

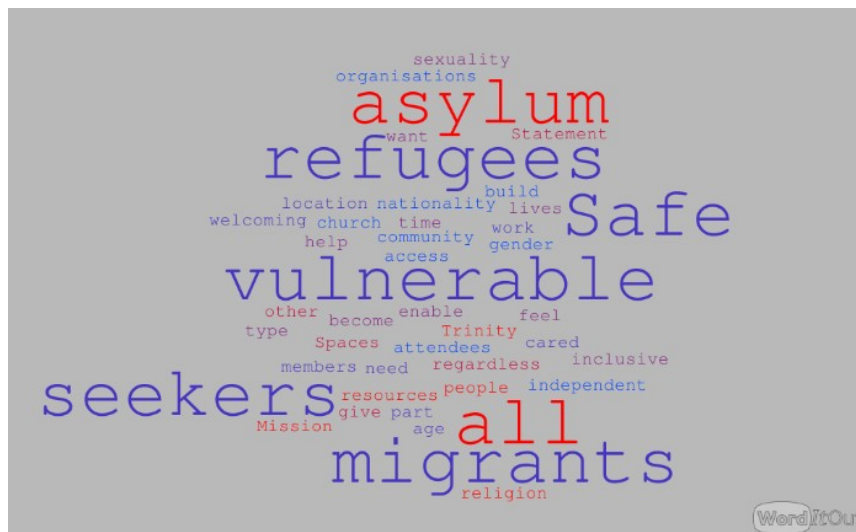


Trinity Safe Space

Charity number: 1194939

Annual Report

2024 - 2025





Who are we?

In response by the faith sector in Halton, to the migration of Syrian refugees, people seeking asylum and an increase in numbers of vulnerable migrants into the borough, Trinity Safe Space, Widnes began its weekly drop-in in January 2019 with Trinity Safe Space, Runcorn following in September 2019. Both are managed by multi-faith volunteers and are now, since becoming a charity in June 2021, overseen by a Board of Trustees who meet quarterly. These are places where asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants meet, communicate with each other, improve their English, feel safe, supported and cared for; where many of their needs are met through signposting to external help or through advice and guidance from visiting organisations such as CHAWREC and Axxess Sexual Health practitioners, and where they are given essential items, information about the local area, support to register with health and other services and have the opportunity to socialise. Our objective is to integrate asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants into the local authority area, services, organisations and communities of Runcorn and Widnes and to make them more independent, wherever possible. There are currently no other groups in Runcorn and Widnes able to offer this multi-lingual, multicultural support (other than our significant partner, A Better Tomorrow, Halton). Trinity Safe Space's Trustees, in partnership with other organisations, do this by providing crucial items; by coordinating several organisations, ensuring they are available to communicate with service users; by creating and sustaining links with other areas and support sources, and by positively influencing key people.

Trinity Safe Space became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in June 2021 - its objects are as follows:

1. The relief of financial hardship amongst those seeking asylum, those granted refugee status and their dependants, and who reside in Halton, particularly by the provision of information, advice and

guidance, utilising the expertise of partner organisations and the provision of material support where necessary

2. The advancement of the education and training of those seeking asylum, those granted refugee status and their dependants in need thereof, so as to develop them in life and assist them to adapt within and be assimilated into a new community, particularly by the provision of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Cultural Awareness, information on school/college/university admissions and vocational training



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Our mission

Trinity Safe Space's Mission Statement is, 'We are part of a welcoming organisation, inclusive of all people regardless of age, gender, nationality, religion or sexuality, in a location where all attendees can feel safe and cared for. We work with other organisations so that asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants can access the type of help and support they want and need. We will give our time, support and resources to enable asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants to build their lives and become independent members of the community'.



Our partners

Our most significant partner is A Better Tomorrow, Halton CiC, which was formed as a vitally important and successful community group in its own right, in 2018, by Ashraf Hamido, to address some of the challenges faced by people moving into the Borough, in a practical and sensitive way, through working closely with others. We purchase very effective services from A Better Tomorrow. Ashraf is also an Associate Member of our Trustee Board. Our other partners are: -

Halton Borough Council

Housing Solutions
Halton People into Jobs
Churches Together in Frodsham
the Hurst Methodist Church, Kingsley
Halton Safeguarding Faith Forum
the Studio, Widnes
Runcorn and District Foodbank
Widnes Foodbank
SHAP Ltd Housing
housing teams and associations
faith sector members
St Wilfrid's RC Parish, Widnes
the Kingsway Bike Club
Cheshire Constabulary
the Hygiene Bank – Widnes
Healthwatch Halton
Axess Sexual Health
Halton Citizens Advice Bureau - Runcorn and Widnes
Halton and St Helens VCA
the Reader
the Foundry Community Church, Widnes
Recharge and Restore
the British Red Cross
Refugee Women Connect
Halton Integrated Care System (formerly the Clinical Commissioning Group)
Halton's Children's Centres/Family Hubs
Halton Libraries
Phil Cooke – optician
Runcorn Community Shop
Cheshire Halton and Warrington Race Equality Council (CHAWREC)
Sam's Diamonds Cancer Charity
Digital Arts Box CIC
Serco
Migrant Help.



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What do we do?

During the year 2024—2025, Trinity Safe Space has provided many services: - two drop-ins meeting weekly with refreshments; non-accredited English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) sessions; access to interpretation via A Better Tomorrow and online; help, information and support to vulnerable people; signposting to other organisations. **We listen, we hear, and we provide human contact. We give practical help** - we have given out food, essential items such as toiletries, bicycles, furniture, bedding,



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clothes and shoes, household items, toys, items for babies, and countless more, many of which have been kindly donated by our supporters. Funding received from Halton's Our Halton Community Grant enabled us to purchase the services of A Better Tomorrow, Halton, to provide interpretation, cultural awareness training and support for attendees at both drop-ins. A further Our Halton Community Grant was used to provide the non accredited ESOL sessions in Runcorn and Widnes.

We had to move our drop-ins – to Halton Lea Library in Runcorn and to St Michael's Roman Catholic presbytery in Widnes, paying rental costs for both now.



Welfare calls and messages continue to be made or sent to contacts regularly, by A Better Tomorrow, Halton, and Trinity Safe Space volunteers, to ensure they are safe and well. Any urgent requests for help are sorted out by us or A Better Tomorrow, Halton, as soon as we can.



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People are referred, where necessary, to other local organisations,

for example the Halton Citizens Advice Bureau and Housing Solutions.



Non-accredited ESOL



We continue face-to-face sessions in Runcorn and Widnes, with one tutor, after using technological means of teaching during the Covid pandemic. The main vision for the ESOL sessions is that all residents for whom English is not a first language can access high quality English language so that they can acquire the language skills to enable them to participate in daily life. These language skills are central to giving people a democratic voice and supporting them to contribute to the society in which they live.

Students have been divided into beginners and next level. Rules, standards, procedures (including safeguarding) and methods were set out and a curriculum put together so the teacher and any volunteers who are doing one to one practice could follow.

During the year, the beginner group completed the first few modules and missing knowledge gaps were filled throughout, ensuring progression. The teacher spends time making sure everyone in the classes understands everything in the lessons and uses resources which make the lessons fun as well eg games with sounds. The next level group mixed and matched situations from other modules to practise and extend their knowledge and competence. As the course follows a “roll-on, roll off” model and is voluntary attendance, revision and plenty of practice play an important part in the lessons. All students were very enthusiastic. Some progressed onto college courses, and all grew in confidence and competence.

Spoken and written English are noticeably the most difficult, especially for the Arabic, Farsi/Persian, Tigrinya and some other languages’ speakers as their sentence structure and grammar is very different and their written languages do not use the same script, with some reading from right to left.

Outcomes for ESOL students

- General improvement of language and communication skills
- Increased confidence to transfer learning into everyday situations
- Reduced isolation in communities through relations with other students, teachers, and volunteers
- Improved integration of families in local communities and their ability to access services, leading to more community cohesion
- Better mental health, wellbeing and self-esteem

The classes in Runcorn traditionally have larger numbers of students attending than those in Widnes. We were fortunate to be able to continue an extra class which particularly concentrated on medical terminology, how to make appointments and how to describe signs and symptoms of diseases, particularly cancer. Funding from the Cheshire and Merseyside Cancer Alliance Community Engagement VCSE Small Grants Programme was used to fund this.

Some individual sessions have also been delivered using volunteers, to help students progress.



We continued to liaise with residents at a local hotel on the outskirts of Runcorn, which, during this year, housed a mix of men, women and children. Some of them attended our Runcorn drop-in or made requests for clothes and baby items. Since the Covid pandemic, we have continued to liaise with partners through strategic groups to ensure we can feed in any comments from residents we are in contact with, to make their lived experience better, and we continue to have a supporting role with some who have moved from the hotel into Halton. We occasionally provided some residents with items requested, and signposted them to sources of information, advice and guidance.



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Storage

We have been and continue to be blessed with many donations of goods over

the time we have been in existence, ranging from large items of furniture, bedding, curtains, clothes, shoes, pots, pans, crockery, bicycles, prams, baby items, toys to food. Storage continues to be an issue for us, as we have very little. We kept some items in Widnes Safe Space.



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Funding applications and donations

As well as the grants mentioned above, Widnes Rotary gave us some funding which allowed us to pay travel expenses for people to get to and from foodbanks and we received a significant amount of money from the Household Support Grant, via Halton Borough Council, to purchase food vouchers from Aldi and Asda, cooking utensils and emergency food. Halton Children's Centres/Family hubs have helped with children's clothes and baby essential items, which are otherwise a drain on our resources. Both Foodbanks continue to honour vouchers we give out to our beneficiaries and to adapt their food parcels to be more culturally appropriate. The Hygiene Bank - Widnes also gave us donations of toiletries, sanitary products and household essentials.

Towards the end of March 2023, we received some funding from the Cheshire and Merseyside Cancer Alliance CVS Partnership Improving Communities awareness of Cancer VCSE Small Grants Programme with which we raised awareness within our clientele of the signs and symptoms of different cancers, through a very experienced and positive survivor, who has set up her own charity, ensuring they understood these through the use of interpreters, and encouraged early diagnosis and treatment, offering support from "buddies" to help them on their journey. Some of the spend from this paid for the interpreters and travel expenses, and the rest was spent on extra ESOL sessions, during 2024 – 2025, concentrating on medical issues, especially cancer.

We continue to receive individual donations of money from our supporters every month. Money has been given to us from Frodsham Methodist Church, some Frodsham residents and the Hurst Methodist Church in Kingsley donated money and goods - a special thank you to Stuart and Julie Clark from their congregation for their very generous personal donation. St Wilfrid's Roman Catholic Parish Widnes' Tuesday Club and their Union of Catholic Mothers gave

us money as did Runcorn’s Women’s Institute. Several churches’ congregations donated clothes, toiletries, trainers, cash and small electrical goods; Manchester City Council gave us a donation in lieu of our Chair of Trustees representing the Greater Merseyside’s VCFSE on a northwest strategic board which discusses asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants, and cash donations have been given from the sale of many CDs. We are very grateful for everything we received.



Income and expenditure

For a summary of our income and how we have spent our grant funding and donations, from April 2024 to March 2025 please see our accounts. As we have no paid employees and do not have buildings’ costs or overheads, the income we have is used solely to purchase goods and some services to benefit our service users.



Statistics

Personnel	Description	Number
Contacts of ours	Asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants in Halton with whom we have had contact (not including those in hotel)	760
Non accredited ESOL	Asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants in Halton receiving lessons face to face	46 new asylum seekers attended and 40 returners. 27 new refugees attended

		and 20 returners. 12 new vulnerable migrants attended and 4 returners.
Those receiving continued support	Asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants in Halton	297 new asylum seekers and 80 returners; 2 new refugees and 17 returners; 5 new vulnerable migrants and 15 returners
Trustees	Volunteers on the Board of Trustees from April 2023	8 plus 1 Associate
Non-accredited ESOL staff	Tutor who led sessions and volunteers who helped	1 and 3
Volunteers	Volunteers who carried out other TSS related activities including ABT (excluding trustees who also volunteer in drop-ins and other areas)	50
Deliveries/calls	Description	Number
Essential items	Clothes, toiletries, shoes/trainers, sanitary products, school uniform, bedding, baby items, towels, curtains, small electrical items, crockery, cutlery and	Too many to count

	other essentials	
Bicycles	Bicycles bought or donated then delivered to individuals	38 bought and 4 donated
Mobile phones	Good value smart phones bought or donated and then given to individuals	6 bought 4 donated
Data top ups	Money to buy data top-ups or top ups on cards – the number of these given to individuals	8 data top-ups of £10 each
Sim cards	Sim cards donated to us then given out	48
Calls or messages	Welfare calls or messages made or sent to individuals by TSS volunteers and ABT staff and volunteers - weekly average based on 2 hours a week	15 a week



Review and future plans

We completed a review of the year before April 2025 which included detailed monitoring reports for the last of the Faith New Deal funding, the Our Halton Community Grant funding and the usage of the general monies. We are currently looking for funding to continue many of the components of the PARTNERS Project in a community/family hub. We were successful in securing Our Halton Community Grant funding for another year and some Household Support funding to buy food and cooking utensils.

Continue to work collaboratively with partners

We value our collaboration with our past, present and any future partners and will strive to continue to work/volunteer together for the good of those we serve.



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Special thanks

Special thanks go to Halton Borough Council's Our Halton Community Grant Scheme, for funding the Trinity Safe Space Charity for support to its attendees, Cultural Awareness, the purchase of food and other items, and the non-accredited ESOL sessions, during the year 2024—2025. Special thanks to both Foodbanks for their flexibility and ongoing support; Widnes Rotary; the Household Support Fund, for funding us or donating items; Tesco supermarket, Widnes, for bulk donations of end of season lines and stock they cannot sell any longer; Halton Citizens Advice Bureau - Runcorn and Widnes for close partnership working and support; the Hygiene Bank – Widnes for donations; SHAP Housing Association for finding and delivering household items for us and supporting our drop-ins with one of their staff members; the Walton Lea Project for their welcoming attitude and selling us some very reasonably priced bicycles; the Kingsway Bike Project for the ongoing, very reasonable sales and remediation of bicycles and the friendly atmosphere they create; Mattocks Grindley Limited Accountants for their Independent Examination of our accounts; the Merseyside Coordination Group for Refugees and Asylum Seekers for their excellent support, information and advice, and all the individual donors who have supported us with money and/or goods and continue to do so regularly. Special mention and thanks go to Ashraf Hamido, Luigina Designoribus, the volunteers from A Better Tomorrow, Halton and within Trinity Safe Space, and to the Roman Catholic Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes and Halton Lea Library for housing the drop-ins and providing such a warm welcome - we would be lost without you!

Special thanks go to all our partners too, for their collaborative working, support, advice, referral routes and information shared. You have helped us assist and encourage our vulnerable people to become better assimilated within Halton.

Lastly, but by no means least, a big thank you to all our participants— staff,

volunteers, and service users— for your willingness to take part and contribute richly.



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Our vision for the future

That Trinity Safe Space will continue the vital work of helping asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants to become assimilated into the Halton communities, to have increased self-confidence and relevant knowledge, and with the on-going support of our partners, funders and donors, we will realise our ambitions. We hope we can count on you to help us!

If you would like further information, please visit the following:

website www.trinitysafespace.org

Facebook page www.facebook.com/trinitysafespace/

Email for bank account details for donations or general information

TSSHalton@gmail.com



Case study to demonstrate collaborative working with a local community arts venue, staff and volunteers

Following on from the successful collaboration with the Studio, (a local community arts venue), its staff and volunteers during our Government funded PARTNERS Project, when there were joint events and support during our adult activities, during this year there were two more world music events which were attended by our beneficiaries (who were given free tickets, paid for from PARTNERS Project funding), and local people. One was an evening of music from a variety of countries and the second was a very spiritual musical evening delivered by two men playing a sitar and drum. Both were very much appreciated by the audience.

In January 2025, some attended something they would have never experienced or heard of in their lives – the annual Wassail ceremony at the Studio, which celebrates an ancient custom pronouncing a blessing on a cider apple tree so that it will bear fruit that year. There was dressing up, singing, craft activities and a procession culminating in pouring cider onto the tree. They were fascinated and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Later on in the year we were very privileged to be part of a theatre production at the Studio, called Afloat, acted by people from an organisation which supports refugees and people seeking asylum, simulating a journey, fleeing from one country to another. This was followed by a question-and-answer session with the actors and production team in which our beneficiaries took part. It was a very powerful and emotional experience. We look forward to continuing our joint working in the future.



Accounts

We have no employees so the funding and donations we receive pay for services and items people need.

TRINITY SAFE SPACE Annual Accounts 2024-2025

Opening balance (from 2023-24) = £18,808.37

(includes carry forward: Cheshire & Merseyside Cancer Alliance = £1220 from 2023-24)

Income 2024-2025	Amount
Opening balance	18808.37
Our Halton Grant	10000.00
OHG for ESOL	10000.00
OHG for bikes	5000.00
Household Support Grant	3000.00
General	7751.20
Cash	190.00
Total	£54749.57

Total expenditure for 2024 -2025

EXPENDITURE	Total	OHG	HSG	General	CMCA
A Better Tomorrow	11980.00	10000.00		1980.00	
ESOL	11645.00	10000.00			1645.00
Clothing	2245.12			2245.12	
Food	3516.50		3000.00	516.50	
Travel	2290.00			1935.00	355.00
Room /Presbytery hire	5577.12			4383.52	1193.60
Bikes	5983.58	5000.00		983.58	
IT/Mobiles (phones, top-ups, website, domain name)	1011.86			1011.86	
Resources / Stationery (paper, cartridges, English books)	840.80			840.80	
Household items	739.91			739.91	
Insurance	255.84			255.84	
Accountants' fees	720.00			720.00	
ICO	40.00			40.00	
Total	43845.73	25000.00	3000	1562.13	3193.60

Our Halton Grants 2024-25 INCOME £25,000

EXPENDITURE	Total	OHG
A Better Tomorrow	10000.00	10000.00
ESOL	10000.00	10000.00

Pauline Ruth – September 2025

This report has been agreed and ratified electronically by the Board of Trustees in October 2025. A final and sincere thanks goes to them for their vision, commitment, dedication and support to achieve our mission of service to others.



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Trinity Safe Space Trustees during 2004 – 2005

Gillian Beswick	Pastoral Lead, Farnworth Methodist Church
Deacon Tim Coleman	Methodist Minister, Halton Trinity Methodist Church
Christine Godwin	Vice Chair of Governors, St Gerard's Roman Catholic Primary School, Widnes
Revd Mark Harwood	Methodist Minister, Trinity, Farnworth – Widnes and Cronton Methodist Churches
Yvonne Hedgecock	Treasurer. Senior Steward, Trinity Methodist/URC Church, Widnes
Pauline Ruth	Chair. Chair of Halton Safeguarding Faith Forum, Safeguarding Representative for the Roman Catholic Parish of St Wilfrid's, Widnes
Peter McCann	St Wilfrid's Catholic Parish, Widnes, Buildings Committee and Vision Group member

David Scott	Engineer - worked with asylum seekers and refugees in several countries
Janet Woods	Volunteer, Trinity Methodist/URC Church, Widnes
Revd Gill Younger	Vice Chair. Curate-in Charge, All Saints C of E Church, Daresbury
Associate member	
Ashraf Hamido Desouki	Managing Director and Manager, A Better Tomorrow, Halton

Our sincere thanks go to our specific funders/donors:



the Hygiene Bank – Widnes

Family and friends of Patrick “Paddy” Ruth	Frodsham Methodist Church
The Hurst Methodist Church, Kingsley	St Wilfrid’s Roman Catholic Parish, Widnes



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name

No (if any)

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date

01/04/2024

To

Period end date

31/03/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	7,941		-	7,941	9,218
Our Halton Community Grant	-	10,000	-	10,000	10,000
Our Halton Community Grant - bicycles	-	5,000	-	5,000	4,824
Our Halton Community Grant - ESOL	-	10,000	-	10,000	5,000
Household Support Fund	-	3,000	-	3,000	3,000
Halton & St Helens Cancer Alliance	-	2,000	-	2,000	1,000
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	7,941	30,000	-	37,941	33,042
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	7,941	30,000	-	37,941	33,042
A3 Payments					
A Better Tomorrow	1,980	10,000	-	11,980	9,800
ESOL	-	11,645	-	11,645	1,750
ESOL Healthy Living	-	-	-	-	3,940
Clothing	2,245	-	-	2,245	3,233
Food	516	3,000	-	3,516	3,489
Travel Costs	1,935	355	-	2,290	4,159
Toiletries	-	-	-	-	20
Bikes (Repairs+Accessories)	984	5,000	-	5,984	4,140
IT mobiles/ Top-ups	1,012	-	-	1,012	1,446
Stationery	-	-	-	-	88
Household	740	-	-	740	673
ESOL Books/ Resources	-	-	-	-	654
Translation Services	-	-	-	-	735
Independent Examination/ Accountants	720	-	-	720	1,140
ICO	40	-	-	40	40
Misc. Expenditure	6	-	-	6	111
Counselling	-	-	-	-	4,840
Counselling Supervision	-	-	-	-	870
Resources	841	-	-	841	25
Events/ Activities	-	-	-	-	11,888
LanguageLine	-	-	-	-	3,515
Insurance	256	-	-	256	171
Room Hire	4,383	1,194	-	5,577	2,366
Expenses	-	-	-	-	507
Refreshments	-	-	-	-	52
Sub total	15,658	31,194	-	46,852	59,652
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	15,658	31,194	-	46,852	59,652
Net of receipts/(payments)	7,717	1,194	-	8,911	- 26,610
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	16,904	1,904	-	18,808	45,418
Cash funds this year end	9,187	710	-	9,897	18,808

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		9,897	710	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	9,897	710	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	OK	OK

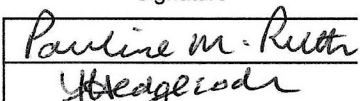
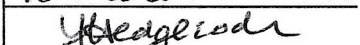
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

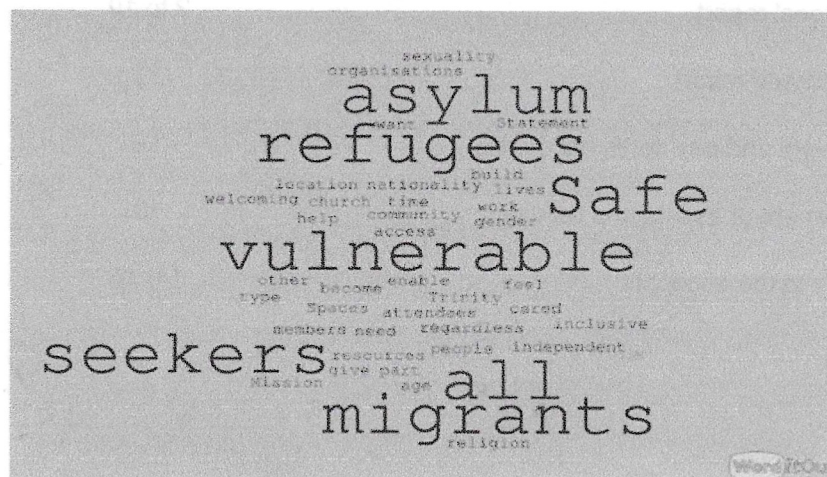
Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
 	PAULINE RUTH YVONNE HEDGECOCK	06/01/2026 06/01/2026

TRINITY SAFE SPACE

Charity number 1194939

Company number CE025469

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 March 2025



gmcas

Greater Merseyside Community
Accountancy Service

TRINITY SAFE SPACE

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 March 2025

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Statement of assets and liabilities	13
Notes to the accounts	14, 15

Prepared by the Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service

TRINITY SAFE SPACE

Trustees' report

The Trustees during the year were:

Name	Position
Gillian Beswick	Trustee
Deacon Tim Coleman	Trustee
Revd Mark Harwood	Trustee
Yvonne Hedgecock	Trustee
Pauline Ruth	Trustee
David Scott	Trustee
Janet Woods	Trustee
Revd Gill Younger	Trustee

Associate member

Ashraf Hamido Desouki A Better Tomorrow, Halton

Method of appointment

Election annually by AGM, or interim appointment by trustees until next AGM.

Principal address

c/o St. Bede's Presbytery
Appleton Village
WIDNES
Cheshire
WA8 6EL

Bankers

Natwest Bank plc

Governing document

CiO Registered 24th June 2021

Objects of the organisation

The relief of financial hardship amongst those seeking asylum, those granted refugee status and their dependants, and who reside in Halton, particularly by the provision of information, advice and guidance, utilising the expertise of partner organisations and the provision of material support where necessary.

The advancement of the education and training of those seeking asylum, those granted refugee status and their dependents in need thereof, so as to develop them in life and assist them to adapt within and be assimilated into the new community, particularly by the provision of english for speakers of other languages (ESOL), cultural awareness, information on school/college/university admissions and vocational training.

Independent examiner

on behalf of:

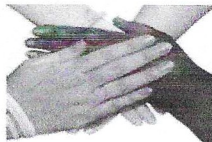
Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service

St Marie's
Lugsdale Road
Widnes
WA8 6DB

TRINITY SAFE SPACE

Trustees' report continued

The Trustees of Trinity Safe Space present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025.



Who are we?

In response by the faith sector in Halton, to the migration of Syrian refugees, people seeking asylum and an increase in numbers of vulnerable migrants into the borough, Trinity Safe Space, Widnes began its weekly drop-in in January 2019 with Trinity Safe Space, Runcorn following in September 2019. Both are managed by multi-faith volunteers and are now, since becoming a charity in June 2021, overseen by a Board of Trustees who meet quarterly. These are places where asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants meet, communicate with each other, improve their English, feel safe, supported and cared for; where many of their needs are met through signposting to external help or through advice and guidance from visiting organisations such as CHAWREC and Axxess Sexual Health practitioners, and where they are given essential items, information about the local area, support to register with health and other services and have the opportunity to socialise. Our objective is to integrate asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants into the local authority area, services, organisations and communities of Runcorn and Widnes and to make them more independent, wherever possible. There are currently no other groups in Runcorn and Widnes able to offer this multi-lingual, multicultural support (other than our significant partner, A Better Tomorrow, Halton). Trinity Safe Space's Trustees, in partnership with other organisations, do this by providing crucial items; by coordinating several organisations, ensuring they are available to communicate with service users; by creating and sustaining links with other areas and support sources, and by positively influencing key people.

Trinity Safe Space became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in June 2021 - its objects are as follows:

1. The relief of financial hardship amongst those seeking asylum, those granted refugee status and their dependants, and who reside in Halton, particularly by the provision of information, advice and guidance, utilising the expertise of partner organisations and the provision of material support where necessary
2. The advancement of the education and training of those seeking asylum, those granted refugee status and their dependants in need thereof, so as to develop them in life and assist them to adapt within and be assimilated into a new community, particularly by the provision of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Cultural Awareness, information on school/college/university admissions and vocational training

Helping Others

IN THEIR
GREAT TIME
?NEED



Our mission

Trinity Safe Space's Mission Statement is, 'We are part of a welcoming organisation, inclusive of all people regardless of age, gender, nationality, religion or sexuality, in a location where all attendees can feel safe and cared for. We work with other organisations so that asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants can access the type of help and support they want and need. We will give our time, support and resources to enable asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants to build their lives and become independent members of the community'.

TRINITY SAFE SPACE

Trustees' report continued



Our partners

Our most significant partner is A Better Tomorrow, Halton CiC, which was formed as a vitally important and successful community group in its own right, in 2018, by Ashraf Hamido, to address some of the challenges faced by people moving into the Borough, in a practical and sensitive way, through working closely with others. We purchase very effective services from A Better Tomorrow. Ashraf is also an Associate Member of our Trustee Board. Our other partners are: -

Halton Borough Council

Housing Solutions

Halton People into Jobs

Churches Together in Frodsham

the Hurst Methodist Church, Kingsley

Halton Safeguarding Faith Forum

the Studio, Widnes

Runcorn and District Foodbank

Widnes Foodbank

SHAP Ltd Housing

housing teams and associations

faith sector members

St Wilfrid's RC Parish, Widnes

the Kingsway Bike Club

Cheshire Constabulary

the Hygiene Bank – Widnes

Healthwatch Halton

Axess Sexual Health

Halton Citizens Advice Bureau - Runcorn and Widnes

Halton and St Helens VCA

the Reader

the Foundry Community Church, Widnes

Recharge and Restore

the British Red Cross

Refugee Women Connect

Halton Integrated Care System (formerly the Clinical Commissioning Group) Halton's Children's Centres/Family Hubs

Halton Libraries

Phil Cooke – optician

Runcorn Community Shop

Cheshire Halton and Warrington Race Equality Council (CHAWREC)

Sam's Diamonds Cancer Charity

Digital Arts Box CIC

Serco

Migrant Help.

TRINITY SAFE SPACE

Trustees' report continued



What do we do?

During the year 2024—2025, Trinity Safe Space has provided many services: -two drop-ins meeting weekly with refreshments; non-accredited English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) sessions; access to interpretation via A Better Tomorrow and online; help, information and support to vulnerable people; signposting to other organisations. We listen, we hear, and we provide human contact. We give practical help - we have given out food, essential items such as toiletries, bicycles, furniture, bedding,



clothes and shoes, household items, toys, items for babies, and countless more, many of which have been kindly donated by our supporters. Funding received from Halton's Our Halton Community Grant enabled us to purchase the services of A Better Tomorrow, Halton, to provide interpretation, cultural awareness training and support for attendees at both drop-ins. A further Our Halton Community Grant was used to provide the non accredited ESOL sessions in Runcorn and Widnes.

We had to move our drop-ins – to Halton Lea Library in Runcorn and to St Michael's Roman Catholic presbytery in Widnes, paying rental costs for both now.



Welfare calls and messages continue to be made or sent to contacts regularly, by A Better Tomorrow, Halton, and Trinity Safe Space volunteers, to ensure they are safe and well. Any urgent requests for help are sorted out by us or A Better Tomorrow, Halton, as soon as we can.



People are referred, where necessary, to other local organisations, for example the Halton Citizens Advice Bureau and Housing Solutions.

TRINITY SAFE SPACE

Trustees' report continued



We continue face-to-face sessions in Runcorn and Widnes, with one tutor, after using technological means of teaching during the Covid pandemic. The main vision for the ESOL sessions is that all residents for whom English is not a first language can access high quality English language so that they can acquire the language skills to enable them to participate in daily life. These language skills are central to giving people a democratic voice and supporting them to contribute to the society in which they live.

Students have been divided into beginners and next level. Rules, standards, procedures (including safeguarding) and methods were set out and a curriculum put together so the teacher and any volunteers who are doing one to one practice could follow.

During the year, the beginner group completed the first few modules and missing knowledge gaps were filled throughout, ensuring progression. The teacher spends time making sure everyone in the classes understands everything in the lessons and uses resources which make the lessons fun as well eg games with sounds. The next level group mixed and matched situations from other modules to practise and extend their knowledge and competence. As the course follows a "roll-on, roll off" model and is voluntary attendance, revision and plenty of practice play an important part in the lessons. All students were very enthusiastic. Some progressed onto college courses, and all grew in confidence and competence.

Spoken and written English are noticeably the most difficult, especially for the Arabic, Farsi/Persian, Tigrinya and some other languages' speakers as their sentence structure and grammar is very different and their written languages do not use the same script, with some reading from right to left.

Outcomes for ESOL students

- General improvement of language and communication skills
- Increased confidence to transfer learning into everyday situations
- Reduced isolation in communities through relations with other students, teachers, and volunteers
- Improved integration of families in local communities and their ability to access services, leading to more community cohesion
- Better mental health, wellbeing and self-esteem

The classes in Runcorn traditionally have larger numbers of students attending than those in Widnes. We were fortunate to be able to continue an extra class which particularly concentrated on medical terminology, how to make appointments and how to describe signs and symptoms of diseases, particularly cancer. Funding from the Cheshire and Merseyside Cancer Alliance Community Engagement VCSE Small Grants Programme was used to fund this.

Some individual sessions have also been delivered using volunteers, to help students progress.



We continued to liaise with residents at a local hotel on the outskirts of Runcorn, which, during this year, housed a mix of men, women and children. Some of them attended our Runcorn drop-in or made requests for clothes and baby items. Since the Covid pandemic, we have continued to liaise with partners through strategic groups to ensure we can feed in any comments from residents we are in contact with, to make their lived experience better, and we continue to have a supporting role with some who have moved from the hotel into Halton. We occasionally provided some residents with items requested, and signposted them to sources of information, advice and guidance.

TRINITY SAFE SPACE

Trustees' report continued



Storage

We have been and continue to be blessed with many donations of goods over the time we have been in existence, ranging from large items of furniture, bedding, curtains, clothes, shoes, pots, pans, crockery, bicycles, prams, baby items, toys to food. Storage continues to be an issue for us, as we have very little. We kept some items in Widnes Safe Space.



Funding applications and donations

As well as the grants mentioned above, Widnes Rotary gave us some funding which allowed us to pay travel expenses for people to get to and from foodbanks and we received a significant amount of money from the Household Support Grant, via Halton Borough Council, to purchase food vouchers from Aldi and Asda, cooking utensils and emergency food. Halton Children's Centres/Family hubs have helped with children's clothes and baby essential items, which are otherwise a drain on our resources. Both Foodbanks continue to honour vouchers we give out to our beneficiaries and to adapt their food parcels to be more culturally appropriate. The Hygiene Bank - Widnes also gave us donations of toiletries, sanitary products and household essentials.

Towards the end of March 2023, we received some funding from the Cheshire and Merseyside Cancer Alliance CVS Partnership Improving Communities awareness of Cancer VCSE Small Grants Programme with which we raised awareness within our clientele of the signs and symptoms of different cancers, through a very experienced and positive survivor, who has set up her own charity, ensuring they understood these through the use of interpreters, and encouraged early diagnosis and treatment, offering support from "buddies" to help them on their journey. Some of the spend from this paid for the interpreters and travel expenses, and the rest was spent on extra ESOL sessions, during 2024 – 2025, concentrating on medical issues, especially cancer.

We continue to receive individual donations of money from our supporters every month. Money has been given to us from Frodsham Methodist Church, some Frodsham residents and the Hurst Methodist Church in Kingsley donated money and goods - a special thank you to Stuart and Julie Clark from their congregation for their very generous personal donation. St Wilfrid's Roman Catholic Parish Widnes' Tuesday Club and their Union of Catholic Mothers gave us money as did Runcorn's Women's Institute. Several churches' congregations donated clothes, toiletries, trainers, cash and small electrical goods; Manchester City Council gave us a donation in lieu of our Chair of Trustees representing the Greater Merseyside's VCFSE on a northwest strategic board which discusses asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants, and cash donations have been given from the sale of many CDs. We are very grateful for everything we received.



Income and expenditure

For a summary of our income and how we have spent our grant funding and donations, from April 2024 to March 2025 please see our accounts. As we have no paid employees and do not have buildings' costs or overheads, the income we have is used solely to purchase goods and some services to benefit our service users.

TRINITY SAFE SPACE

Trustees' report continued

Personnel	Description	Number
Contacts of ours	Asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants in Halton with whom we have had contact (not including those in hotel)	760
Non accredited ESOL	Asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants in Halton receiving lessons face to face	46 new asylum seekers attended and 40 returners. 27 new refugees attended and 20 returners. 12 new vulnerable migrants attended and 4 returners.
Those receiving continued support	Asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants in Halton	297 new asylum seekers and 80 returners; 2 new refugees and 17 returners; 5 new vulnerable migrants and 15 returners
Trustees	Volunteers on the Board of Trustees from April 2023	8 plus 1 Associate
Non-accredited ESOL staff	Tutor who led sessions and volunteers who helped	1 and 3
Volunteers	Volunteers who carried out other TSS related activities including ABT (excluding trustees who also volunteer in drop-ins and other areas)	50
Deliveries/calls	Description	Number
Essential items	Clothes, toiletries, shoes/trainers, sanitary products, school uniform, bedding, baby items, towels, curtains, small electrical items, crockery, cutlery and other essentials	Too many to count
Bicycles	Bicycles bought or donated then delivered to individuals	38 bought and 4 donated
Mobile phones	Good value smart phones bought or donated and then given to individuals	6 bought 4 donated
Data top ups	Money to buy data top-ups or top ups on cards – the number of these given to individuals	8 data top-ups of £10 each
Sim cards	Sim cards donated to us then given out	48
Calls or messages	Welfare calls or messages made or sent to individuals by TSS volunteers and ABT staff and volunteers - weekly average based on 2 hours a week	15 a week

TRINITY SAFE SPACE

Trustees' report continued



Review and future plans

We completed a review of the year before April 2025 which included detailed monitoring reports for the last of the Faith New Deal funding, the Our Halton Community Grant funding and the usage of the general monies. We are currently looking for funding to continue many of the components of the PARTNERS Project in a community/family hub. We were successful in securing Our Halton Community Grant funding for another year and some Household Support funding to buy food and cooking utensils.

Continue to work collaboratively with partners

We value our collaboration with our past, present and any future partners and will strive to continue to work/volunteer together for the good of those we serve.



Special thanks

Special thanks go to Halton Borough Council's Our Halton Community Grant Scheme, for funding the Trinity Safe Space Charity for support to its attendees, Cultural Awareness, the purchase of food and other items, and the non-accredited ESOL sessions, during the year 2024—2025. Special thanks to both Foodbanks for their flexibility and ongoing support; Widnes Rotary; the Household Support Fund, for funding us or donating items; Tesco supermarket, Widnes, for bulk donations of end of season lines and stock they cannot sell any longer; Halton Citizens Advice Bureau - Runcorn and Widnes for close partnership working and support; the Hygiene Bank – Widnes for donations; SHAP Housing Association for finding and delivering household items for us and supporting our drop-ins with one of their staff members; the Walton Lea Project for their welcoming attitude and selling us some very reasonably priced bicycles; the Kingsway Bike Project for the ongoing, very reasonable sales and remediation of bicycles and the friendly atmosphere they create; Mattocks Grindley Limited Accountants for their Independent Examination of our accounts; the Merseyside Coordination Group for Refugees and Asylum Seekers for their excellent support, information and advice, and all the individual donors who have supported us with money and/or goods and continue to do so regularly. Special mention and thanks go to Ashraf Hamido, Luigina Designoribus, the volunteers from A Better Tomorrow, Halton and within Trinity Safe Space, and to the Roman Catholic Parish of St Wilfrid, Widnes and Halton Lea Library for housing the drop-ins and providing such a warm welcome - we would be lost without you!

Special thanks go to all our partners too, for their collaborative working, support, advice, referral routes and information shared. You have helped us assist and encourage our vulnerable people to become better assimilated within Halton.

Lastly, but by no means least, a big thank you to all our participants— staff, volunteers, and service users— for your willingness to take part and contribute richly.

TRINITY SAFE SPACE

Trustees' report continued



Our vision for the future

That Trinity Safe Space will continue the vital work of helping asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants to become assimilated into the Halton communities, to have increased self-confidence and relevant knowledge, and with the on-going support of our partners, funders and donors, we will realise our ambitions. We hope we can count on you to help us!

If you would like further information, please visit the following:

website www.trinitysafespace.org

Facebook page www.facebook.com/trinitysafespace/

Email for bank account details for donations or general information TSSHalton@gmail.com



Case study to demonstrate collaborative working with a local community arts venue, staff and volunteers

Following on from the successful collaboration with the Studio, (a local community arts venue), its staff and volunteers during our Government funded PARTNERS Project, when there were joint events and support during our adult activities, during this year there were two more world music events which were attended by our beneficiaries (who were given free tickets, paid for from PARTNERS Project funding), and local people. One was an evening of music from a variety of countries and the second was a very spiritual musical evening delivered by two men playing a sitar and drum. Both were very much appreciated by the audience.

In January 2025, some attended something they would have never experienced or heard of in their lives – the annual Wassail ceremony at the Studio, which celebrates an ancient custom pronouncing a blessing on a cider apple tree so that it will bear fruit that year. There was dressing up, singing, craft activities and a procession culminating in pouring cider onto the tree. They were fascinated and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Later on in the year we were very privileged to be part of a theatre production at the Studio, called Afloat, acted by people from an organisation which supports refugees and people seeking asylum, simulating a journey, fleeing from one country to another. This was followed by a question-and-answer session with the actors and production team in which our beneficiaries took part. It was a very powerful and emotional experience. We look forward to continuing our joint working in the future.

TRINITY SAFE SPACE

Independent examiner's report on the accounts of TRINITY SAFE SPACE for the year ending 31 March 2025

I report on the accounts of the charity set out on pages 12 to 15.

Respective responsibilities of the Management Committee and the examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

- ☐ examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- ☐ to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioner under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act: and
- ☐ to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- ☐ to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
 - ☐ to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
- have not been met; or

2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Jane Williams
MAAT
Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service
St Marie's
Lugsdale Road
Widnes
WA8 6DB

TRINITY SAFE SPACE
Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ending 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 Unrestricted funds £	2025 Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
Receipts					
Grants and donations	(2)	7,941	30,000	37,941	33,042
Bank Interest received		-	-	-	-
Other Income		-	-	-	-
Total receipts		7,941	30,000	37,941	33,042
Payments					
A Better Tomorrow		1,980	10,000	11,980	9,800
ESOL		-	11,645	11,645	1,750
ESOL Healthy Living		-	-	-	3,940
ESOL Books & Resources		-	-	-	654
Clothing		2,245	-	2,245	3,233
Food		516	3,000	3,516	3,489
Travel Costs		1,935	355	2,290	4,159
Toiletries		-	-	-	20
Bikes (repairs & Accessories)		984	5,000	5,984	4,140
IT/Mobiles/top-ups		1,012	-	1,012	1,446
Stationary		-	-	-	88
Household		740	-	740	673
Translation Services		-	-	-	735
ICO		40	-	40	40
Miscellaneous		6	-	6	111
Counselling		-	-	-	4,840
Counselling Supervision		-	-	-	870
Resources		841	-	841	25
Events/Activities		-	-	-	11,888
Language Line		-	-	-	3,515
Insurance		256	-	256	171
Room Hire		4,383	1,194	5,577	2,366
Expenses		-	-	-	507
Refreshments		-	-	-	52
Governance Costs					
Independent Examination		720	-	720	1,140
Total payments		15,658	31,194	46,852	59,652
Net receipts / (payments)		(7,717)	(1,194)	(8,911)	(26,610)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Cash fund balances brought forward		16,904	1,904	18,808	45,418
Cash fund balances carried forward		9,187	710	9,897	18,808

TRINITY SAFE SPACE

Balance sheet

as at 31 March 2025

	2025 Unrestricted £	2025 Restricted £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Assets	-	-	-	-
Total fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Current Assets				
Debtors and prepayments	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	9,187	710	9,897	18,808
Total current assets	9,187	710	9,897	18,808
Current liabilities:				
amounts falling due within one year				
Creditors and accruals	-	-	-	-
Total current liabilities	-	-	-	-
Net current assets / (liabilities)	9,187	710	9,897	18,808
Total assets less current liabilities	9,187	710	9,897	18,808
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	-	-	-	-
Net assets	9,187	710	9,897	18,808
Funds				
Restricted Funds		710	710	1,904
Unrestricted funds	9,187		9,187	16,904
Total Funds	9,187	710	9,897	18,808

The financial statements were approved at a meeting of the trustees held on and signed on its behalf by:

Y Hedgecock 06/01/2026

Yvonne Hedgecock
Trustee

TRINITY SAFE SPACE

Notes to the accounts

for the year ending 31 March 2025

1 Accounting Policies

a Basis of accounting

The Trustees have taken advantage of section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and have prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

b Taxation

As a registered charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

c Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:

Unrestricted general funds

These are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds

These are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Designated funds

These are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

TRINITY SAFE SPACE

Notes to the accounts continued for the year ending 31 March 2025

2 Grants and Donations

	2025 Unrestricted funds £	2025 Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
Our Halton Grant: A Better Tomorrow	-	10,000	10,000	10,000
Our Halton Grant: ESOL	-	10,000	10,000	5,000
Our Halton Grant: Bike project	-	5,000	5,000	4,824
Halton BC: Household Support Grant	-	3,000	3,000	3,000
Halton St Helens: Cancer Alliance	-	2,000	2,000	-
Donations	7,941	-	7,941	10,218
	<u>7,941</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>37,941</u>	<u>33,042</u>

2a Movements of restricted and general funds

	Opening Balance	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Closing Balance
General Fund	<u>16,904</u>	<u>7,941</u>	<u>15,652</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,193</u>
Restricted Funds					
Cancer Alliance	1,220	2,000	3,194	-	26
OHG: Bikes	684	5,000	5,000	-	684
OHG: ABT	-	10,000	10,000	-	-
OHG: ESOL	-	10,000	10,000	-	-
Halton BC: HSG	-	3,000	3,000	-	-
Restricted fund totals	<u>1,904</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>31,194</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>710</u>

3 Trustee remuneration and expenses

	£	£
Total amount paid	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

No trustees received any expenses during the period. (2024: None)

4 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions to report during the accounting period.

5 Staffing

We have no employees so the funding and donations we receive pay for services and items people need.