clients have had to wait years to have their asylum case assessed by the Home Office and further months or years for a decision, but we have also seen some fast decisions. Due to the government's effort to cut the backlog of outstanding asylum decisions, clients from certain countries received a fast track questionnaire, which in turn made it difficult to find the necessary legal support to complete these documents.

The Home Office has continued to increase the number of people in Southampton who are seeking asylum accommodated in hotels but without providing adequate support facilities.

During the year we responded at short notice to the opening by the Home Office of a hotel for asylum seekers in a highly unsuitable location near Winchester. The hotel accommodated up to 60 young men and SWVG provided them with English language teaching, sports and other social activities and day-to-day support.

Some individual SWVG members are involved in supporting Ukrainian refugees. While SWVG believes that all refugees should be treated fairly and humanely, our focus continues to be on those of all nationalities who do not get proper government support.

More information on our activities can be found on the website at [swvg-refugees.org.uk](http://swvg-refugees.org.uk)

### **English teaching**

Around 80 students are currently receiving English lessons both one-to-one and in groups. At least 80 more have attended lessons during the past year including the men from the hotel that opened near Winchester. We have purchased text books and continued with the scheme to lend laptops to people learning English, and to provide 33 clients with mobile data packages, which also benefitted other adult family members and children.

### **Volunteers and staff**

We currently have around 100 active volunteers and continue to receive applications from potential volunteers. Our training activity is now carried out partly online and partly in person. The Trustees have been grateful to note that the volunteer group now includes people with lived experience of the asylum system. Our two part time staff continue to provide essential support services.

### **Campaigning**

The campaign group seeks to ensure that the membership of SWVG is informed of national campaigns that call for a humane asylum system and oppose current laws which persecute people who claim asylum, notably the Illegal Migration Act 2023. We encourage members to raise the issues with their MP's and local councils and we speak at local groups and forums.

Together with three other campaigning and refugee support agencies we organised a very successful outdoor event, with music, dance and a parade in the centre of Southampton to celebrate Refugee Week. This created links between many local cultural support groups who came to showcase their positive contributions to the City. Over 1,000 people came, including many currently claiming asylum. We attracted sponsorship from the council and local businesses and very positive interviews with local TV and radio. In preparation, we involved over 1,600 local schoolchildren in discussion sessions meeting people who are refugees. Schools, community groups and the general public were also involved in making decorations for the event which allowed issues to be talked about in a non-confrontational setting.

**Finance**

Receipts for the year were £109,033, and payments were £107,795 producing a surplus of £1,238.

**Receipts-Grants**

Grants from charitable trusts amounted to £54,466. We are most grateful for a further grant from the Tolkien Trust of £20,000 which covers a significant part of our support costs.

We are also grateful for an anonymous institutional grant of £10,000 and a £5,000 grant from The French Huguenot Church of London Charitable Trust to be used for social activities. The final tranche of National Lottery funding was received during the year to be used for teaching and social activities as well as funding subsistence costs for those without government support.

We have also received grants of £1,360 and £1,218 from Winchester City Council and from Energise Me respectively for support to those housed in a Winchester hotel. Southampton City Council supported our Refugee Week activities with a grant of £2,500.

We also gratefully acknowledge a grant of £1,600 from the Girdlers Trust and continuing support from The One Per Cent scheme which amounted to £4,496.

Details of grants received are set out on page 8 of this report.

**Receipts-Other income**

We are grateful for the donations we have received from churches, other organisations and many individuals who have continued to support us in difficult circumstances. In particular we are grateful for a anonymous donation of £10,000. Ahmad Tea Ltd have supported us regularly with donations totalling £3,300 for which we are also most grateful.

**Payments** included £37,343 for accommodation and subsistence for destitute asylum seekers, £27,500 of which was for the rent of the hostel. Expenditure on other client activities further increased reflecting the differing needs of asylum seekers and the increasing numbers accommodated in Southampton and for the first time Winchester. Expenditure on social activities to improve well-being amounted to £12,301 and £9,341 was spent on English teaching by providing internet access and books as described above.

**Emergency Response Fund**

This fund was created in 2021 and now stands at £15,000.

**Reserves Policy**

The Trustees have agreed that the value of unrestricted reserves should be in the region of £60,000 representing approximately 6 months normal expenditure plus a provision for three months for salaries. Unrestricted reserves at 31 August, excluding the Emergency Response Fund, were £65,818

**This report was approved by the Trustees on 30 October 2023 and signed on their behalf by Mark Courtice (Chair).**

## **Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group**

### **Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees**

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group (the Group) for the year ended 31 August 2023.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the Trustees of the Group 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 Group's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Group as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

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

**Peter Casson FCA      4<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

13 Skylark Road  
Trumpington  
Cambridge  
CB2 9AQ

**Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group**  
**Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023**

**Receipts and payments**

	Unrestricted £	2023 Restricted £	Total £	2022 Total
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
Donations from organisations	8,367		8,367	4,120
Donations from individuals including gift aid	36,281		36,281	22,668
Grants from charitable trusts	37,896	16,570	54,466	53,174
Proceeds of fund-raising events	8,365		8,365	13,083
Interest	1,554		1,554	596
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>92,463</b>	<b>16,570</b>	<b>109,033</b>	<b>93,641</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
Client-facing activities				
Campaigning	1,693	2,500	4,193	6,667
Visitors' travel and other expenses	3,365		3,365	4,003
Professional fees		1,966	1,966	175
Accommodation and subsistence	28,128	9,215	37,343	35,673
Travel	6,360		6,360	5,523
English teaching	3,482	5,859	9,341	7,535
Mobile phones	3,257		3,257	
Social activities	4,723	7,578	12,301	7,674
Other	2,248	626	2,874	4,814
Total payments to or for clients	53,256	27,744	81,000	72,064
Support activities				
Communications	551		551	1,906
Salaries	17,212		17,212	16,144
Fund-raising costs	216		216	652
Training	182		182	443
Insurance	616		616	480
Website	2,762		2,762	302
Other office and admin costs	5,256		5,256	2,236
Total administration expenses	26,795		26,795	22,163
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>80,051</b>	<b>27,744</b>	<b>107,795</b>	<b>94,227</b>
<b>Net excess of receipts over payments for the year</b>	12,412	(11,174)	1,238	(586)
<b>Balance brought forward</b>	68,406	12,284	80,690	81,276
<b>Balance carried forward</b>	<b>80,818</b>	<b>1,110</b>	<b>81,928</b>	<b>80,690</b>

**Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group**  
**Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022**

**Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 August 2023**

	01.09.22	Received	Paid	31.08.23
	£	£	£	£
<b>CASH FUNDS</b>				
Unrestricted Funds				
General Unrestricted Funds	53,406	92,463	80,051	65,818
Emergency Response Fund	15,000			15,000
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>68,406</b>	<b>92,463</b>	<b>80,051</b>	<b>80,818</b>
Restricted Funds				
Legal Justice Fund	2,726	0	1,966	760
Winchester Emergency	0	2,578	2,578	0
Bike project	976	0	626	350
National Lottery	8,582	6,492	15,074	0
Campaigning	0	2,500	2,500	0
Social activities	0	5,000	5,000	0
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>12,284</b>	<b>16,570</b>	<b>27,744</b>	<b>1,110</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>80,690</b>	<b>109,033</b>	<b>107,795</b>	<b>81,928</b>
Represented by:				
		31.08.23	31.08.22	
		£	£	
HSBC current account		13,128	8,890	
Nationwide Building Society		14,000	22,000	
Redwood Bank		54,000	54,000	
Float for expenses		800	800	
Less: Deferred income			(5,000)	
		<b>81,928</b>	<b>80,690</b>	
<b>DEBTORS</b>				
Tax on Gift Aid donations		1,657	1,086	
Other debtors		533	416	
		<b>2,190</b>	<b>1,502</b>	
<b>CREDITORS</b>				
For expenses		432	142	

**Signed for and on behalf of the Trustees on 30 October 2023 by**

**Mark Courtice (Chair)**

**Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group**  
**Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023**

**NOTES:**

**GRANTS**

	2023		2022	
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Grants received from charitable trusts were:				
The Tolkien Trust	20,000		20,000	20,000
Anonymous	10,000		10,000	
Garfield Weston Foundation				10,000
One Percent Scheme	4,496		4,496	2,107
Knight Charitable Trust	300		300	400
Sheba Charitable Trust				400
St Clare and St Francis Trust	1,500		1,500	500
The Girdlers Trust	1,600		1,600	
The French Huguenot Church of London – social activities		5,000	5,000	5,000
The National Lottery – subsistence and teaching		6,492	6,492	12,857
Winchester City Council – teaching, social activities and football		1,360	1,360	
Energise Me - football		1,218	1,218	
Southampton City Council – Refugee Week		2,500	2,500	1,910
	<u>37,896</u>	<u>16,570</u>	<u>54,466</u>	<u>53,174</u>

**TRUSTEE EXPENSES**

Expenses reimbursed to trustees during the period amounted to £1,028 (2022 £890).

**COMMITMENTS**

The Group had outstanding commitments for the support of clients which fall after the year end of £1,285 (2022 £4,943).

**SOUTHAMPTON AND WINCHESTER VISITORS GROUP**

England & Wales - Charity number 1183558

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# Accounts

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Charity Number 1183558

**Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group**

**Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31st August 2022**

<b>Address</b>	Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group PO Box 1615, Southampton SO17 3WF Email: <a href="mailto:info@swvg-refugees.org.uk">info@swvg-refugees.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.swvg-refugees.org.uk">www.swvg-refugees.org.uk</a>
<b>Patrons</b>	Miriam Margolyes, OBE John Pilkington Dr. Shirley Firth
<b>Trustees</b>	Chair: Chris Stephens (resigned 6 December 2021) Mark Courtice (appointed 6 December 2021) Treasurer: Andrew White (resigned 20 September 2021) David Smith (appointed 20 September 2021) Co-ordinator: Claudia Glyn  Stash Kozlowski Catherine Hartley William Brook-Hart Rev. Dr. Stephen Sizer David Retter Jackie Batchelor Momodou Bah (resigned 6 December 2021) Jeyatharshan Vettivel Leila Karimi (appointed 23 May 2022 and resigned 20 October 2022)
<b>Secretary</b>	Jessica Hasan
<b>Administrator</b>	Xanthe Hackett
<b>Bankers</b>	HSBC Bank Plc, 19 High Street, Salisbury SO23 9BZ
<b>Independent Examiner</b>	Peter Casson FCA

## **Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group**

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022.

### **Formation**

The charity was formed as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation to take over the activities and assets and liabilities of the unincorporated charity of the same name. It was registered with the Charity Commission on 29 May 2019. The assets and liabilities were transferred between December 2019 and March 2020 and the activities were transferred on 1 January 2020.

### **Governance and management**

The Trustee Board comprises a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 12 members elected at each Annual General Meeting. Trustees who held office during the year are listed on page 2.

The Board meets every six weeks and is supported by a number of sub-committees which report to the Trustees.

### **Aims and objectives**

The main objects of the Group as set out in its constitution are:

For the relief of need, hardship and distress in the United Kingdom amongst refugees, asylum seekers and other immigrants by providing such charitable assistance as the Trustees think fit, including providing such persons with advice, assistance, representation, counselling, in matters such as money, debts, welfare, benefits, housing, health, asylum, immigration, education, training and employment.

### **Focus of our work**

The Group is a volunteer led charity whose members work with asylum seekers and refugees mainly living in Southampton. Our work includes operating a hostel for those without Government accommodation, providing financial support to those clients pursuing their asylum claim who are destitute but are not entitled to receive benefits or undertake paid work, providing English and other teaching, providing one-to-one support for individual clients who are assigned a trained visitor who meets with them regularly to provide friendship and practical help, and providing well-being support through social and cultural activities. We also have funded the provision of laptops and data to some of the students.

Our Legal Justice fund allows us to use the services of a very experienced immigration solicitor who provides advice to the Group on individual client cases and provides training for our members.

SWVG is a partner in the Avenue Multicultural Centre (AMC) in Southampton and contributes to the running of the Centre with CLEAR and Avenue St Andrews URC. There is a very popular drop-in event each Friday at AMC for people who are seeking asylum, when we staff a help desk with two experienced visitors and the SWVG administrator.

We also work in partnership with SCRATCH, with New Forest National Park with visits and with John Hansard Gallery, MAST Studios, Sea City Museum and Southampton City Libraries in our culture project. We are also have links to Refugee Action and Together with Refugees and are members of NACCOM and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic Migration Group

### **Review of the year**

The drop-in centre at Avenue St Andrews URC re-opened post Covid in September 2021 and during the year attendance of refugees and asylum seekers exceeded 3,200.

We supported 50 clients including families with regular visits, most of them living in NASS accommodation. On average only three of the hostel's six rooms were occupied for most of the year. During the year 14 clients were granted Leave to Remain.

Several of our clients have had to wait years to have their asylum case assessed by the Home Office and further months or years for a decision.

The Home Office appears to be increasing the number of people in Southampton who are seeking asylum with the use of hotel accommodation but without adequate support facilities.

The arrival of Ukrainian refugees has been a major development and some individual SWVG members are involved in supporting them. SWVG believes that all refugees should be treated fairly and humanely and our focus continues to be on those of all nationalities who do not get proper government support. More information on our activities can be found on the website at [swvg-refugees.org.uk](http://swvg-refugees.org.uk)

### **English teaching**

79 individuals are currently receiving English lessons both one-to-one and in groups. A further 37 students received one-to-one lessons during the year with many more joining groups. Grants received from the French Huguenot Church and the One Per Cent scheme totalling £6,000 were utilised to purchase 5 laptops together with routers and mobile hubs to loan to clients and also to purchase monthly mobile data packages for 37 clients which also benefitted other adult family members and children. The project has been very successful and will be continued and expanded.

### **Volunteers and staff**

We have continued to receive applications from potential volunteers. Our training activity is now carried out partly online and partly in person. We have approximately 100 active volunteers.

The Trustees have been grateful to note that the volunteer group now includes people with lived experience of the asylum system and this is reflected in the appointment of two people who are experts by experience as Trustees.

Our two part time staff continue to provide essential support services.

### **Campaigning**

We are a member of the “Together with Refugees” national coalition and have been actively supporting its “Show Your Heart” campaign. During the year, we organised public rallies and meetings with local MPs, when we called for a compassionate asylum system and for changes to the now enacted cruel and damaging Nationality and Borders Act.

We also supported one of the legal challenges to the government scheme to transfer asylum seekers to Rwanda, mounted by Freedom from Torture. Our contribution of £5,000 was funded from our Emergency Response Fund.

### **Finance**

Receipts for the year were £93,641, and payments were £94,227, producing a deficit of £586.

#### **Receipts-Grants**

Grants from charitable trusts amounted to £53,174. We are most grateful for a further grant from the Tolkien Trust of £20,000 which covers a significant part of our support costs.

We are also grateful for a new grant from Garfield Weston Foundation of £10,000 and a £5,000 grant from The French Huguenot Church of London Charitable Trust to be used for teaching. The National Lottery continues to fund subsistence costs for hostel residents but in view of the low hostel usage they have kindly agreed for part of the remaining grant to be used for teaching and social activities.

We have also received a grant of £1,910 from Southampton City Council to establish a bike hub which will provide refurbished bikes for members, and also train asylum seekers in bicycle repair skills.

Details of grants received are set out on page 8 of this report.

#### **Receipts-Other income**

We are grateful for the donations we have received from churches, other organisations and many individuals who have continued to support us in difficult circumstances. In particular we are grateful for a donation of £2,000 from Capsticks LLP and to Claire Pigott for raising £2,585 from a sponsored bike ride from Winchester to Liverpool.

**Payments** included £35,673 for accommodation and subsistence for destitute asylum seekers which include rent of £27,500 for the hostel. Expenditure on other client activities was increased as we emerge from the pandemic. Expenditure on social activities to improve well-being amounted to £7,674 and £7,535 was spent on English teaching by providing internet access as described above.

#### **Emergency Response Fund**

This fund was created in 2021 by setting aside a legacy of £20,000 to be used as its title implies. The trustees decided that SWVG should support the legal challenge by Freedom from Torture to the inhumane

policy of transferring asylum seekers to Rwanda for their claims to be processed. We donated £5,000 as explained above.

**Reserves Policy**

The Trustees have agreed that the value of unrestricted reserves should be in the region of £55,000 representing approximately 6 months normal expenditure plus a provision for two and three months respectively for rent and salaries. Unrestricted reserves at 31 August, excluding the designated fund, were £53,406.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 31 October 2022 and signed on their behalf by Mark Courtice (Chair).

## **Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group**

### **Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees**

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group (the Group) for the year ended 31 August 2022.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the Trustees of the Group 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 Group's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Group as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

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

**Peter Casson FCA**

**8 November 2022**

13 Skylark Road  
Trumpington  
Cambridge  
CB2 9AQ

**Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group**  
**Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022**

**Receipts and payments**

	Unrestricted £	2022 Restricted £	Total £	2021 Total
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
Donations from organisations	4,120		4,120	3,615
Donations from individuals including gift aid	22,668		22,668	20,706
Grants from charitable trusts	33,407	19,767	53,174	38,815
Legacies	0		0	20,200
Proceeds of fund-raising events	13,083		13,083	11,327
Interest	596		596	490
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>73,874</b>	<b>19,767</b>	<b>93,641</b>	<b>96,153</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
Client-facing activities				
Campaigning	6,667		6,667	0
Visitors' travel and other expenses	4,003		4,003	1,417
Professional fees		175	175	1,034
Accommodation and subsistence	29,338	6,335	35,673	38,410
Food vouchers			0	2,260
Travel	5,523		5,523	3,156
English teaching		7,535	7,535	8,947
Social activities	4,674	3,000	7,674	1,895
Other	3,106	1,708	4,814	2,489
Total payments to or for clients	53,311	18,753	72,064	59,608
Support activities				
Communications	1,906		1,906	216
Salaries	16,144		16,144	15,376
Fund-raising costs	652		652	216
Training	443		443	694
Insurance	480		480	477
Other office and admin costs	2,538		2,538	1,175
Total administration expenses	22,163		22,163	18,154
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>75,474</b>	<b>18,753</b>	<b>94,227</b>	<b>77,762</b>
<b>Net excess of receipts over payments for the year</b>	<b>(1,600)</b>	<b>1,014</b>	<b>(586)</b>	<b>18,391</b>
<b>Balance brought forward</b>	<b>70,006</b>	<b>11,270</b>	<b>81,276</b>	<b>62,885</b>
<b>Balance carried forward</b>	<b>68,406</b>	<b>12,284</b>	<b>80,690</b>	<b>81,276</b>

**Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group**  
**Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022**

**Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 August 2022**

	01.09.21	Received	Paid	31.08.22
	£	£	£	£
<b>CASH FUNDS</b>				
Unrestricted Funds				
General Unrestricted Funds	50,006	73,874	70,474	53,406
Emergency Response Fund	20,000		5,000	15,000
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>70,006</b>	<b>73,874</b>	<b>75,474</b>	<b>68,406</b>
Restricted Funds				
Subsistence for hostel residents	6,595	12,857	10,870	8,582
Legal Justice Fund	2,901		175	2,726
English teaching	1,000	5,000	6,000	0
Bike project		1,910	934	976
Other	774		774	0
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>11,270</b>	<b>19,767</b>	<b>18,753</b>	<b>12,284</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>81,276</b>	<b>93,641</b>	<b>94,227</b>	<b>80,690</b>

Represented by:	31.08.22	31.08.21
	£	£
HSBC current account	8,890	1,876
Nationwide Building Society	22,000	25,000
Redwood Bank	54,000	54,000
Float for expenses	800	400
Less: Deferred income	(5,000)	0
	<b>80,690</b>	<b>81,276</b>

**DEBTORS**

Tax on Gift Aid donations	1,086	789
Other debtors	416	410
	<b>1,502</b>	<b>1,199</b>

**CREDITORS**

For expenses	142	161
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Signed for and on behalf of the Trustees on 31 October 2022 by

Mark Courtice (Chair)

**Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group**  
**Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022**

**NOTES:**

**GRANTS**

	Unrestricted	2022 Restricted	Total	2021 Total
Grants received from charitable trusts were:	£	£	£	£
The Tolkien Trust	20,000		20,000	20,000
Garfield Weston Foundation	10,000		10,000	
Knight Charitable Trust	400		400	400
Sheba Charitable Trust	400		400	400
St Clare and St Francis Trust	500		500	500
The Orange Tree Trust				5,000
Legal Justice Fund				
Lush Charity Pot				5,000
Subsistence for hostel residents				
The National Lottery		12,857	12,857	6,365
English teaching				
One Percent Scheme	2,107		2,107	1,000
The French Huguenot Church of London		5,000	5,000	
Bike hub				
Southampton City Council		1,910	1,910	
Other				150
	<u>33,407</u>	<u>19,767</u>	<u>53,174</u>	<u>38,815</u>

**TRUSTEE EXPENSES**

Expenses reimbursed to trustees during the period amounted to £890 (2021 £595).

**COMMITMENTS**

The Group had outstanding commitments for the support of clients which fall after the year end of £4,943 (2021 £5,023).

**SOUTHAMPTON AND WINCHESTER VISITORS GROUP**

England & Wales - Charity number 1183558

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# Accounts

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Charity Number 1183558

**Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group**

**Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31st August 2021**

**Address** Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group  
 PO Box 1615, Southampton SO17 3WF  
 Email: [info@swvg-refugees.org.uk](mailto:info@swvg-refugees.org.uk)  
 Web: [www.swvg-refugees.org.uk](http://www.swvg-refugees.org.uk)

**Patrons** Miriam Margolyes, OBE  
 John Pilkington  
 Dr. Shirley Firth

**Trustees** Chair: Chris Stephens  
 Treasurer: Andrew White (resigned 20 September  
 2021) David Smith (appointed 20  
 September 2021)  
 Co-ordinator: Claudia Glyn  
 Stash Kozlowski  
 Catherine Hartley  
 Christine Holloway (resigned 16 November  
 2020)  
 William Brook-Hart  
 Mark Courtice  
 Rev. Dr. Stephen Sizer  
 David Retter  
 Jackie Batchelor (appointed 16 November  
 2020)  
 Momodou Bah (appointed 7 December 2020)  
 Jeyatharshan Vettivel (appointed 7 December  
 2020)

**Secretary** Jessica Hasan

**Administrator** Xanthe Hackett

**Bankers** HSBC Bank Plc, 19 High Street, Salisbury SO23 9BZ

**Independent Examiner** Peter Casson FCA

## **Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group**

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2021.

### **Formation**

The charity was formed as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation to take over the activities and assets and liabilities of the unincorporated charity of the same name. It was registered with the Charity Commission on 29 May 2019. The assets and liabilities were transferred between December 2019 and March 2020 and the activities were transferred on 1 January 2020.

### **Governance and management**

The Trustee Board comprises a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 12 members elected at each Annual General Meeting. Trustees who held office during the year are listed on page 2.

The Board meets monthly and is supported by a number of sub-committees each of which includes at least one trustee.

### **Aims and objectives**

The main objects of the Group as set out in its constitution are:

For the relief of need, hardship and distress in the United Kingdom amongst refugees, asylum seekers and other immigrants by providing such charitable assistance as the Trustees think fit, including providing such persons with advice, assistance, representation, counselling, in matters such as money, debts, welfare, benefits, housing, health, asylum, immigration, education, training and employment.

### **Focus of our work**

The Group is a volunteer led charity whose members work with asylum seekers and refugees mainly living in Southampton. The core of our work is to provide one-to-one support for individual clients who are assigned a trained visitor who meets with them regularly to provide friendship and practical help. We also have a team of teachers who offer one-to-one English lessons.

Our ASSIST scheme provides some temporary financial support to those clients pursuing their asylum claim, who are destitute but are not entitled to receive benefits or undertake paid work.

Our Legal Justice fund allows us to use the services of a very experienced immigration solicitor who provides advice to the Group on individual client cases and provides training for our members.

SWVG is a partner in the Avenue Multicultural Centre and contributes to the running of the Centre with three other charities. Each Friday we staff a help desk with two experienced visitors and the SWVG administrator.

### **Review of the year Covid 19**

Restrictions to control Covid 19 have been in place throughout the year, reducing the opportunity for face to face contact with clients. Volunteers have maintained contact with clients by phone and online wherever possible. The drop-in centre at Avenue St Andrews closed in March 2020 and only re-opened in September 2021. There has been very little movement of asylum seekers from NASS accommodation and few clients have seen any progress with resolving their outstanding applications. A group of asylum seekers were moved into a hotel in Southampton early in 2021 and efforts were made to support them with English lessons and other activities. The hotel was then closed at short notice with the occupants moved elsewhere. The policy of suspending evictions continued. This resulted in few asylum seekers being referred to us needing accommodation. Only 2 of the hostel's six rooms were occupied for most of the year.

### **About our clients**

We are supporting 22 clients with regular visits, most of them living in NASS accommodation.

During the year 7 clients have been granted leave to remain.

44 individuals are currently receiving English lessons. A further 21 students received lessons during the year.

### **The hostel**

At the start of the year 5 clients were living in the hostel. 3 moved into NASS accommodation within three months. Due to the "no evictions" policy asylum seekers whose claims were unsuccessful were not required to leave their accommodation so SWVG did not receive any new referrals until August 2021.

### **English teaching**

The grant of £8,000 received last year from Migration Exchange to facilitate teaching English remotely has allowed us to purchase 13 laptops together with routers and mobile hubs to loan to clients. We also purchased monthly mobile data packages for 25 clients which also benefitted other adult family members and children. The project has been very successful and will be continued.

### **Volunteers and staff**

In spite of the pandemic we have continued to receive applications from potential volunteers. Much of our training activity can now be arranged online. We have approximately 90 active volunteers.

Our 2 part time staff continue to provide essential support services.

### **Campaigning**

SWVG has joined "Together with Refugees" national coalition and its "Show Your Heart" campaign. We are calling for a compassionate asylum system and for changes to the cruel and damaging Borders Bill which is presently before Parliament.

We campaigned against the Home Office's plan to intern people who seek asylum in an isolated camp north of Winchester. The Government withdrew this plan just before the local elections.

### **Finance**

Receipts for the year were £96,153, and payments were £77,762, producing a surplus of £18,391.

The activities of the unincorporated charity were transferred to the present organisation on 1 January 2020 and so the comparative figures represent receipts and payments for the 8 month period to 31 August 2020.

### **Receipts-Grants**

Grants from charitable trusts amounted to £38,815. We are grateful for a further grant from the Tolkien Trust of £20,000 which covers a significant part of our core costs.

We are also grateful for a new grant from the Lush Charity Pot for the Legal Justice fund and grants from new funders The Orange Tree Trust and the One Percent

Scheme. The National Lottery continues to fund subsistence costs for hostel residents. Details of grants received are set out on page 8 of this report.

### **Receipts-Legacies**

We received 2 legacies during the year amounting to £20,200 for which we are very grateful. These are the first legacies received by SWVG. The trustees have designated £20,000 of this amount as an Emergency Response Fund to ensure that sufficient funds are available to react promptly to unforeseen events.

### **Receipts-Other income**

We are grateful for the donations we have received from churches, other organisations and many individuals who have continued to support us in difficult circumstances. In particular we are grateful for donations amounting to £2,500 since August 2020 from St Peter's Church in Winchester towards food costs for clients. The pandemic has restricted the organisation of fundraising events. We were able to arrange a sponsored walk and cycle event in September 2020 which raised over £10,000. We are grateful to all those that took part and those who donated.

**Payments** included £38,410 for accommodation and subsistence for destitute asylum seekers which include rent of £27,500 for the hostel. Expenditure on other client activities was significantly reduced due to the pandemic.

### **Reserves Policy**

The Trustees have agreed that the value of unrestricted reserves should be between £40,000 and £50,000 representing approximately 6 months normal expenditure. Unrestricted reserves at 31 August, excluding the designated fund, were £ 50,006.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 18 October 2021 and signed on their behalf by Chris Stephens (Chair).

## **Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group**

### **Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees**

I report to the Committee on my examination of the accounts of Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group (the Group) for the year ended 31 August 2021.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the Trustees of the Group 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 Group's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Group as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

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

**Peter Casson FCA**

**28 October 2021**

13 Skylark Road  
Trumpington  
Cambridge  
CB2 9AQ

## **Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021**

### **Receipts and payments**

	2021		2020	
	Unrestric ted	Restrict ed	Tota l	Total
	£	£	£	
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
Donations from organisations	1,615	2,000	3,615	750
Donations from individuals including gift aid	20,736	970	21,706	15,486
Grants from charitable trusts	26,300	12,515	38,815	40,220
Legacies	20,200	0	20,200	0

Proceeds of fund-raising events	11,327	0	11,327	3,513
Interest	490	0	490	199
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>80,668</b>	<b>15,485</b>	<b>96,153</b>	<b>60,168</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
Visitors' travel and other expenses	1,417	0	1,417	470
Payments to or for clients				
Professional fees	0	1,034	1,034	390
For accommodation and subsistence	30,640	7,770	38,410	31,984
Food vouchers	0	2,260	2,260	240
Travel	2,715	441	3,156	2,010
English teaching	947	8,000	8,947	1,422
Social activities	1,895	0	1,895	857
Other	2,023	466	2,489	684
Total payments to or for clients	38,220	19,971	58,191	37,587
Administration				
Salaries	15,376	0	15,376	9,920
Expenses relating to fund-raising activities	216	0	216	160
Training	190	504	694	272
Printing, stationery, postage, etc	509	0	509	573
Website	216	0	216	330
Other	1,143	0	1,143	2,113
Total administration expenses	17,650	504	18,154	13,368
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>57,287</b>	<b>20,475</b>	<b>77,762</b>	<b>51,425</b>
<b>Net excess of receipts over payments for the year</b>	23,381	(4,990)	18,391	8,743
Transfers from unincorporated charity	0	0	0	54,142
<b>Balance brought forward</b>	46,625	16,260	62,885	0
<b>Balance carried forward</b>	<b>70,006</b>	<b>11,270</b>	<b>81,276</b>	<b>62,885</b>

## Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021

### Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 August 2021

01.09.20	Received	Paid	31.08.21
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	£	£	£	£
<b>CASH FUNDS</b>				
Unrestricted Funds				
General Unrestricted Funds	46,625	60,668	57,287	50,006
Emergency Response Fund	0	20,000	0	20,000
				0
Total Unrestricted Funds	<u>46,625</u>	<u>80,668</u>	<u>57,287</u>	<u>70,006</u>
Restricted Funds				
ASSIST scheme	2,500	0	2,500	0
			0	
Subsistence for hostel residents	5,500	6,365	5,270	6,595
			0	
Legal Justice fund	0	5,000		2,901
English teaching	8,000	1,000	2,099	1,000
Other	260	3,120		00
			8,000	7
				74
			2,606	
Total Restricted Funds	<u>16,260</u>	<u>15,485</u>	<u>20,475</u>	<u>11,270</u>
Total Funds	<u>62,885</u>	<u>96,153</u>	<u>77,762</u>	<u>81,276</u>
Represented by:			31.08.21	31.08.20
			£	£
HSBC current account			1,876	10,485
Nationwide Building Society			25,000	23,000
Redwood Bank			54,000	29,000
Float for expenses			400	400
			<u>81,276</u>	<u>62,885</u>
DEBTORS				
Tax on Gift Aid donations			789	1,282
Other debtors			410	970
			<u>1,199</u>	<u>2,252</u>
CREDITORS				
For expenses			<u>161</u>	<u>855</u>

Signed for and on behalf of the Trustees on 18 October 2021 by

Chris Stephens  
(Chair)

**Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group**  
**Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021**

**NOTES:**

**GRANTS**

	2021		2020	
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Grants received from charitable trusts were:				
The Tolkien Trust	20,000		20,000	20,000
Knight Charitable Trust	400		400	400
Sheba Charitable Trust	400		400	0
St Clare and St Francis Trust	500		500	0
The Orange Tree Trust	5,000		5,000	0
Legal Justice Fund				
Lush Charity Pot		5,000	5,000	0
The ASSIST scheme				
The 29 <sup>th</sup> May 1961 Charitable Trust		0	0	3,000
Subsistence for hostel residents				
The National Lottery		6,365	6,365	8,820
English teaching				
Migration Exchange - Respond and Adapt		0	0	8,000
One Percent Scheme		1,000	1,000	0
Other		150	150	0
	26,300	12,515	38,815	40,220

**TRUSTEE EXPENSES**

Expenses reimbursed to trustees during the period amounted to £ 595 (2020 £1,064).

**COMMITMENTS**

The Group had outstanding commitments for the support of clients which fall after the year end of £5,023 (2020 £5,243).

