



## Trustees' Report to the AGM July 2024 – June 2025

1 TW has completed its 5<sup>th</sup> year.

Achievements to date:

*settled 4 families in the area into accommodation secured by our volunteers;*

*made good links with other charities locally working with asylum seekers and refugees;*

*supported families to access primary health care services;*

*advocated for family members with DWP and other agencies;*

*provided consistent support with long term, complex health issues;*

*helped families find school places for their children and manage transitions to High School;*

*enabled children to engage in suitable holiday activities;*

*provided cycles and cycle training;*

*introduced family members to social activities near them;*

*supported adults to access English Language classes and provided materials and sessions in their home;*

*enabled one family to move on to a private (philanthropic) rental at the end of initial tenancy;*

*advocated for families seeking accommodation at the end of their initial tenancy.*

*Volunteer groups have met together regularly throughout to plan and respond to the changing circumstances of each family*

All of this and much more.

2 Volunteers have given a huge amount of time which we did not tot up but we should have done. We have all learned a great deal about the process of settling into the UK, our benefits system, health services and how to use Google translate.

Many volunteers have contributed by doing “behind the scenes work” needed to draw up policies and guidelines. Peter Nicklin is especially thanked for steering us through the requirements of GDPR.

We have provided feedback to the Home Office, RESET and the Commission for Refugees on aspects of Community Sponsorship and our perception of the challenges refugees experience in the UK.

Volunteers have been amazed and inspired by the people we have supported – their resilience, patience and adaptability. Volunteers have increased awareness within their communities of what refugees’ need at the end of their journey to safety and sanctuary.

3 We have kept in close touch with two of the families this year and will continue to do so while they put down roots in the area.

#### family A

They continue to live in a privately rented 2-bedroom house which they love and regret that it is far too small for their family of six. Their three-year-old shares her parent’s room but really needs her own room. They are still in Band C and although they check the appropriate website as soon as new tenancies are made available but find no suitable tenancies.

The children are all doing well at school however their mother feels that the breadth of their English vocabulary is preventing them achieving higher marks. She has identified that this issue is also impacting on the grades she is achieving academically. She is addressing this by encouraging the children to read novels and she is doing the same.

This has been another eventful year for the ‘Y’ family

- The adults have continued their English language studies at Newcastle College

4 It has become clear during this last year that the Community Sponsorship model can harness the energy and enthusiasm of people to reach out and support refugees. However, Trustees are aware of two important factors the influencing how we move forward:



- 4.1 the difficulty of securing accommodation at Local Housing Allowance rates when local authority and other social housing is in short supply and the private rented sector is under pressure;
- 4.2 the commitment we ask of volunteers to support families for 2, or more, years **and** do everything necessary to run the charity (a pre-requisite of the Community Sponsorship model).

During the year Trustees have grappled with these issues. We have also listened to what other charities are doing for refugees and asylum seekers locally.

We feel the Charity needs to re-assess, perhaps even re-set. This will be the work of the Trustees in the coming year. Everyone who has volunteered, donated and supported TW thus far is invited to contribute to this process. You have all done so much over the past 5 years – the next phase of TW needs to be decided upon together.

Report compiled by

Judith McSwaine

Barbara McKay Y family

Jane Young A family

# Tyneside Welcomes Statement of accounts year ending 30 June 2025



<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>
Opening balance	16,838.53		
Donation	1,092.00	Bank charge	-49.20
Donation - regular	3,161.51	Donation	-800.00
Family Expenses	270.00	Family Expenses	-1,325.18
Fundraising	1,043.88	Fundraising	-50.00
Gift aid	1,690.32	Fundraising Expenses	-12.00
Grant	5,329.59	Insurance	-316.56
Interest	74.80	Miscellaneous	-100.00
volunteer expenses	205.50	Property Expenses	-73.44
		Translation	-61.40
		volunteer expenses	-85.97
		Website	-228.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,867.60</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>-3,101.93</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>12,867.60</b>		
<b>Add opening balance</b>	<b>16,838.53</b>		
	<b>29,706.13</b>		
<b>Less total expenditure</b>	<b>-3,101.93</b>		
	<b>26,604.20</b>		
<b>Less reserves</b>	<b>-7,000.00</b>		

# Tyneside Welcomes Statement of accounts year ending 30 June 2025



**Available funds** 19,604.20

<b>Reconciliation</b>	
<u>Balance in bank</u>	
Co-operative	7,490.40
Triodos	19,113.80
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,604.20</b>
Ringfenced funds	£0
Reserved funds	£7,000
<u>Available funds</u>	<u>£19,604.20</u>
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<u>balance forward 30 June 2025</u>	<u>26,604.20</u>
balance forward 30 June 2024	16,838.53
balance forward 30 June 2023	23,140.00
balance forward 30 June 2022	35,560.00

Prepared by

Judith McSwaine

Date

*Judith McSwaine* 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025

Checked by

Ed McKay

*Ed McKay* 2/9/25

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Tyneside Welcomes on the charity's accounts for the period 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Tyneside Welcomes (TW) for the year ended 30 June 2025.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the trustees of the charity, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed 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 that:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or that
2. the accounts do not accord with those records, and that
3. the charity's funds are not used in pursuit of the charity's charitable objectives.

I confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 

Name: EDWARD MCKAY

Address: 23 SANDRINGHAM AVENUE NE12 8JX

Date: 2/9/25