



TAUNTON WELCOMES REFUGEES

Trustees' Annual Report July 2020 to June 2021

Trustee and Staff Appointments

Taunton Welcomes Refugees (TWR) welcomed Finbarr O'Mahoney and Ali Batchelor as Trustees and Caroline Adams as the employed Coordinator.

Following the resignation of Gail Griffiths as Chair in April 2021, Simon Forrester was appointed as Acting Chair.

Achievements

This period was during the Covid pandemic and associated restrictions meant that the normal arrangements for Trustee meetings and events for families could not take place. However, Trustees continued to meet regularly by video conference and befriending circles continued to provide support to families and also started to support a group of young asylum seekers. TWR were successful in their application to the Fairfield Trust for a grant to cover the costs of employing a part time coordinator for one year and appointed to the post in May 2021.

The Trustees, led by Kate Murdoch, started to plan to hold weekly English conversation and coffee sessions for refugee families. These were unable to start until September of 2021 because of Covid restrictions.

Two of the trustees, Lynne Mayers and Juliet Harkness prepared and tutored the three formal training courses for volunteer befrienders in July 2020, November 2020 and May 2021. 15 volunteers attended, 5 of whom have been placed in befriending circles and 2 are helping with English conversation, 4 are waiting to be placed in befriending circles and the remainder are helping with other tasks. TWR now has a professional approach to training volunteers for their respective roles in the organisation.

In addition, induction courses were held for new trustees and refresher courses for other trustees and volunteer befrienders.

The Future

This year has been a time of consolidation in readiness for new resettlement programmes. There will be challenges ahead with

- the introduction of the Afghan resettlement scheme,
- the amalgamation of Somerset County Council with the District Councils to form a Unitary authority
- changes in personnel with a new manager in the Somerset County Council Resettlement team.

Signed

Simon Forrester

Date

10 Jan 2022.

Simon Forrester

Chair

Taunton Welcomes Refugees		
Annual Accounts for Year Ending 31/3/21		
	2020-2021	2019-2020
Initial Balance	#NAME?	£0.00
Income		
Individual Donations	£2,421.00	£268.00
Church Donations	£100.00	£495.00
Grants	£10,050.00	£3,160.00
Total	£12,571.00	£3,923.00
Expenditure		
Grants to Families	£345.69	£107.75
Admin	£1,233.12	£516.55
Translation	£182.05	£257.50
DBS	£118.50	£169.00
Training	£25.00	£150.00
Total	#NAME?	#NAME?
Balance	#NAME?	#NAME?
Restricted Fund Balance	£0.00	£0.84