



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1st October 2022 **Period start date** **To** 30th September 2023 **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">• Preserving and protecting their physical and mental health;• 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;• Relieving them from financial hardship and unemployment; and• 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 <p>The Charity carries out these objects by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Running a weekly 'Hub' drop in where asylum seekers and those who have been given leave to remain can come to

		<p>meet others, meet local residents, receive warmth, conversation and practical support (such as bike provision and repairs), signposting of the local area, as well as entertainment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Running a monthly Welcome Cafe so that refugees, asylum-seeking families can come together to receive relief, socialise, share food and meet members of the local community. This aims to improve wellbeing and relieve hardship. - 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. - The Charity also aims to raise awareness of the situation of refugees and asylum seekers locally through a monthly newsletter and social media presence. It also runs events and activities such as book clubs, film screenings and quiz nights to engage local people. <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	N/A
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	N/A
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	Our Charity is entirely run and our work entirely delivered by volunteers. We have over 80 active volunteers from across Cheltenham and are managed by five trustees on an entirely voluntary basis.
Other		N/A

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>Support (inc. Hub and Community Café) The monthly Welcome Café remained our main support for refugee and, increasingly, asylum-seeking families with food, conversation and activities for children. It was valued as a place of fun and friendship. Associated with this was our Annual Summer Picnic, and an informal picnic linked to the Lives of Colour Culture Fest. There was a trip to the Christmas pantomime.</p> <p>Much of our focus was on the growing number of asylum-seekers with town centre accommodation opening for 80 men, in addition to the single people and families housed in a hotel some two miles away, and the people already in shared houses. Weekly numbers attending "The Hub" averaged 40. As well as the opportunity to relax and have fun, with food, the bike workshop continued to operate – renovating second-hand bikes and repairing ones already given out. An asylum-seeking barber set up a small area to cut hair. At other times, the numbers (both men and women) attending football training grew and a photography project developed. We were able to begin to sign-post people to volunteering opportunities.</p> <p>We observed these activities and opportunities benefitting physical and emotional health. We were told that these activities provided "a bubble of joy" at an otherwise stressful time. Some told us how important it was for them to "lose the label" of asylum seeker and be themselves.</p> <p>We have worked with Cheltenham Volunteer Teachers (CVT) to develop English classes (for</p>

		<p>both refugees and asylum seekers). The spin-off <i>Driving Theory Test class</i> continues to be popular and successful.</p> <p>We continued to raise awareness of the wider issues to local community, with our monthly Newsletter reaching 900 subscribers, our Instagram page having 1000 followers and Facebook nearly 2000. We ran a Book Club focussing on refugee literature and had a film night showing a film about the lives of asylum-seekers.</p> <p>We have continued to get our name known in the town through <i>Quiz Nights</i> and offering to steward the local Parkrun as well as through our activities. This has contributed to an increasing number of businesses and community groups making donations and fund-raising for us. For the first time, we received a significant grant from the Barnwood Trust enabling us to provide digital connectivity, bike accessories and parts, and equipment and boots for the football.</p> <p>We continue to develop important working partnerships with churches, the Everyman Theatre and the University of Gloucestershire. We continue to work closely with GARAS, have growing contact with Cheltenham Borough Council and have been invited to join the County Council-led Migrant Welfare Group.</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	N/A
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	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.
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	N/A
Other		N/A

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 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 adopted a Reserves Policy on 20th September 2023 to enable us to continue to undertake our core charitable objects should the fundraising climate change.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£27,780
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
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		
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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) St Wardell | Margaret Power

Full name(s) JOPTHE WARDELL | MARGARET POWER

Position (eg
Secretary, Chair, etc) CHAIR | SECRETARY

Date 20.7.2024



Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees

Charity No

1195256

Report for the Financial Year 2022-23

Period start date

Oct-22

To

Period end date

Sep-23

Starting Balance:

£19,274.22

Current Balances

Reliance

£12,143.25

including petty cash:

£50

Co-operative

£15,586.28

Income				Expenditure			
Source	Description	Actual	Budgeted	Item	Description	Actual	Budgeted
Donations		£9,332	£4,680	Support (inc. Hub & Community cafe)		£11,944	£20,879
Private donations		£4,046	£1,000	Expenses for the Hub		£1,488	£2,460
Donations via website		£1,135	£1,500	Expenses for Community Cafe		£1,138	£2,015
AWG funded by Everyman		£105	£180 >>>	Expenses for AWG		£300	£350
Corporate donations		£0	£2,000	Eid Party		£0	£100
Cheltenham Ladies College		£3,146	£0	Aug-23 Summer Picnic		£702	£461
Payroll giving		£400	£0	Asylum Seekers accommodation		£63	£1,500
				Essentials	Clothing and food	£630	£1,200
				Gym memberships	x10	£0	£2,440
				Swim passes		£0	£650
				Football team	equipment & pitch hire	£1,701	£1,780
				Ernest Cook Trust	woodland workshops	£0	£1,000
Bike sale		£500	>>>	Bikes	including a repair kit	£5,732	£6,508
				Transport		£191	£415
Grants and Trusts		£16,128	£16,510	Digital		£5,132	£9,860
Digital Poverty fundraiser		£618	£1,000 >>>	Wi-Fi		£786	£3,960
Barnwood Trust		£15,510	£15,510 >>>	Phone top ups		£220	£3,600
				Laptops		£3,620	£2,300
				Mobile phones		£505	£0
Fundraising at Events (a breakdown)		£792	£2,880	Events		£663	£2,751
Cookbook sales			£1,200	Cookbook	Initial print run	£0	£400
Running Fundraiser		£0		Running Fundraiser	Poster printing & vests	£267	£80

Fundraising at Events (a breakdown) continued		Actual	Budgeted	Expenditure at Events continued		Actual	Budgeted
Christmas Carol Event		£0	£60 >>>	Dec-22	Xmas Carol Event Hot drinks & printing she	£0	£60
Refugee Week		£384	£130 >>>	Jun-23	Refugee Week	£0	£400
Montpellier Fiesta	cancellation refund	£30	£90 >>>	Jul-23	Montpellier Fiesta Stall costs & activities	£30	£160
Quiz		£379	£200	Jul-23	Quiz	£47	£100
AGM			£200		Football match	£0	£70
					Photography project	£0	£276
					Promotion Printing	£218	£225
Giveasyoulive		£1,095	£1,000		Replacement banner	£0	£500
Gloucestershire Humanists		£536			Volunteer social	£0	£100
Quiz donations (July 2022)		£175			Volunteer t-shirts	£0	£280
Grangefield Primary School		£72			Badges	£100	£100
Giftaid		£313			Conversation classes	£466	£1,525
					Resources Books & Stationary	£416	£1,225
					PAT testing equipment	£50	£50
					Refreshments	£0	£50
					Admin costs	£592	£689
					Zoom Subscription/v€ Core group meetings/AGI	£167	£173
					Meeting refreshments	£59	£50
					Website	£235	£235
					Public Liability Insurance	£131	£131
					DBS checks	£0	£100
					Subtotal	£18,797	£35,704
		£0			Contingency @ 10%	£96	£3,350
Total		£27,348	£25,070		Total	£18,893	£39,053

£50



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees	Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees		
On accounts for the year ended	30 September 2023	Charity no (if any)	1195256
Set out on pages	1 - 2 <small>(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)</small>		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **30/09/2023**.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

The charity's gross income exceeded £25,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of ICAEW.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:  Date: 29/07/2024

Name: Felicity Sang

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): FCA

Address: Hazlewoods LLP, Staverton Court, Staverton, GL51 0UX

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

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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)

SK Wardell

Full name(s)

SOPHIE KATE WARDELL

Position (eg
Secretary, Chair, etc)

CHAIR

Date

30 JULY 2024