

TIME TO BE OUT

England & Wales · Charity number 1183884

Details

Other names	TIMEOUT YORK
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2019-06-13
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	5 Farndale Street York YO10 4BR
Phone	01904636882
Email	infotimetobeout@gmail.com
Website	http://www.timetobeout.org.uk

Activities

Objects: (1)TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY PREVENTING PEOPLE WHO ARE REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS WHO IDENTIFY AS LGBT+ FROM BECOMING SOCIALLY EXCLUDED, TO RELIEVE THE NEEDS OF THOSE PEOPLE AND TO ASSIST THEM TO INTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY, PARTICULARLY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY:- PROVIDING WORKSHOPS, ADVOCACY AND GENERAL SUPPORT - INCREASING AND CO-ORDINATING, OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS OF THE ABOVE COMMUNITIES TO ENGAGE WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES- RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE ISSUES AFFECTING REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS WHO IDENTIFY AS LGBT+, BOTH GENERALLY AND IN RELATION TO THEIR SOCIAL EXCLUSION

Activities: TIME TO BE OUT SUPPORTS PEOPLE WHO ARE REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS WHO IDENTIFY AS LGBT. IT RELIEVES THE NEEDS OF THOSE PEOPLE AND ASSISTS THEM TO INTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY, PARTICULARLY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY: - PROVIDING WORKSHOPS, ADVOCACY AND GENERAL SUPPORT - INCREASING AND CO-ORDINATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEM TO ENGAGE WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES - RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT THEIR SITUATION.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Other Finance, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-06-12	£19,398	£19,226	-	-
2024-06-12	£22,637	£28,274	-	-
2023-06-12	£24,567	£18,520	-	-
2022-06-12	£15,628	£15,814	-	-
2021-06-12	£19,952	£20,015	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
William John Roche	Chair	2019-06-12
Amjad Alnawash		2026-03-05
David Sylph		2019-06-12
Dr Diego Garcia Rodriguez		2024-11-10
Dr Issam Ghariba		2023-11-03
Dr Malcolm Wren		2019-06-12
Jane Davies		2026-03-05
Neil Thomas Derrick		2026-03-05
Reema Aladwan		2026-03-05

TIME TO BE OUT

England & Wales - Charity number 1183884

Accounts

Time to be Out

Trustees' Annual Report, 13th June 2024 - 12th June 2025

Charity Number 1183884

Website: www.timetobeout.org.uk

Names of the charity trustees

Name of trustee	Role (if any)	Dates (if not for the whole period)
William Roche	Chair	
David Sylph		
Malcolm Wren	Treasurer and Charity Commission contact	
Angela Carter		until 6th February 2025
Noor Boksh		until 3rd December 2024
El Parnham		
Drew Richardson		until 3rd December 2024
Issam Ghariba		
Brian Robinson		from 3rd December 2024
Diego García Rodríguez		from 10th November 2024

Constitution

Charitable Incorporated Organisation, dated 12th June 2019

The objects of the charity as set out in its governing document:

TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY PREVENTING PEOPLE WHO ARE REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS WHO IDENTIFY AS LGBT+ FROM BECOMING SOCIALLY EXCLUDED, TO RELIEVE THE NEEDS OF THOSE PEOPLE AND TO ASSIST THEM TO INTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY, PARTICULARLY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY:

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- RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE ISSUES AFFECTING REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS WHO IDENTIFY AS LGBT+, BOTH GENERALLY AND IN RELATION TO THEIR SOCIAL EXCLUSION

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects.

We attempt to prevent the social exclusion of LGBT+ refugees and asylum seekers in the following ways:

- Offering casework support so that people can successfully claim refugee status, allowing them to work and integrate fully into society
- Providing befrienders, who, amongst other things, help people with practical matters (such as registering with a doctor or dentist)
- Arranging social events and fostering social contacts to break down isolation
- Where necessary offering 1:1 English language tuition
- Referring people to other agencies and appropriate sources of support (e.g. with housing)
- Providing hardship funds in cases of emergency (e.g. when Home Office support is not available through delays and technical problems)
- Giving talks and presentations to community groups about the special needs and circumstances of LGBT+ asylum seekers and refugees
- Collaborating with other groups to put pressure on decision makers to develop policies that do not further stigmatise and isolate the people we are supporting

Summary of the main activities and the impact of our work in 2023-24

The context

Despite some positive developments (in particular the withdrawal of the scheme to move asylum seekers to Rwanda), the general context of our work remains extremely difficult.

In the summer of 2024 many of the people we have been supporting were physically attacked or threatened in a series of riots. Some of our beneficiaries were housed in a hotel in Rotherham when it was set on fire by a mob. Some of our volunteers were involved in ensuring that people were able to escape and recover.

It is now extremely difficult for asylum seekers to obtain Legal Aid so they have to go to their Home Office interviews without legal representation. The refusal rate of initial asylum claims has risen substantially in the course of the year, meaning that many of the people we are supporting need to submit an appeal (again, without a lawyer). There is now a serious bottleneck in the Asylum Tribunals, so our beneficiaries need support for longer as they wait for their court date.

The LGBT+ context has become more hostile in some countries (e.g. the situation in Ghana has deteriorated as politicians have tried to follow the example of Uganda), meaning that more people are claiming asylum based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. At the same time, the situation for trans people in the UK has become increasingly difficult, leading to increased social hostility and more incidents of hate crime.

Casework and befriending

Volunteers from Time to be Out are not lawyers and are not allowed to give legal advice (in the course of this year we received more training on how to give general guidance without giving legal advice). However, we were able to support asylum seekers as they prepared for their Home Office interviews and presented their own witness statements. On 38 occasions volunteers from Time to be Out were allowed to accompany asylum seekers to their substantive interviews.

Large numbers of these applicants were successful but in many cases the applications were refused. In these cases people have only two weeks in which to submit an appeal, and increasingly people have no lawyers at this point. Again, our volunteers received training on how to support people as they submit appeals online, following the guidance on the Right to Remain toolkit website.

Volunteers from Time to be Out gave witness evidence at 8 Asylum Tribunals.

Many people who are granted Leave to Remain lose access to Home Office financial support before they qualify for Universal Credit or before they can get a job. In these cases we have been able to provide hardship funds to bridge them over.

Many of our beneficiaries have complex needs (e.g. they are not living in safe housing; their financial support does not arrive; they have serious mental health problems) and in these cases we do our best to signpost them to more specialist and larger agencies.

A number of volunteers continue to act as online befrienders or help with English tuition. We have also developed a buddying system to encourage peer support online.

Social events

Every month we hold an in-person social event in central Sheffield, with an average attendance of about 30 people per session.

We also hold a weekly social event on Zoom on Sunday evenings, focused on peer support and interaction. LGBT+ asylum seekers from around the country are able to attend and catch up with each other's news. We are grateful to three of our beneficiaries who have volunteered to host these meetings.

On 7th June we paid for 42 beneficiaries from across the north of England to travel to York to take part in the Pride parade.

Impact

66 of the asylum seekers we have been supporting were granted Leave to Remain between June 13th 2024 and June 12th 2025. We hope that we have played a small part in allowing these 66 people to begin a new life in a safe environment.

It is difficult to quantify the impact of our social events and our befriending activities, but we can be confident that we are continuing to meet our objectives of breaking down social isolation and integrating people who claim asylum on the grounds of their sexual orientation or gender identity into wider British society.

Plans and priorities for 2025-26

The trustees will continue to review whether or not the charity should remain exclusively volunteer-based or whether it is time to take on paid staff.

After working hard this year on identifying and liaising with partner organisations who do similar, complementary work to Time to be Out, we aim to continue and deepen our collaborations.

We are planning to overhaul our website and we have begun obtaining permission from some of our beneficiaries to allow us to post their pictures online as part of this review.

Time to be Out

Income and Expenditure 13th June 2024 to 12th June 2025

Balance carried forward	£3 055.79
Total Income	£19 398.01
Total Expenditure	£19 225.86
Balance	£172.15
Balance carried forward (£3 055.79 + £172.15)	£3 227.94

DETAILS OF INCOME

Donations from monthly standing orders / direct debits	£7 664.00
One-off individual donations directly paid to the bank	£7 199.16
One-off cash donations	£250.00
Donations via the Just Giving button on the website	£4 039.85
The Rainbow Lottery	£245.00
Total Income	£19 398.01

DETAILS OF EXPENDITURE

Hardship and emergencies	£3 779.99
Casework, befriending and English tuition	£1 802.19
Shopping vouchers	£4 167.00
Sheffield monthly meeting	£3 834.91
York Pride 2025	£1 849.97
Volunteer expenses - casework	£1 116.21
Volunteer expenses - HO Asylum interviews	£1 142.21
Volunteer expenses - Asylum Tribunals	£169.75
Period poverty payments	£170.00
Administration (insurance, website etc.)	£1 193.63
 * * * * *	
Total expenditure	£19 225.86

Unclaimed expenditure (i.e. sums which are recorded as having been disbursed but which do not appear on the bank statements, almost certainly because the volunteers submitted the receipts and did not claim back the full expenses. This money will be reimbursed in the next financial year)

Sheffield meeting	£86.82
Casework	£52.25
Admin (lanyards)	£6.50

Breakdown of distribution of cash donations (£250)

Hardship payments to individuals	£35
Period poverty	£70
Sheffield meeting (hardship and travel)	£145

Breakdown of spending on York Pride, 7th June 2025

Spending money (42 @ £15)	£630.00
Bus from Leeds (with Angels of Freedom)	£200.00
Travel for asylum seekers (from Sheffield, Doncaster, Teesside etc)	£986.52
Volunteer expenses	£33.45

Average spending per beneficiary £44.04

Breakdown of spending at Sheffield meetings (12 meetings in total)

Volunteer travel expenses	£646.48
Beneficiary travel expenses	£660.48
Food and drink	£819.65
Venue hire	£315.00
Prizes	£173.30
Hardship payments to beneficiaries living on £8 per week	£1 210.00

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England & Wales - Charity number 1183884

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David Sylph		
Malcolm Wren	Treasurer and Charity Commission contact	
Angela Carter		
Noor Boksh		
El Parnham		
Drew Richardson		
Issam Ghariba		3rd November 2023

Constitution

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Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects.

We attempt to prevent the social exclusion of LGBT+ refugees and asylum seekers in the following ways:

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- Where necessary offering 1:1 English language tuition
- Referring people to other agencies and appropriate sources of support (e.g. with housing)
- Providing hardship funds in cases of emergency (e.g. when Home Office support is not available through delays and technical problems)
- Giving talks and presentations to community groups about the special needs and circumstances of LGBT+ asylum seekers and refugees
- Collaborating with other groups to put pressure on decision makers to develop policies that do not further stigmatise and isolate the people we are supporting

Summary of the main activities and the impact of our work in 2023-24

Casework

The second half of 2023 was the time when the Government was trying to clear the 'heritage backlog' of asylum claims that had built up since the pandemic. This meant many of the people we had been supporting for two years or more were offered substantive interviews with the Home Office. At the same time more recent arrivals were also sometimes being processed. Our volunteers had to work hard to ensure that people were ready for their interviews and, where possible (on around 40 occasions), we accompanied them and sat in with them as they told their stories.

Over the course of this financial year 65 of the clients we had supported were granted Leave to Remain. We then had to respond quickly to direct them to sources of further support as they applied for jobs, somewhere to live, Universal Credit etc. A critical situation emerged in the spring of 2024 when the Home Office began cutting off housing and financial support only one week after the grant of Leave to Remain. This meant that we had to provide emergency financial support, which was a major drain on our resources in the second half of our financial year.

Another unintended consequence of this drive to 'clear the backlog' was that a sizeable number of claimants who we know to be genuine had their asylum claims refused. Because of our support letters, the Home Office did not claim that the applicants were lying about their sexual orientation or their gender identity, but they did argue that the country of origin was safe. We have therefore had to spend a great deal of time and effort helping these people prepare for Asylum Tribunals. In many cases, we have been able to commission Country of Origin reports that will help with these appeals, but people who

have already been in the system for too long are still stuck waiting for their applications to be processed (it can take a year or more between a refusal and a Tribunal hearing).

In the spring of 2024 the Government started detaining some asylum seekers who were eligible to be sent to Rwanda. This created enormous stress and our volunteers and befrienders had to work hard to offer what reassurance was available. In some cases, asylum seekers had to sign on at the Home Office once or twice a month, and a number of them feared that they would be detained when they arrived at the office. In some cases, our volunteers were able to accompany them as they signed on in order to be available if the worst happened.

All of this pressure, and the general hostile attitude to asylum seekers, put great pressure on a number of our beneficiaries, some of whom we had to refer to specialist mental health support services. There were at least two cases that we know of when our beneficiaries were subjected to violent attacks (possibly motivated by homophobia). Again, our volunteers were able to intervene to help people report hate crimes and get moved to safer accommodation.

Befriending and breaking down isolation

Half a dozen volunteers kept in regular touch with asylum seekers, both online and in person. We also continued to encourage peer-to-peer support in an attempt to break down isolation.

Time to be Out successfully applied to the Good Things Foundation so that we can distribute free SIM cards to over 100 beneficiaries (all of whom are in digital poverty) on behalf of the National Databank. Access to data is fundamental in breaking down isolation and making connections with the rest of society.

Social Events

Our volunteers organised weekly online (Zoom) social events and a monthly lunchtime meeting in central Sheffield. In August 2023 we arranged a day trip to Scarborough for about 50 asylum seekers from across the north of England.

English tuition

Three volunteers provided 1:1 online tuition for LGBT asylum seekers, allowing them to develop their language skills in order to take more control over their asylum claim and preparing them to integrate into society after they win their case.

Financial Support

In the crisis that developed when the government suddenly stopped offering housing and financial support to successful refugees a week after them getting Leave to Remain, Time to be Out was able to bridge the gap between NASS (National Asylum Seekers' Support) and Universal Credit for 18 individuals. We were also able to offer emergency financial support

on three occasions when technical problems meant that expected Home Office support did not arrive.

Collaboration and awareness raising

We have been actively involved in the Yorkshire and Humberside Community of Practice, which brings together all the local charities involved in supporting refugees and asylum seekers. We were able to use this forum to point out the particular problems facing LGBT+ asylum seekers and we made a number of useful contacts as a result. Through this network we were able to commission pro bono Country of Origin reports from Clifford Chance.

We were asked to give talks to a number of LGBT groups (e.g. at York University and Amnesty International). We are active members of the Centre for Language and Social Justice Research at York St John University.

On behalf of our beneficiaries, we were active in engaging with MPs across a range of political parties and others in an attempt to challenge the plan to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda. We also lobbied MPs and members of the House of Lords to vote against the Illegal Migration Bill, but without success.

In September 2023 Time to be Out was nominated as 'Small Charity of the Year' at the Third Sector Awards.

Plans and priorities for 2024-25

The trustees of Time to be Out are now involved in a detailed analysis of the strengths, benefits, risks and opportunities for the charity at this point. Strategic priorities will be set out more clearly. It is envisaged, though, that the charity will remain volunteer based. It will continue to work collaboratively with other agencies.

Increasingly, asylum seekers do not have access to lawyers because of the limitations of Legal Aid. This means that Time to be Out will have to change its model of casework, whereby we primarily encourage applicants to develop their own witness statements.

Time to be Out

Income and Expenditure 13th June 2023 to 12th June 2024

Balance carried forward	£8 693.10
Total Income	£22 636.53
Total Expenditure	£28 273.84
Balance	- £5 637.31
Balance carried forward (£8 693.10 - £5 637.31)	£3 055.79

DETAILS OF INCOME

Restricted Grant Funding

Two Ridings Community Foundation	£1 000.00
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Unrestricted Income

Donations from monthly standing orders / direct debits	£7 449.00
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One-off individual donations directly to the bank or in cash	£9 198.91
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HMRC gift aid (2022 - 2024)	£2 541.11
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Donations via the Just Giving button on the website	£2 447.51
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Total Income	£22 636.53
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DETAILS OF EXPENDITURE

Restricted Grant Funding

National Lottery Community Fund (Teesside)

Total Expenditure £2 751.05

Two Ridings Community Foundation

Total Expenditure £1 000.00

Total Restricted Expenditure £3 751.05

Unrestricted Expenditure

Hardship and emergencies £8 833.58

Casework, befriending and English tuition £3 453.89

Shopping vouchers £3 295.00

Social events: Sheffield monthly meeting £1 013.56

Other social events: (trip to Scarborough, York Pride etc) £3 388.26

Volunteer expenses £2 143.54

Data £643.85

Period payments £296.08

Administration (insurance, website etc.) £1 455.03

Total unrestricted expenditure £24 522.79

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Total restricted expenditure £3 751.05

Total unrestricted expenditure £24 522.79

Total expenditure £28 273.84

Further Details of Restricted Budgets

Restricted Grant Funding: National Lottery Community Fund (Teesside)

[NB this spans two different financial years, from July 2022 to October 2023]

Income

22/7/22	£8 200.00
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Expenditure

Transport (bus passes etc)	£4 125.70
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Social events	£1 018.56
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Food and clothes vouchers (Primark, Asda, Tesco)	£1 830.00
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Phone data	£823.00
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Volunteer expenses	£237.03
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Administration	£166.10
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Total expenditure	£8 200.39
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Overspend taken from general expenditure	39p
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Restricted Grant Funding: Two Ridings Community Foundation 2023

Statement of Account

Income

17/10/23		£1 000.00
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Expenditure

17/11/23	Purchase of 4 Lidl vouchers @ £50	£200.00
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18/11/23	Hardship payment to Ebikeye Dede	£50.00
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22/11/23	Purchase of 6 Aldi vouchers @ £50	£300.00
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24/11/23	Purchase of 4 Lidl vouchers @ £50	£200.00
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24/11/23	Purchase of 5 Aldi vouchers @ £50	£250.00
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Total expenditure		£1 000.00
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- Giving talks and presentations to community groups about the special needs and circumstances of LGBT+ asylum seekers and refugees
- Collaborating with other groups to put pressure on decision makers to develop policies that do not further stigmatise and isolate the people we are supporting

Summary of the main activities and the impact of our work in 2022-23

Casework

We actively supported 50 LGBT asylum seekers as they pursued their claims with the Home Office. Although we are not lawyers and cannot provide legal advice, we were able to explain the overall system to people and helped them build their confidence in telling their stories. We were allowed to sit in with 8 people during their Substantive Interview about their asylum case and our volunteers gave evidence at 7 Asylum Tribunals. 16 of the people we worked with were granted Leave to Remain and we were involved in helping them take the next steps so that they can now live independently in the UK.

Befriending

Half a dozen volunteers kept in regular touch with asylum seekers, both online and in person. We also continued to encourage peer-to-peer support in an attempt to break down isolation (particularly at a time when people are being sent to live in 'remote' places - e.g. Ashington rather than Newcastle, villages outside Doncaster rather than Sheffield).

Social Events

Our volunteers organised weekly online (Zoom) social events and a monthly lunchtime meeting in central Sheffield. We arranged and paid for outings to York for regular social events with faith-based organisations, for York Pride and for a visit to York Minster. We paid for people to travel from around Yorkshire and Teesside on a day out to Scarborough in August 2022.

English tuition

Four volunteers provided 1:1 online tuition for LGBT asylum seekers, allowing them to develop their language skills in order to take more control over their asylum claim and preparing them to integrate into society after they win their case.

Financial Support

We were able to help relieve destitution when asylum seekers were waiting for their Aspen cards to be activated (or when there were technical problems with the system). Overall, we disbursed over £2000 in hardship payments, about £1200 to help with phone data and SIM cards and we were able to distribute £600 worth of shopping vouchers to buy winter clothing for people spending their first winter in the UK.

Collaboration and awareness raising

We have been actively involved in the Yorkshire and Humberside Community of Practice, which brings together all the local charities involved in supporting refugees and asylum seekers. We were able to use this forum to point out the particular problems facing LGBT+ asylum seekers and we made a number of useful contacts as a result.

We were asked to give talks to a number of LGBT groups (e.g. the York inclusive rugby club) and other agencies (e.g. Amnesty International, York University). We are active members of the Centre for Language and Social Justice Research at York St John University.

On behalf of our beneficiaries, we were active in engaging with MPs across a range of political parties and others in an attempt to challenge the plan to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda. Since we are currently supporting a claimant who has fled Rwanda because of his sexual orientation we have little doubt that the plan is an assault on the human rights of LGBT+ asylum seekers.

Plans and priorities for 2022-23

It is clear that the Home Office system for making decisions on asylum claims is breaking down. The backlog is enormous and we know people

who have waited three years before being invited for a Home Office interview and others who have waited two years or more for a decision after their interview. The effect on people's mental health and the de-skilling that results from such a long wait while being unable to work, study or plan for your future is profound. We shall do our best to mitigate the worst of this.

The backlog is having a serious impact on housing. Hotels are being used inappropriately and LGBT+ asylum seekers are increasingly at risk from hostile attitudes both in the surrounding environment and from fellow asylum seekers in shared housing. Much of our work in the coming year will have to involve supporting people in this increasingly hostile context.

We now have more beneficiaries in the West Yorkshire area, so we shall look into setting up a monthly social event on the model of our Sheffield meetings. We shall consequently need to develop our pool of volunteers to enable this development.

The passing of the Illegal Migration Act in July 2023 will have profound effects on our beneficiaries and the future of our charity.

Time to be Out

Income and Expenditure 13th June 2022 to 12th June 2023

Balance carried forward		£2 646.26
Total Income	£24 567.25	
Total Expenditure	£18 520.41	
Balance	£6 046.84	
Balance carried forward (£2 646.26 + £6 046.84)		£8 693.10

DETAILS OF INCOME

Restricted Grant Funding

National Lottery Community Fund	£8 200.00
(to support LGBT+ asylum seekers in the Teesside area, to be spent before September 2023)	

Unrestricted Income

Donations from monthly standing orders / direct debits 109.00	£7
One-off individual donations directly to the bank or in cash 875.80	£5
Donations via the Just Giving button on the website	£3 382.45

Total Income	£24 567.25
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DETAILS OF EXPENDITURE

Restricted Grant Funding

National Lottery Community Fund

Local bus passes for beneficiaries in Hartlepool, Stockton, Thornaby and Redcar
£2 253.80

Social events
£682.16

Administration (information leaflets etc)
£150.65

Clothing and food vouchers (Primark, Asda and Tesco)
£1 600.00

Phone data
£605.00

Volunteer travel expenses
£157.73

Total Expenditure £5
449.34

(Balance to be spent by end of September 2023,
£8 200 - £5 449.34 = £2 750.66)

Unrestricted Expenditure

Social Events (e.g. Sheffield monthly meetings, visits to Pride) £3
894.70

Winter clothing vouchers £650.00

Next steps £200.00

Phone data £1 370.00

Hardship and emergencies £2 192.40

Casework, befriending and English teaching £2
497.57

Administration (printing, insurance, web hosting etc.) £1
113.76

Volunteer travel expenses		£1 152.64
Total unrestricted expenditure		£13 071.07
Total restricted expenditure	£5 449.34	
Total unrestricted expenditure	£13 071.07	
Total expenditure	£18 520.41	

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Names of the charity trustees

Name of trustee	Role (if any)	Dates (if not for the whole period)
William Roche	Chair	
David Sylph		
Malcolm Wren	Treasurer and Charity Commission contact	
Flore Lekane		
Noor Boksh		
Richard Basch		until 3rd April 2022
Drew Richardson		from 3rd April 2022

Constitution

Charitable Incorporated Organisation, dated 12th June 2019

The objects of the charity as set out in its governing document:

TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY PREVENTING PEOPLE WHO ARE REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS WHO IDENTIFY AS LGBT+ FROM BECOMING SOCIALLY EXCLUDED, TO RELIEVE THE NEEDS OF THOSE PEOPLE AND TO ASSIST THEM TO INTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY, PARTICULARLY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY:

- PROVIDING WORKSHOPS, ADVOCACY AND GENERAL SUPPORT
- INCREASING AND CO-ORDINATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS OF THE ABOVE COMMUNITIES TO ENGAGE WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES
- RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE ISSUES AFFECTING REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS WHO IDENTIFY AS LGBT+, BOTH GENERALLY AND IN RELATION TO THEIR SOCIAL EXCLUSION

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects.

We attempt to prevent the social exclusion of LGBT+ refugees and asylum seekers in the following ways:

- Offering casework support so that people can successfully claim refugee status, allowing them to work and integrate fully into society
- Providing befrienders, who, amongst other things, help people with practical matters (such as registering with a doctor or dentist)
- Arranging social events and fostering social contacts to break down isolation
- Where necessary offering 1:1 English language tuition
- Referring people to other agencies and appropriate sources of support (e.g. with housing)
- Granting a small 'Next Steps' allowance to people who come off Home Office support when they obtain refugee status and Leave to Remain (e.g. so that they can pay a deposit on a flat)
- Providing hardship funds in cases of emergency (e.g. when Home Office support is not available through delays and technical problems)
- Providing data vouchers or SIM cards, so that beneficiaries can remain in touch with their befrienders, their legal representatives, the Home Office etc.
- Giving talks and presentations to community groups about the special needs and circumstances of LGBT+ asylum seekers and refugees
- Collaborating with other groups to put pressure on decision makers to develop policies that do not further stigmatise and isolate the people we are supporting

Summary of the main activities and the impact of our work in 2021-22

Casework

Our volunteers supported around 35 individuals. In some cases we were able to help them find lawyers to represent them and we regularly attended meetings (in person or online) between asylum seekers and their legal representatives. As the Home Office returned to holding substantive asylum interviews in person, our volunteers were able to sit in with four asylum seekers as they put their case. 7 of our beneficiaries were granted Leave to Remain this year, and we were able to support them with 'Next Steps' grants and practical support as they integrated into British society.

Befriending

Ten volunteers acted as befrienders, keeping in touch with otherwise isolated asylum seekers by phone and meeting them in person (as Covid restrictions began to be eased). These volunteers were able to help with practical problems and emergencies (such as technical problems with Home Office support, meaning that some people who would otherwise have been totally destitute had access to hardship funds).

Social Events

During the Covid lockdowns Time to be Out set up weekly online social meetings between asylum seekers and volunteers. These continued even after restrictions were lifted. Since November 2021 we have held a monthly social event for LGBT+ asylum seekers at the City of Sanctuary building in Sheffield.

In July 2021 we funded visits to the seaside for most of our beneficiaries, and in October 2021 hosted an Art Day in York. We also funded regular visits to York to attend the monthly LGBT friendly Mass at the Bar Convent.

English tuition

Five volunteers supported beneficiaries whose first language is not English through online tuition (and occasional meetings in person). Through the generosity of donors we were able to lend laptops to the tutees to help with their language learning. Other volunteers were able to signpost some of our beneficiaries to language courses available in local colleges.

Financial Support

34% of Time to be Out's financial support to its beneficiaries was devoted to telephone data. It is essential that our service users are able to keep in contact with each other, with befrienders, with their lawyers and other sources of support. We were able to provide £20 per month (usually in the form of vouchers) to over 30 individuals.

22% of the spending went on Hardship and Emergency payments. If people's mobile phones broke, we were able to fund repairs or basic replacements. A number of our beneficiaries were entitled to Home Office support (currently about £40 per week for people in Home Office housing and about £8 per week for those in hotels), but at times their payment cards stopped working or were not activated promptly. We were able to provide emergency assistance to avoid them falling into total destitution until the crisis was resolved.

We received a payment of about £2000 this year as Gift Aid entitlement from HMRC. The trustees decided to allocate these funds to a new budget: 'Winter Clothing and Footwear'. All our beneficiaries over winter 2021-2 were given £50 that had to be spent specifically on warm clothing or footwear (some of the people we were supporting had only recently arrived in the UK and were not equipped for winter).

Through the support of LUSH, we raised funds for period poverty. We were able to provide period products for 8 female asylum seekers for 5 months.

For further details, see the accounts and breakdown of the budgets attached to this report.

Collaboration and awareness raising

During this financial year, we were particularly concerned about the impact on our current and potential beneficiaries of proposed new legislation and changes to the UK asylum system (e.g. the Nationality and Borders Bill, the Rwanda plan, proposals relating to Linton on Ouse, near York). Our trustees and volunteers worked alongside other agencies to point out the potential adverse effects on LGBT+ asylum seekers of these proposals. We wrote to all of the MPs in the north of England about this, and two Members of Parliament invited us to meet them personally to brief them on the implications.

Volunteers from Time to be Out continued to collaborate with other organisations and agencies in order to foster the social inclusion of LGBT+ asylum seekers and refugees. We were invited to give a number of talks to general refugee organisations to raise awareness of the special circumstances and needs of LGBT+ asylum seekers.

Plans and priorities for 2022-23

Now that Covid restrictions have been lifted we hope to host more social events. We will continue with the monthly Sheffield socials, and we have applied for funding to host a similar hub on Teesside. If there are sufficient resources, we will also look into arranging similar regular meetings in the Leeds / Bradford area.

We very much hope that the large number of asylum seekers currently 'stuck' in the system waiting for a Home Office interview or waiting for a decision after such an interview will be granted refugee status. If so, we hope to be able to provide them with 'Next Steps' funding and support them as they apply for housing, for jobs or to study, ensuring that they become fully integrated into UK society. This is the most important way in which we can fully realise the charity's objectives and combat the social exclusion of LGBT+ asylum seekers.

Time to be Out

Income and Expenditure 13th June 2021 to 12th June 2022

Balance carried forward £2 831.61

Total Income £15 628.28

Total Expenditure £15 813.63

Balance - £185.35

Balance carried forward (£2 831.61 - £185.35) £2 646.26

INCOME

Restricted Grant Funding

Two Ridings Community Foundation, paid 24th August 2021
(to be spent on hardship funds, phone data and emergencies by March 2022)

£2 000.00

Lush Retail, paid 2nd December 2021
(to be spent on Period Poverty)

£388.83

Crowd funding appeal (via Giving Com Ltd), paid 3rd August
(to pay an asylum seeker's examination fees)

£490.30

Total Restricted Income

£2 879.13

Unrestricted Income

HMRC Gift Aid 2019-2021, paid 29th September 2021

£2 006.26

One-off individual donations directly to the bank or in cash

£4 126.94

One-off individual donations via the Just Giving button on the website

£776.95

Donations from monthly standing orders / direct debits

£5 839.00

Total Unrestricted Income

£12 747.14

Total Income 2021-2022

£15 628.28

EXPENDITURE

Restricted Spending

Two Ridings Community Foundation

Next steps

£100 to 2 asylum seekers who obtained Leave to Remain October 2021 £200.00

Data payments, September and October 2021 to 25 asylum seekers £850.00

Hardship and emergency payments £966.80

Total £2016.80

(overshoot of £16.80 taken from unrestricted funds)

Lush

5 X £10 per month paid to 8 female asylum seekers (February - June 2022) £400.00

(overshoot of £11.17 taken from unrestricted funds)

Crowd Funding via Giving Com Ltd paid to asylum seeker taking exam £350.00

[identity of the beneficiary withheld for reasons of confidentiality, but available upon request]

Entered under 'Next Steps' budget

(remaining £140.30 transferred to unrestricted funds, with permission)

Amount transferred to unrestricted funds, with permission:

£140.30 - £11.17 - £16.80 = £112.33

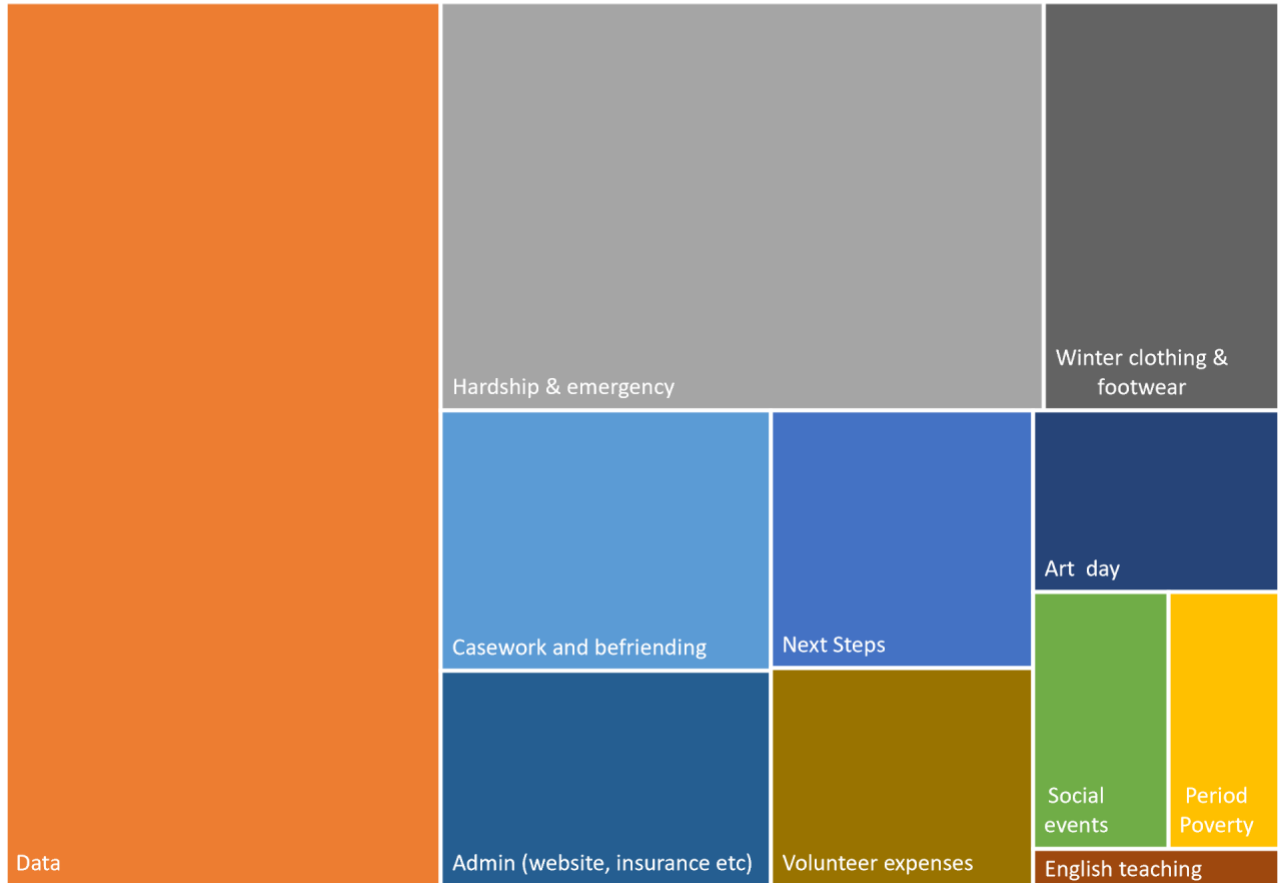
Total Restricted Expenditure £2 766.80

Unrestricted Spending

Data vouchers (to 39 beneficiaries in total)	£4 550.00
Hardship and emergency payments	£2 491.96
Casework and befriending	£1 207.68
Social events	£486.63
Art day 25/9/21	£627.91
English teaching materials	£130.08
Next Steps	£400.00
Winter clothing and footwear (£50 to 27 beneficiaries)	£1 350.00
Administration (printing, insurance, web hosting etc.)	£998.13
Volunteer Expenses	£804.44
Total	£13 046.83
Total Unrestricted Expenditure + Total Restricted Expenditure	£15 813.63

Spending 2021-2022

- Next Steps
- Data
- Hardship & emergency
- Period Poverty
- Casework and befriending
- Social events
- Art day
- English teaching
- Winter clothing & footwear
- Volunteer expenses
- Admin (website, insurance etc)
-



TIME TO BE OUT

England & Wales - Charity number 1183884

Accounts



TIME TO **BE OUT**

Annual Report 2020

Welcome to our third Annual Report. I will avoid the word ‘challenging’ because we all know what that means in these times but this last year has seen much of our work move on-line and actually reach more people. New (and younger!) blood has joined us and we now have up to fourteen volunteers between case-work, befriending, English tuition and further development work. You will see a word from some of them a bit later. Your support is vital – please continue – and when we can, we might just manage a summer get together to say thank you properly.

*Thank you,
William
Chair*

People who apply for asylum in the UK on the grounds of their sexual orientation or gender identity face enormous challenges and need a great deal of support. After Time to be Out was granted charity status in June 2019, we knew that we would need to work hard in 2020 to recruit and train new volunteers and attract new sources of funding so that we could help more of these people. Despite the added difficulties of living through a pandemic, we are pleased to report that we have succeeded in our primary aims.

The Need for the Work

Time to be Out's mission statement is:

We are working for a world where people do not need to flee from their own country because they are at risk of attack on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity. However, for as long as LGBT+ people do need to seek asylum and refuge in the UK, Time to be Out aims to support them and be advocates on their behalf.

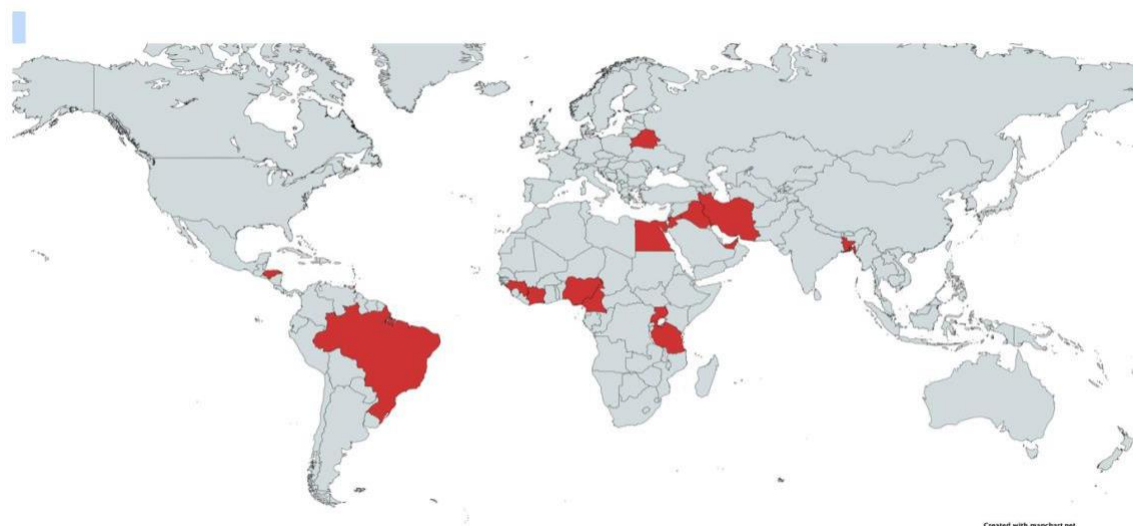
Hostility at home

Far too many LGBT+ people continue to grow up in an atmosphere of hostility. A recent report¹ submitted to the UN found that same sex relationships remain criminalised in 67 member states of the United Nations, and that the death penalty is still applicable in 11 of these places. However, risks do not just come from the law and the police. Many of the people who have applied for asylum in the UK on the grounds of their sexual orientation or gender identity have been threatened or attacked by members of their own family. Some lesbians have been subjected to so-called 'corrective rape' (this has been known to be organised by close family members), and we have met gay men whose partners were murdered (or who survived attempted murder themselves) in an attempt to defend 'family honour'. Others have been attacked by mobs of neighbours, sometimes including people they have known all their lives.

¹ ILGA World: Lucas Ramon Mendos, Kellyn Botha, Rafael Carrano Lelis, Enrique López de la Peña, Iliia Savelev and Daron Tan, *State-Sponsored Homophobia 2020: Global Legislation Overview Update* (Geneva: ILGA, December 2020).

Where do Time to be Out's beneficiaries come from?

In the course of 2020 we have worked closely with people who have escaped from the following places: Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Guinea, Honduras, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kurdistan, Nigeria, Palestine, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Arab Emirates.



A difficult journey

For too many people the journey to the UK has been dangerous and traumatic. Traffickers and smugglers have subjected them to violence and exploitation. Unfortunately, even after they arrive and claim asylum difficulties remain. There is still a 'hostile environment'.

The UK as a hostile environment

The process of claiming asylum is adversarial. The Home Office seems to have a culture of disbelief, which means that reasonable tests aimed at identifying bogus cases might become insuperable hurdles. Home Office interviewers ask to see objective evidence of incidents that happened in claimants' home countries. For example, they might ask to see evidence that an attack was reported to the police, even in a country where the police would be more likely to perpetrate homophobic violence than protect people from it. In order to persuade the Home Office that their claims are well-founded it is usually necessary to demonstrate that claimants are integrated into the local LGBT+ community here in the UK. This is extremely difficult at the best of times, but has become even more challenging as a result of the pandemic.

LGBT+ asylum seekers can be particularly isolated while their cases are being considered. People who claim asylum on other grounds often arrive with their families or find support from members of their own community here in the UK. LGBT+ claimants are likely to be on their own and reluctant to meet people from the countries they have fled for fear that they will share the hostile attitudes that have caused them to flee. In some cases, LGBT+ people have been subjected to harrassment from other asylum seekers in the accommodation where they have been placed. Time to be Out has continued to act as advocates and has intervned in a number of cases of harrassment in the course of 2020.

Next Steps

Being granted Leave to Remain does not bring an end to the difficulties. While they are waiting for a decision, asylum seekers are not allowed to work and are rarely allowed to attend college courses. It is therefore extremely difficult for them to enter the labour market immediately after being granted asylum. If they have been in Home Office asylum accommodation they have to leave at short notice. Since most LGBT+ asylum seekers are single they might not qualify for housing support from local government. In the course of 2020 Time to be Out set up a new project, Next Steps, to help at this stage of the process.



When this picture was taken at York Pride in June 2019 these four asylum seekers were still waiting for their applications to be processed (after a wait of years in some cases). We are delighted that they have all now been granted Leave to Remain. Time to be Out was able to present supporting evidence either to the Home Office or to an Asylum Tribunal in all of their cases, and three of them have been beneficiaries of our 'Next Steps' project. We wish them all the best for their new lives in the UK.

[Although we would like to be able to share more photographs of our beneficiaries, many of them are still afraid of repercussions for people left behind in their home countries and we therefore need to continue to protect their anonymity.]

The work of Time to be Out helping individuals

During 2020, twelve of the asylum seekers we have supported won the right to remain in this country. In ten of these cases we submitted full support statements to the Home Office and / or gave witness evidence in lower or higher asylum tribunals, in accordance with our written policy on minimum contact time before writing. In two cases, we were able to write more limited statements based on reduced contact with the individual.

In January, M from Bangladesh was granted leave to remain by the Home Office on his third attempt; A from Trinidad and Tobago was granted leave to remain; M from Cote d'Ivoire was granted leave after a fresh claim and interview; and G from Nigeria won after a very long wait for a Home Office decision on his fresh claim. In February Y from Uganda was also granted right to remain by the Home Office. In April, A from Palestine won at a second asylum hearing after a successful appeal to a higher tribunal, as did M from Iran in August. After M's win, his partner S from Iraq was granted leave to remain when the Home Office reversed their initial refusal. A from Iran was refused by the Home Office before we met him in February, but after he submitted our and other evidence, the Home Office reversed their decision and granted him leave to remain in October. In September, A from Egypt won after a very long struggle with his latest fresh claim, having been rejected by the Home Office, but his refusal was reversed on appeal to a tribunal. The two women to whom we gave more limited support both won their cases: F from Nigeria and F from Cameroon. We are delighted that one of these has now agreed to become one of our trustees.

David Sylph, Trustee and Co-ordinator, Time to be Out

There have been long delays in the Home Office making decisions on a number of cases and the delays have been made worse by Covid restrictions affecting interviews and asylum tribunal hearings. Of our 2020 clients, currently we are awaiting: decisions after Home Office interviews in three cases; decisions or interview after submission of a claim in four cases; and tribunal hearings after refusal in two cases. We are currently working with several others who are at an earlier stage of preparing their cases and have not yet submitted their claims.



The work of Time to be Out fostering the well-being of LGBT+ asylum seekers

In addition to its casework (summarised above), Time to be Out is anxious to do as much as possible to foster well-being amongst LGBT+ asylum seekers. Many of our beneficiaries find the long wait for their cases to be dealt with extremely challenging. They have to cope with isolation and social exclusion on top of the trauma that they have escaped in their home countries.

Three recent Time to be Out initiatives have focused on these issues:

Befriending

Some of the newly recruited volunteers have taken on the role of befriender. They call individuals regularly (usually every day) and make themselves available to be called themselves. Outside of lockdown conditions, they have even been able to meet in person.

English teaching

We are enormously grateful to a team of professional English teachers who have agreed to give one to one lessons online to asylum seekers whose first language is not English. This has been of great practical use to the individual beneficiaries, and of course has helped their social integration and their psychological well-being (for more details, see below).

Peer-support groups

We have been able to put isolated asylum seekers in touch with each other, thus encouraging peer support. People can refer others to different agencies and sources of relevant support.



Volunteer English Tutoring Activities

LGBT+ asylum seekers who come to the UK are challenged on several fronts. Apart from the legal challenges of trying to secure indefinite leave to remain, there are also the challenges of living their sexual orientation openly and, in some cases, coming to terms with it themselves for the first time. In addition, there are the challenges of creating a new lifestyle in unfamiliar surroundings. These all make for psychological pressures which can seem unbearable. Mental health is often adversely affected, ranging from boredom and disorientation to serious anxiety and depression. Above all, asylum seekers need to establish some sort of daily routine and to integrate with their new environment as soon as possible. This is extremely difficult when their command of the English language is limited.

With all the above in mind, Time to be Out decided to launch a project of one-to-one English tutoring last April. The lessons have, for the moment, to be conducted over WhatsApp by video-calls and messages. From the outset, it was decided to offer a minimum of three half-hour sessions of tuition each week, arranged on a day and at a time which were mutually convenient to both the tutor and the tutee. It was felt that anything less than this would not really be effective.

The coordinator of the programme is David Wilson, an experienced teacher and coach of English as an international language. The team so far consists of four experienced, dedicated and flexible tutors: Alison Bolton, Sarah Hawker, Jane Barnett and David himself. David convenes a regular Zoom Tutors' Meeting once a month where everyone can ask questions, and share their experiences and teaching ideas. In addition, everyone checks in by text message at the end of each week on a T2bO Tutors' WhatsApp Group.

So far, regular English teaching has been provided to six asylum seekers and the results have been impressive. Not only are these asylum seekers gaining more overall confidence in communicating, they also now have a focus for structuring their days which promotes overall psychological health, especially during lockdown. Tutors use carefully chosen textbooks as well as their own teaching materials. Tutors send useful links such as video clips from *YouTube* for listening practice and grammar consolidation and direct their tutees to websites for appropriate reading material. Tutees have also been encouraged to take photos on their daily permitted walks, share these on WhatsApp with their tutors, then use these for reading and vocabulary practice and also to discuss with their tutors aspects of their local environment; this has encouraged them to become more familiar with their new and generally unfamiliar cultural surroundings.

In spite of the many restrictions imposed by the need to self-isolate from Covid-19, tutees have responded positively, and it is generally felt that this project continues to make a huge contribution to the well-being of T2bO asylum seekers.

David Wilson

January 2021



Special support during the Covid crisis

In normal circumstances Time to be Out would arrange social events to help isolated asylum seekers meet other people and develop peer-support networks. With lockdowns and tier restrictions, and the cancellation of all 2020's Pride celebrations, very little face-to-face socialisation has been possible. However, in the summer we were able to arrange for some beneficiaries to visit York to meet their English teachers (in the open air and at a distance, of course). Whilst regulations allowed it, volunteers in Sheffield arranged for small groups to meet for a drink and a chat on Wednesday evenings.

We have done our best to help people stay connected by ensuring that they have sufficient phone data and credit, which would normally be unaffordable on the small amount of support from the Home Office (this rose by only £1.85 a week in June 2020, from £37.75). For most of 2020 asylum seekers placed in emergency accommodation in hotels had no financial support at all (so they could not buy clothes or phone data). We have also been concerned that asylum seekers did not have sufficient money to buy face masks and sanitiser. Time to be Out therefore arranged to send £50 a month to around 20 LGBT+ asylum seekers in order to mitigate the effects of the further isolation they were experiencing as a result of lockdown. We are very grateful for special funding that we received from **Two Ridings, the National Lottery Community Fund** and **Respond and Adapt** to help us through this emergency.

We were also able to use money from the National Lottery Community Fund to implement our 'Next Steps' programme. The aim of this is to support LGBT+ refugees who have just been granted Leave to Remain. They need to find somewhere to live and a job (both of which have been more difficult than ever in 2020), so we have been able to use the funding to help people bridge the gap between living in Home Office accommodation and living an independent life. We have been able to help successful refugees pay the deposit on a flat, pay for vocational training courses or certification, or buy essential furniture or kitchen equipment, for example. Volunteers from Time to be Out have been available to give guidance on job seeking and other aspects of 'moving on' (including applying for Universal Credit if necessary). We would very much like to be able to continue this type of support after the Covid crisis has passed.



Image taken from <https://timelinetheatre.com/timeline-south-wellness-corner/>

Time To Be Out has worked towards meeting a range of well-being needs for those asylum seekers and refugees the charity works with. If we use Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, we can see that providing hardship funds for food and other daily living essentials comes in the bottom layer of the pyramid. Our support for people in their claim for asylum in the UK is of course based on the need for 'safety'. By challenging dangerous/unsuitable accommodation, TTBO is also meeting those 'basic needs' for somewhere safe to live.

By looking at the next layers of Maslow's model, the work on English language skills, on learning relaxation techniques from a qualified complementary therapist (volunteering her own time) to counter trauma-related physiological and psychological problems, and the provision of befrienders all work together to support the two layers within meeting 'psychological needs'.

This work on supporting improved well-being is fundamental to ensure that beneficiaries are best placed to be able to engage with their Home Office case, legal counsel, TTBO caseworkers and local community. Improved well-being makes it possible for individuals to begin socialising with one another and with TTBO volunteers across all other services. Individuals are also able to benefit from befrienders who can role model living more openly as an LGBT+ individual in the UK (something that has not been remotely possible in many of the countries of origin of those TTBO works with).

Dorothy Hodgkinson, Development Officer, Time to be Out

Advocacy and Partnerships

In the course of 2020 we were made aware of three individuals who were being bullied by other asylum seekers in the accommodation where they had been placed. We were able to make representations with the housing providers (and with the police) so that people's safety could be guaranteed. That is not yet a battle won – but it will be.

We continue to work closely with other organisations and charities to support individuals. These range from housing charities (e.g. Micro Rainbow, Assist in Sheffield, Refugees at Home, NACCOM), through other refugee support groups (e.g. MAP in Middlesbrough, The Sanctuary in Sheffield) to specifically LGBT+ charities (e.g. Pride Without Borders in Bristol, and Report Out in Gateshead, which does research on the situation for LGBT+ people in the home countries of our beneficiaries).

We have increasingly close links with a number of firms of solicitors (in Middlesbrough, Sheffield and Hull in particular), who welcome the presence of our volunteers when they are meeting asylum seekers.

Before the lockdowns, volunteers from Time to be Out were able to give talks about our work on Pride Radio, at Sheffield University and to Gay Men Tyneside.

When it has been possible and appropriate, we have enabled asylum seekers to attend the LGBT friendly mass held monthly at the Bar Convent in York. We also refer others to relevant faith groups and other sources of support. We are grateful to the Bar Convent and staff of York Minster, who continue to offer support to Time to be Out.

Organisational Development

Three of the seven trustees of Time to be Out are refugees, who know from first hand experience what it is like to apply for asylum in the UK and how Time to be Out can help. We look forward to developing our services in the light of their experience and wisdom.

We have worked hard in 2020 to consolidate and build our team of volunteers, who have been able to undertake a number of different roles (befrienders, English teachers, case workers etc.). Close attention has been paid to best practice following Charity Commission guidelines, and everyone has been made aware of Time to be Out's safeguarding policy and other important procedures.

We have benefitted enormously from the contribution of a Development Officer (unpaid), who has helped us to submit applications to funding bodies. As a result we have been awarded grants which have allowed us to implement our 'Next Steps' initiative and to make Covid emergency payments to our beneficiaries every month from June to December 2020.



I joined Time to Be Out as a volunteer late last year, and I am currently working as a befriender with asylum seekers. I find the work extremely fulfilling, you can see the support we are giving the individuals we are working with is of great value for their well-being.

Jonathan Burgoyne - Volunteer

I joined Time To Be Out as a volunteer around November time last year as a befriender. The team is friendly, approachable and most importantly absolutely committed to their task. The work they are doing is crucial and I hope the charity is able to further its reach over the next year. William and David have been very helpful in providing regular workshops to help us to grasp the process of seeking asylum and I hope in the future to expand my capabilities as a befriender and to become more informed on the case work aspects. – Ellie

I want to say a big thank you for Time to be Out. For their kind assistance with my group. I hold a small group in Newcastle. William kind help with our zoom meetings help me to get established with the mens group and now it continues to grow. We will continue to work joined up with your group. Now I volunteer for your team.

Carol Robinson

I joined "Time to be Out" during lockdown 2 in 2020 as a befriender initially but also to offer well-being sessions to either individuals or small groups of LGBT+ Asylum seekers.

This charity supports the most vulnerable people society has and it's a pleasure to be part of a group of people whose aim is to help make life better for the asylum seekers. If spending time (currently just on the phone) with the person I have befriended makes that person forget their trauma for at least a moment, then I have done well. If the relaxation techniques I am showing help others to feel less anxious for at least a little while, I am happy. As a volunteer I do give my time and my skills but I also gain so much. I am constantly learning, I feel I am doing something purpose-and meaningful, I am finding out about other cultures and traditions but most importantly I have a much better understanding of how it must feel to be an LGBT+ human being who had to flee from their home country due to their sexuality.

Renni Prella

Plans for 2021

- We will soon be launching a website, aimed primarily at attracting grant funding
- We hope to continue to expand the English teaching and befriending services
- We would like to raise funds to be able to supply our beneficiaries with technology to help them keep connected (e.g. tablets, dongles) and research their own cases
- As travel and personal interaction become possible again we intend to organise visits and social events for our isolated beneficiaries
- We shall continue to work with partner organisations to raise awareness of the challenges and try to improve the circumstances of LGBT+ asylum seekers and refugees

NEWSLETTER - July 2021



TIME TO BE OUT

Welcome to the first of our seasonal newsletters – just some information about how the charity is getting along as well as new developments. This is all possible because of your continued support. Thank you again.

Our New Website

www.timetobeout.org.uk

Thanks to a grant received from

The Wharfedale Foundation

www.wharfedalefoundation.org.uk

The foundation is a grant-awarding trust, funding projects in Yorkshire and the Humber. Their aims are the breaking down of barriers in society, the integration of marginalised groups within communities and a concern for the natural environment.



The Wharfedale Foundation

BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES IN YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER

BETTER TOGETHER!

Volunteers (William)

Despite lockdowns we have actually been able to grow our volunteer numbers and the positive impact we are having in the lives of asylum seekers. Some volunteers facilitate the legal pathway, others are English tutors and others befrienders.

Regular contact as well as a weekly on-line 'Social' means we try to keep up with how everyone is doing in this most difficult of times and create a 'community' of support, wherever people are based. We now have a complementary therapist on board too, for those going through particular stress.

Thank You for your support!

Your donations have helped us support the LGBTQ+ refugees in many ways in 2021.

For the last few months we have been able to offer £20 a month data allowance to each of the clients we are working with.

This has enabled them to keep in touch with legal counsel, continue their English tuition on Zoom or WhatsApp, and connect with their peers which helps limit their feeling of isolation.

In the coming newsletters we will give you lots of updates on the work we are undertaking with the help from your donations.

LGBTQ+ Partnership (Jonathan)

Time to Be Out has partnered with Strathearn Tea In Scotland.

They are an LGBTQ owned and operated business that has a mission to give back as much as possible, setting up links with many charities including Time To Be Out.

For every purchase of tea made with them using the code TTBO21 they donate £2 back to our charity.

So if you, your friends or family like tea visit their website and buy some great tasting tea!
www.strathearn-tea.co.uk

New Government Proposals (David)

In the refugee charity sector there is an overwhelming consensus that the recently published proposals on the changes to the asylum system represent the most serious threat in many years to the right to asylum.

Time To Be Out took part in a brief government consultation on these changes. However, it was structured in such a way that we were unable to express our real concerns. So we have written separately to the Home Office to express those concerns. The proposals include penalizing those who arrive "illegally" or via another safe country by denying them full asylum, thereby creating a two tier system – and shortening the appeals procedures by limiting legal challenges to Home Office decisions.

All of this directly threatens the people we support. Almost all of them are on their own and are fleeing an immediate threat to their lives. There are no "legal" or "safe" routes available to them. They have to take any means of escape which is available. The Refugee Convention of 1951 does not require people to claim asylum in the first safe country to which they travel. Moreover, since the UK left the EU and thereby the Dublin Convention, there are no treaties to return people to another safe country through which they have passed.

Most of our clients do indeed suffer long delays in the Home Office deciding their asylum claims but the government proposals do not address this. Please read more about the full proposals, which are outlined on the government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/landmark-borders-bill-to-enter-parliament>.

Recent Challenges

No Government Support

In recent weeks there has been a failure in the system by which asylum seekers receive their weekly allowance. Many of those we are working with received no money.

In response to this we have diverted funds from planned day trips this Summer to provide weekly emergency funds to those affected. The planned daytrips will be run later in the year as funds allow.

Delays in the System

Many people are experiencing extremely long delays in waiting for their Home Office interviews, for a tribunal hearing, or for a Home Office decision on their case.

This is extremely stressful for those concerned, as you can imagine.

Time To Be Celebrating

In the last few weeks we have had reason to celebrate at Time To Be Out.

Two of the people we have been working with have been granted right to remain.

H from Iraq, whom we met in July of last year and supported throughout his case, was granted right to remain. He can now live safely and openly as a gay man here in England.

Women (Dorothy)

There are always more layers to supporting individuals in the asylum system. Personal needs, such as sanitary product costs for women/girls, have a very real cost attached to them, yet no allowance is made for this within asylum allowance budgets.

At TTBO we are conscious of the need to keep listening to our clients and hear about their needs so that we can align our services and activities to better meet those needs.

This month we have established a small funding pot to cover the monthly costs of sanitary and related costs for those clients who need them - both the adults, and, when appropriate, their female children.

This funding pot will pay out up to £10 per month to any of our clients who specifically need help to cover the costs of these personal items.

Sheffield Social (Brian)

Time To Be Out arranged a social evening at the Red Lion pub in Sheffield recently.

Our aim was to introduce new friends and meet old ones again in a relaxed and gay friendly environment. It worked!

This will become a regular event now that restrictions are starting to be lifted.

Then S from Iran also was granted right to remain. We met S in October of last year when he was housed in Hull. As with H, we worked with him through this case and just last week he got the amazing news from the Home Office that he had won his case

" I just want to take this opportunity to say I feel so welcome in this organisation called TTBO that supports people like myself "

Summary of Time to be Out's Income and Expenditure, January to December 2020

Income

Total income from regular donations and one-off gifts (no fundraising activities this year)	£6 312
Total income from grant-awarding bodies (for specified projects - Next Steps and Covid Emergency)	£13 800
Grand Total	£20 112

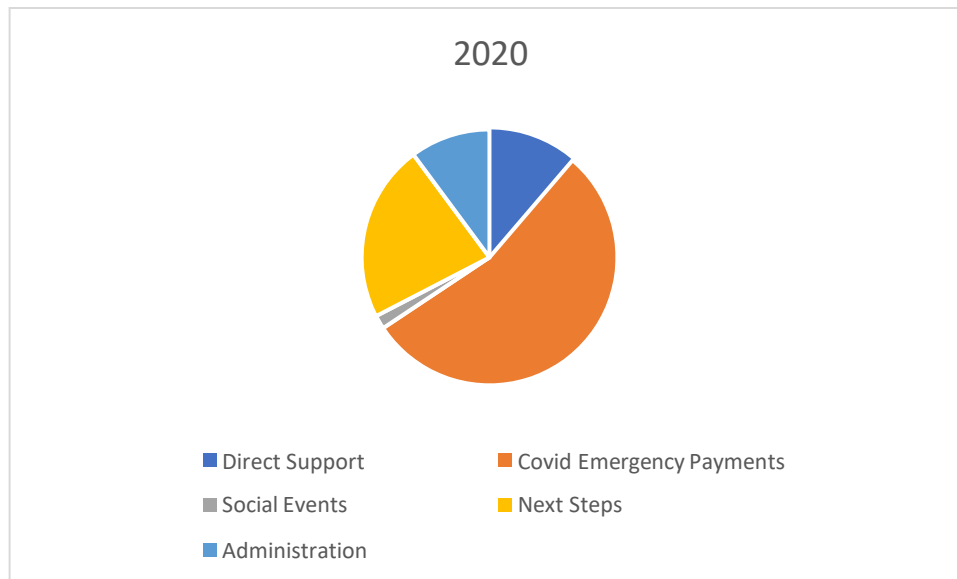
Expenditure

From unrestricted funds:

Direct support to asylum seekers (e.g. expenses to go to appointments with doctors, lawyers etc)	£1 958
Covid Emergency payments to asylum seekers March - June 2020 (the first lockdown)	£1 750
Social events for asylum seekers in York and Sheffield (between the spring and autumn lockdowns)	£303
Administration (insurance, postal order fees, travel expenses for volunteers etc.)	£724

From grants awarded for designated projects:

Next Steps	£3 900
Covid Emergency payments (June to December 2020)	£7 700
Administration (postal order fees, postage etc.)	£1 040
Grand Total	£17 375



Supporting Time to be Out

We are very grateful to the donors and volunteers who made our work possible in 2020. We would be pleased if you could forward this report to anyone you know who you think might be interested. New volunteers would be welcome, as would donations! We would be particularly grateful if people could make regular contributions. A minimum of £5 a month can make an enormous difference. Receiving regular monthly income allows us to plan more effectively and make more realistic offers to the beneficiaries. We are also able to claim Gift Aid on contributions from UK taxpayers.

Account Name: Time To Be Out

The Co-operative Bank

Sort Code: 08 92 99

Account Number: 65883725

Cheques (made payable to Time to be Out) can be sent to:
The Treasurer, Time to be Out, 41 East Mount Road, York YO24 1BD

Do get in touch at any time on infotimetobeout@gmail.com

Time to be Out

Income and Expenditure 13th June 2020 to 12th June 2021

Balance carried forward £2 894.51

Total Income £19 951.95

Total Expenditure £20 014.85

Balance - £62.90

Balance carried forward (£2 894.51 - £62.90) £2 831.61

INCOME

Restricted Grant Funding

The Community Fund

[paid 10th July 2020 to be spent within 6 months] £10 000.00

Respond and Adapt / NACCOM

[paid 7th September 2020 to be spent within 12 months] £2 000.00

The Wharfedale Foundation

[paid 5th January 2021 to be spent on building a website] £479.00

Total Restricted Income £12 479.00

Unrestricted Income

Donations from monthly standing orders / direct debits £5 144.00

One-off individual donations (including Strathearn Tea) £2 328.95

Total Unrestricted Income £7 472.95

Total Income £12 479 + £7 472.95 = £19 951.95

EXPENDITURE

Restricted Grant Funding

Two Ridings (carried forward from 2019-2020)

[£1004.36 remaining from £1 800 paid 27th May 2020 to be spent within 6 months]

Covid Emergency payments to 20 beneficiaries £680.00

Hardship payments to 2 beneficiaries £270.00

Postage and postal order fees £50.32

[Amount unspent £4.04 transferred to general account with agreement of the funders]

The Community Fund

Next Steps Project £3 493.54

Covid Emergency payments (32 beneficiaries) £5 850.00

Administration (including postage and postal order fees) £647.00

[Amount unspent £9.46 transferred to general account with agreement of the funders]

Respond and Adapt / NACCOM

Covid Emergency payments (8 beneficiaries) £400.00

Hardship payment (1 beneficiary) £50.00

Administration (including postage and postal order fees) £165.81

Data vouchers (22 beneficiaries) £1 395.00

[Overshoot of £10.81 paid for from general account]

The Wharfedale Foundation

Payments to Nettl of York to build website £479.00

Total spending from Restricted Grant funding £13 480.67

Total amount of Restricted Funding left unspent and transferred to general account

£2.69

Unrestricted Expenditure

Casework and befriending	£1 388.95
Hardship and Emergency payments	£2 354.00
Next Steps	£930.00
Social Events (in York and Sheffield, and prizes for online socials)	£431.12
Data vouchers (and administration of data budget)	£325.80
English teaching materials	£112.26
Volunteer expenses	£504.20
Administration	
Website - domain name	£58.80
Website - hosting	£36.00
Zoom Standard Pro Annual payment	£107.90
Liability Insurance	£144.96
reconditioning 2 donated laptops for beneficiaries	£45.00
business cards	£37.50
bank charges	£0.99
postage	£6.70
donation to Pride without Borders (Bristol)	£50.00
Total Unrestricted Expenditure	£6 534.18

Total Expenditure £13 480.67 + £6 534.18 = £20 014.85

Notes on the budgets

Caseworking and Befriending

to cover expenses for beneficiaries to travel to meetings with the Home Office, lawyers, their Time to be Out caseworkers, befrienders and English tutors etc.

Hardship and Emergency payments

to provide emergency funds when asylum seekers are destitute (e.g. when their National Asylum Support cards are not working or their applications for support are still being processed); to replace or repair broken mobile phones so that people can remain in contact with their legal representatives and other sources of support etc.

Next Steps

to provide support when refugees are granted Leave to Remain and they have to vacate Home Office accommodation at short notice, e.g. to supply bridging funding so that people can pay the first month's rent on a flat, buy bedding etc.

Covid Emergency

during the lockdowns of 2020 and early 2021 we provided extra funds when people were unable to travel and faced extra costs in terms of food, heating, phone data etc.

Data Vouchers

regular monthly mobile phone top ups to ensure that beneficiaries can stay in touch with their legal representatives and Time to be Out support services (e.g. virtual social events, English tuition etc.)

Social Events

Although there were fewer opportunities to arrange social events than in previous years, we still held some small events in York and Sheffield

Volunteer Expenses

to cover the travel of volunteers (caseworkers, befrienders, English tutors) to meet beneficiaries

English teaching materials

to provide textbooks for beneficiaries

Website

to pay for the design and hosting of our website: <http://www.timetobeout.org.uk>

