



**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

**From** 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021 **Period start date To** 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 **Period end date**

**Charity name:** Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees

**Charity registration number:** 1195256

## Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>Charitable objects: To provide relief to refugees and their dependants and asylum seekers and their dependants, in particular but not exclusively those coming to the Cheltenham area by the provision of support services so as to advance them in life and assist them with the adaptation within a new community.</p> <p>Our aims as a charity: To foster compassion and cooperation between different communities in Cheltenham, helping local people understand the global refugee crisis and what people experience on their resettlement journey.</p> <p>To work with GARAS (Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers), local authorities, and other partners including organisations and businesses, to help refugee communities truly grow and flourish.</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.1 BBC V 9	<p>As above, with the objects of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preserving and protecting their physical and mental health;</li><li>• Advancing their education and training and to advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum;</li><li>• Relieving them from financial hardship and unemployment; and</li><li>• Assisting in the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life of those persons who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances</li></ul> <p>The Charity carries out these objects by:</p> <p>Running a weekly 'Hub' meeting open to all where refugees and asylum seekers and their dependents can come to meet others, meet residents, receive warmth, conversation and practical guidance, such as bike provision and repairs, signposting of the local area, as well as</p>

		<p>entertainment and introduction to other local peers.</p> <p>Running a monthly Welcome Cafe so that refugees, asylum seekers and their dependents can come together to receive relief, socialise, share food and meet members of the local community. This aims to improve wellbeing and relieve hardship.</p> <p>Carrying out other activities and enhancements as advised and to provide help and support for emotional and physical wellbeing, such as football training, english language classes, support with the UK driving test and other practical support, such as digital infrastructure.</p> <p>The Charity also aims to raise awareness of the situation of refugees and asylum seekers locally and runs events and activities such as book clubs, film screenings and quiz nights to engage local people.</p> <p>By focusing on these core areas we achieve our strategic purpose to carry out public benefit as defined by the Charity Commission.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	<p>The objects of the Trust are to provide relief to refugees and their dependants and asylum seekers and their dependants, and to advance them in life and assist them with the adaptation within a new community. The constitution contains the following statement: "Nothing in this constitution shall authorise an application of the property of the CIO for the purposes which are not charitable in accordance with section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and section 2 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008."</p> <p>The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.</p>

#### **Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
	Para 1.38	Our Charity is entirely run and our work entirely delivered by volunteers. We have over 122 active volunteers from across Cheltenham and are

Contribution made by volunteers		managed by five trustees on an entirely voluntary basis.
Other		

## Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p><b>Support (inc. Hub and Community Café)</b> This was a year when we finally emerged from the restrictions of Covid and could fully focus on face-to face activities again. We were able to re-start our weekly drop-in; "<b>The Hub</b>" with its mixture of refreshments, chat, games, practical support (e.g. bike repairs) and lots of laughter. Visibly and anecdotally we know this improves the wellbeing of attendees, provides relief from pressures and strains and gives some practical relief (e.g. bike repairs). We see a large number of repeat visits, relationships being formed and Hub numbers remain consistent.</p> <p>The monthly <b>Welcome Café</b> has also been re-established and the <b>Welcome Picnic</b> in the summer returned for the fifth year with approx. 50 people travelling to attend, to play, relax and socialise. We saw people enjoy themselves and feel welcome in the town. For a second year in a row, we worked with the <b>Ernest Cook Trust</b> for summer activities for teenagers.</p> <p>The opening of 3 hotels to accommodate newly arrived asylum seekers (one of which is a few miles from the town centre) meant an increased need for <b>bikes</b> and we have a small group of volunteers sourcing and renovating bikes and regular maintenance sessions as part of the weekly Hub. Practical assistance enables refugees and asylum seekers to have greater control and agency in their situation and helps to improve wellbeing.</p> <p>Activities now include regular <b>football</b> training (and the occasional match), and visits to watch Cheltenham Town (courtesy of free tickets supplied by the club, via our Charity). This teamwork and physical activity helps to improve physical and mental wellbeing.</p> <p>We have worked with Cheltenham Volunteer Teachers (CVT) to develop English <b>conversation classes</b> initially for adults from the resettled families, but increasingly for Ukrainian guests and for people seeking asylum. These skills help to improve communication, and thus opportunities and integration.</p> <p><b>Digital</b> We continue to provide asylum seekers with IT</p>

		<p><b>equipment, wi-fi</b> and <b>phone top-ups</b> to enable people to keep in touch with friends, family and lawyers as well as study, helping to improve their circumstances emotionally as well as practically.</p> <p><b>Events</b>  A highlight of the year, in terms of public awareness, was the visit of Little Amal to Cheltenham in <b>Refugee Week</b>. Little Amal is the 12-foot puppet of a 10 year old Syrian refugee child who has become a global symbol of human rights, especially those of refugees. Her journeys are 'festivals of art and hope' and have taken place around the world. We helped organise her visit with the Everyman, Cheltenham Festivals and Cheltenham Borough Council and we raised awareness of the visit in the town, leading to a spectacular turnout in the town centre to welcome Little Amal and draw attention to the refugee crisis.</p> <p>We have taken other opportunities to get our cause known and to raise awareness and empathy in the town – through <b>quiz nights</b>, taking-over the stewarding of the Pittville <b>ParkRun</b> and a mindfulness event during <b>Refugee Week</b>. The success of this can, perhaps, be demonstrated in the number of volunteers we have and times this year we have been picked as the chosen charity for local companies and events, and for whose support we have been very grateful.</p>
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#### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	<p>One of our objectives was to hold reserves to support our core purpose. Since July 2021 with significant fundraised income and interest in our cause we are now in a position to set up reserves.</p> <p>As income has increased we recognise the need to be more ambitious with our spending, and are planning for this in the coming year as we develop.</p>
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

## Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>Financial position is secure - currently no reserves, no deficit, limited financial uncertainty ahead.</p> <p>In this reporting period the Charity has continued to grow from strength to strength, attracting donations and goodwill from local people and businesses as the war in Ukraine, public opinion and global attention on the situation has grown, alongside more temporary holding centres for asylum seekers locally. We have therefore had more donations than we have been able to spend, and as we grow as a small charity we intend to redress the balance through an increase in our activities and financial outlay on support infrastructure (e.g. bikes, digital relief) in the future. As a volunteer-run charity we face some capacity issues scaling up our activities, but have a development plan to address this, including an increase in volunteer commitments and raised awareness in the town, to enable more support to deliver our charitable objects in partnership.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees is preparing a Reserves Policy to be adopted in 2023 to enable us to continue to undertake our core charitable objects should the fundraising climate change.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	0
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees is preparing a Reserves Policy to be adopted in 2023 in line with its charity development.
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	No funds in deficit
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	No uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	

Other		

## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	CWR has a constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Apart from the first charity trustees, every appointed trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

## Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees
Other name the charity uses	CWR
Registered charity number	1195256
Charity's principal address	CWR c/o Maggie Powell 4 Shaftesbury Hall, St Georges Place, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 3PX





## Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

### Additional information (optional)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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## Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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## Other optional information


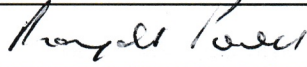
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## Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

	
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Full name(s)

NATHALIE GENES	MARGARET POWELL
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Position (eg  
Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chair of Core Group	SECRETARY of CWS GROUP
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Date

11/7/2023
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Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees

Charity No

1195256

## Report for the Financial Year 2021-22

Period start date Jul-21  
(date of charity registration)

To

Period end date Sep-22

Starting Balance: £8,107.01

Closing Balance: £19,274.22

### Income

Source	Description	Actual
<b>Donations</b>		<b>£8,323</b>
Private donations		£1,850
Donations via website		£2,834
Awesome women's group funded by Everyman		£240 >>>
Corporate donations		£2,898
Football team start up fund		£500 >>>
<b>Grants and Trusts</b>		<b>£1,865 &gt;&gt;&gt;</b>
Digital Poverty fundraiser		£1,865
Barnwood Trust		£0
<b>Fundraising at Events</b>		<b>£11,293</b>
Give as you live		£1,619 <<<
10k		£575
Literature festival		£184 <<<
Christmas Carol Event		£110 <<<
Refugee Week	+ the walk with Amal	£441 <<<
Stand up for Ukraine event		£5,092

### Expenditure

Item	Description	Actual
<b>Support (inc. Hub &amp; Community cafe)</b>		<b>£5,131</b>
Expenses for the Hub		£648
Expenses for Community Cafe		£357
Expenses for Awesome Womens Group		£210
Eid Party		£0
Summer Picnic		£259
Asylum Seekers accommodation		£40
Essentials	Clothing and food	£460
Football team	equipment & pitch hire	£864
Ernest Cook Trust	woodland workshops	£640
Bikes	including a repair kit	£1,168
Transport		£484
<b>Digital</b>		<b>£3,690</b>
Wi-Fi		£335
Phone top ups		£350
Laptops		£3,006
<b>Events</b>		<b>£807</b>
Further Together		£0
Literature festival		£116
Christmas Carol Event		£0
Refugee Week		£119
Montpellier Fiesta	stall costs & activities	
Street stall	licence	£30

		<i>Expenditure at Events continued</i>		<i>Actual</i>
Leckhampton open gardens	£1,527	Promotion	Printing	£38
Cotswold Beer Festival	£625	Volunteer social		£0
United Reform Church	£565	Volunteer t-shirts		£504
Izzy Dean	£302	Conversation classes		£31
Highbury Congregation	£252	Stationary		£31
		Admin costs		£540
		Zoom Subscription/venue		£173
		Meeting refreshments		£0
		Website		£235
		Public Liability Insurance		£131
		DBS checks		£0
		Subtotal		£10,198
		Bank charges		£115
<b>Total</b>	<b>£21,481</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>£10,314</b>