

Charity Number 1183558

**Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group**

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

<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 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)
<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 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	Total
	£	£	£
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Donations from organisations	1,615	2,000	3,615
Donations from individuals including gift aid	20,736	970	21,706
Grants from charitable trusts	26,300	12,515	38,815
Legacies	20,200	0	20,200
			750
			15,486
			40,220
			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>	<b>23,381</b>	<b>(4,990)</b>	<b>18,391</b>	<b>8,743</b>
Transfers from unincorporated charity	0	0	0	54,142
<b>Balance brought forward</b>	<b>46,625</b>	<b>16,260</b>	<b>62,885</b>	<b>0</b>
<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
Subsistence for hostel residents	5,500	6,365	5,270	6,595
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
	£	£	£
Grants received from charitable trusts were:			
The Tolkien Trust	20,000		20,000
Knight Charitable Trust	400		400
Sheba Charitable Trust	400		0
St Clare and St Francis Trust	500		0
The Orange Tree Trust	5,000		0
Legal Justice Fund			
Lush Charity Pot		5,000	5,000
The ASSIST scheme			
The 29 <sup>th</sup> May 1961 Charitable Trust		0	0
Subsistence for hostel residents			
The National Lottery		6,365	6,365
English teaching			
Migration Exchange - Respond and Adapt		0	0
One Percent Scheme		1,000	1,000
Other		150	150
	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).

