

MANCHESTER REFUGEE SUPPORT NETWORK

England & Wales · Charity number 1196560

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2021-11-12

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 129 Princess Road
Manchester
M14 4RB

Phone 01618680777

Email belay@mrsn.org.uk

Website www.mrsn.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 1. TO ADVANCE EDUCATION AND RELIEVE FINANCIAL HARDSHIP AMONGST THOSE SEEKING ASYLUM AND THOSE GRANTED REFUGEE STATUS PARTICULARLY BY THE PROVISION OF LEGAL AND OTHER ADVICE.2. TO SUPPORT AND PROMOTE THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH OF ASYLUM SEEKERS, REFUGEES AND THEIR DEPENDENT.3. TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF THOSE GRANTED REFUGEE STATUS AND THEIR DEPENDANTS IN NEED THEREOF SO AS TO ADVANCE THEM IN LIFE AND ASSIST THEM TO ADAPT WITHIN A NEW COMMUNITY. 4. TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL ABOUT THE ISSUES RELATING TO REFUGEES AND THOSE SEEKING ASYLUM.5. 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.6. TO RELIEVE THE EFFECTS OF FINANCIAL POVERTY ON REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS THROUGH THE PROVISION OF TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION.

Activities: At MRSN, we help asylum seekers and refugees get the basic support they need to live with dignity. We strive to help them build safe, happy and productive lives in the UK. Our aims are: To support refugees to access services and opportunities on an equal basis, in order to prevent all forms of poverty and allow individuals to fulfill their potential To educate refugees and asylum seekers on

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Recreation
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Bolton
- Bury
- Manchester City
- Oldham
- Rochdale
- Salford City
- Stockport
- Tameside
- Trafford
- Wigan

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£474,413	£515,755	-	-
2024-03-31	£705,190	£515,212	£518,542	11
2023-03-31	£484,138	£432,997	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
AHMED MOHAMED	Chair	2023-12-15
Addisu Tewolde		2022-11-25
Amina Sayid		2023-12-15
Mike Mpofu		2022-11-25
Sadia Muminovic		2023-12-15
Selamawit Reda		2023-12-15
Zahid Khan		2023-12-15

MANCHESTER REFUGEE SUPPORT NETWORK

England & Wales - Charity number 1196560

Accounts

MANCHESTER REFUGEE SUPPORT NETWORK

CHARITY REGISTRATION NO:1196560

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST MARCH 2025**

INDEX

Page	
1-7	Trustees Annual Report
8	Independent Examiners Report
9	Statement of Financial Activities
10	Balance Sheet
11	Statement of Cash Flows
12-20	Notes to the Accounts
appendix	Chair & Manager's Report

Manchester Refugee Support Network

Report of the trustees for the Year Ended 31st March 2025

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2025. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Reference and administrative information

Charity Name: Manchester Refugee Support Network

Charity Number: 1196560

Trustees

Mike Mpofu

Ahmed Mohamud

Addisu Tewelde

Amina Said

Sadia Muminovic

Zahid Kahan

Selamawit Reda

Key Personnel

A scheme of delegation is in place and the CEO, Belay Kashay has responsibility for the day to day operational management of the organisation, individual supervision of the staff and also ensuring that the staff continue to develop their skills and working practices to ensure high quality service provision.

Principal Office

129 Princess Road

Moss Side

Manchester

M14 4RB

Independent Examiners

Hilton Jones Chartered Certified Accountant

Hollinwood Business Centre

Albert Street

Oldham

Lancashire

OL8 3QL

Manchester Refugee Support Network

Bankers

NatWest Bank
438 Barlow Moor Road
Chorlton-cum-Hardy
Manchester
M21 0BR

Structure, governance and management

The organisation is a charitable incorporated organisation and was registered as a charity on 12th November 2021, and is governed under its Constitution.

The Charity took over the assets and activities of Manchester Refugee Support Network, an unincorporated charity number 1109990 on 1st April 2022.

Appointment of trustees

The charity trustees will be elected by the membership with one half retiring from office at each AGM. Those trustees can make themselves available for re-appointment. The charity must have between 3 and 8 trustees.

Trustee induction and training

Following their election, new trustees are provided with Governance training covering:

- The obligations of Management Committee members and signposting to relevant Charity Commission publications.
- Current agenda items for Management Committee meetings.
- The main documents and policies which set out the operational framework for the charity, including the Constitution.
- The finance and funding of the organisation including the Finance Policy, Strategy and Plan as well as the latest independently audited accounts.
- Business Plan and future objectives.

Membership

Full Membership of MRSN is open to all properly constituted refugee community organisations in Greater Manchester who have charitable objectives, support the aims of MRSN, have had an AGM in the last 15 months and are refugee led. Associate Membership of MRSN is open to any adult who is interested in furthering the work of MRSN. Only full paid up members have the right to vote at Annual or Special General Meetings.

Each refugee community organisation constitutes a single member of MRSN and nominates a representative to vote on its behalf at any Annual General Meeting or any other Special General Meetings of the membership, including the election of the Management Committee.

Manchester Refugee Support Network

Objectives and activities

- To advance education and relieve financial hardship amongst those seeking asylum and those granted refugee status particularly by the provision of legal and other advice.
- To support and promote the physical and mental health of asylum seekers, refugees and their dependants.
- To advance the education and training of those granted refugee status and their dependants in need thereof so as to advance them in life and assist them to adapt within a new community.
- To advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.
- The provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life of those persons in need of such facilities by reason of their age, race, gender, religion, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances.
- To relieve the effects of financial poverty on refugees and asylum seekers through the provision of temporary accommodation.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives, in planning future activities, and setting the policies for the year.

The charity furthers its charitable purposes for the public benefit through

- Community development services to build capacity within refugee community organisations and to support the delivery of the key priorities enshrined in the Refugee Charter for Manchester
- Legal advice and support to help people affected by poverty, unemployment, homelessness and immigration status
- Volunteer programmes to provide meaningful work experiences and training to refugees and other members of the local community to enhance their employment prospects and to extend the reach of MRSN's advice and other activities
- Provision of temporary accommodation and hardship support

A review of our achievement and performance: how our activities delivered public benefit

In line with the Charities Act 2011, the Trustees of the Manchester Refugee Support Network (MRSN) ensure that all activities and services are designed and delivered with clear public benefit at their core. When planning each year's programme, the Trustees give careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

During the 2024–2025 financial year, MRSN continued to provide a wide range of services that directly support refugees, people seeking asylum, and the wider community across Greater Manchester. Our work not only meets immediate needs but also promotes long-term integration, equality, and social cohesion.

Manchester Refugee Support Network

Accessibility and Inclusivity

All of our services are provided free of charge, ensuring accessibility to those who are often financially excluded. We actively remove barriers by offering support in multiple languages and by recognising and addressing the travel difficulties our clients face. This inclusive approach ensures that the most vulnerable members of society are not excluded from receiving essential advice and support.

Core Services and Impact

- **Advice and Advocacy:** We remain the largest organisation providing specialist advice and advocacy for refugees and people seeking asylum in Greater Manchester. Through this service, thousands of individuals have been supported to access housing, legal aid, welfare benefits, and healthcare.
- **Integration Support:** Our programmes help individuals and families to settle into their new communities, access education and employment, and build the confidence and skills needed to rebuild their lives.
- **Community Cohesion and Awareness:** By engaging with the wider public, delivering training, and promoting awareness of refugee issues, MRSN strengthens understanding and mutual respect. This benefits not only refugees and people seeking asylum but the whole community by fostering a more cohesive and inclusive society.
- **Policy, Legislation, and Advocacy Work:** We influence local and national discussions on refugee and asylum issues, ensuring that the voices of those with lived experience are heard. This work helps to advance human rights, challenge discrimination, and reduce destitution.

Outcomes and Achievements

Our services in 2024–2025 directly improved lives by enabling individuals to secure stable housing, access healthcare and education, and move into training or employment. Many of our beneficiaries report greater independence, improved wellbeing, and stronger social connections as a result of our support. At the community level, our advocacy and awareness-raising work contributed to fairer policies and enhanced understanding of refugee experiences among the public and partner organisations.

Looking Ahead

Despite the continuing constraints on resources, MRSN remains committed to delivering high-quality services and ensuring public benefit. We will build on our successes by strengthening partnerships, expanding opportunities for integration, and ensuring that the voices of refugees and people seeking asylum continue to shape our work.

Volunteers

Volunteers support MRSN through reception work and interpreting for clients who don't speak English. They also provide basic information and make telephone calls on behalf of clients. The role can also include advocacy and support for clients including by accompanying them to appointments. Volunteers also give advice on different issues.

Manchester Refugee Support Network

Financial review

Total income in the year was £474,413 (2024 £705,190) and total expenses were £515,755 (2024 £515,212) leaving a deficit of £41,342.

The continued support from individuals and local organisations who provide our unrestricted funds is vital to MRSN's ongoing activities and we are very grateful that this continued.

We will keep raising the funds we need to keep Manchester Refugee Support Network open and maintain the vital services it provides to asylum seekers and refugees in Greater Manchester.

Investment powers and policy

The trustees, having regard to the liquidity requirements of operating the charity, have kept available funds in an interest-bearing account.

Reserves policy and going concern

The balance held in unrestricted reserves at 31st March 2025 was £226,532 of which £225,043 is free reserves (after allowing for funds tied up in tangible fixed assets). The balance held in restricted reserves at 31st March 2025 was £250,668.

The trustees aim to maintain free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately six months of unrestricted charitable expenditure. The trustees consider that this level will provide sufficient funds to respond to applications for grants and ensure that support and governance costs are covered.

Risk management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. The Trustees recognise the importance of identifying and putting in place effective arrangements for the management of risk. A risk register has been established and has been approved by the Board of Trustees. It is kept under continual review by the Board of Trustees and any changes to risk are reviewed at each Trustees meeting. Financial risks associated with reducing income streams from the government and trust funding has led to development of income generation strategy which allow for the diversification of funding and activities. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been in place to diminish the risk the charity faces. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure they continue to meet the needs of the charity.

Manchester Refugee Support Network

Achievement and plans for future periods

At the heart of our mission is the commitment to provide a safe and supportive space where the basic needs of refugees and asylum seekers can be met, and where the challenges of poverty and social isolation can be addressed.

Looking ahead, we are committed to building new partnerships and informal alliances, both in service delivery and in campaigning. By bringing together the expertise and networks of different organisations, we aim to maximise our collective reach and impact. MRSN will continue to campaign strongly on refugee issues across the region, while also working to secure a significant increase in the availability and quality of legal advice for refused asylum seekers and refugees.

As the needs of our service users continue to grow, we recognise the importance of expanding and diversifying our income streams to ensure our long-term sustainability. This will enable us to respond positively and effectively to emerging challenges.

We are also clear in our ambition to become increasingly user-led. A key priority will be the recruitment of staff and volunteers with lived experience, ensuring that our services remain relevant, empathetic, and shaped by the voices of those we serve.

In parallel, we are investing in the improvement of our buildings and premises, making them more accessible, creative, welcoming, and family-friendly. These improvements will enhance the experience of all who use our services.

Finally, we recognise that understanding and sharing the difference our work makes is essential. We are therefore strengthening our impact measurement and monitoring processes to better capture, evaluate, and communicate the outcomes of our work.

Trustees responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting principles and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures that must be disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

Manchester Refugee Support Network

- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is appropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provision of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees on 23rd September, 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Almed

Chair of trustees

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
MANCHESTER REFUGEE SUPPORT NETWORK
REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1196560**

I report on the accounts of the charity, for the Period Ended 31ST March 2025 which are set out on pages 8 to 20.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity is preparing accrued accounts and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiners 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.

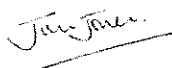
Independent Examiner's Statement

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 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.



Signed:

James Hilton-Jones FCCA

Date: 23rd September 2025

Hilton Jones Chartered Certified Accountants
Hollinwood Business Centre, Albert Street
Oldham, Lancashire OL8 3QL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025
(Including income & expenditure account)

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year Ended 31.03.25 Total Funds £	Year Ended 31.03.24 Total Funds £
INCOME FROM:					
Donations & Legacies	(2)	11,537	-	11,537	38,566
Charitable Income	(3)	52,610	409,596	462,206	666,583
Other Income		656	-	656	28
Investment Income		14	-	14	13
TOTAL		64,817	409,596	474,413	705,190
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising Funds	(4)	180	-	180	180
Charitable Activities	(4)	115,512	400,063	515,575	515,032
TOTAL		115,692	400,063	515,755	515,212
NET INCOME (EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR		(50,875)	9,533	(41,342)	189,978
Transfer between funds	(15)	-	-	-	-
Net income after transfers		(50,875)	9,533	(41,342)	189,978
Total Funds Brought Forward		277,407	241,135	518,542	328,564
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	(15)	226,532	250,668	477,200	518,542

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year.

The notes on pages 11 to 19 form part of these accounts.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

CIO 1196560

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Fixed Assets	(10)	12,252	18,994
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	(12)	39,042	34,048
Cash at Bank and in Hand		<u>562,571</u>	<u>523,799</u>
		601,613	557,847
LIABILITIES:			
Amounts falling due within one year	(13)	<u>(136,665)</u>	<u>(58,299)</u>
		(136,665)	(58,299)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		464,948	499,548
NET ASSETS		<u>477,200</u>	<u>518,542</u>
ACCUMULATED FUNDS			
Unrestricted	(15)	226,532	277,407
Restricted	(15)	<u>250,668</u>	<u>241,135</u>
		<u>477,200</u>	<u>518,542</u>

Approved on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Ahmed

Chair

Ahmed Mohamed

Date: 23rd September 2025

The notes on pages 11 to 19 form part of these accounts.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net movement in funds	(41,342)	189,978
Add back depreciation	9,314	10,072
Less Investment Income	(14)	(13)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(4,994)	(17,351)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	78,366	(60,012)
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>41,330</u>	<u>122,674</u>
Cash flows from investment activities:		
Purchase of fixed assets	(2,572)	(14,022)
Investment Income	14	13
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>(2,558)</u>	<u>(14,009)</u>
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents during the year	38,772	108,665
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward	523,799	415,134
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	<u>562,571</u>	<u>523,799</u>

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**(a) Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern**

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 1st January 2019 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

(b) Funds structure

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or trust deed. There were 33 restricted funds at the year end date.

Unrestricted income funds comprise those funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects. Unrestricted funds may include designated funds where the trustees, at their discretion have created a fund for a specific purpose.

Further details of each fund are disclosed in note 14.

(c) Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

(d) Expenditure Recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings. For more information on this attribution refer to note (f) below.

(e) Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the expenditure heading for which it was incurred.

(f) Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support costs. Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs related to independent examination and legal fees together with an apportionment of overhead and support costs.

Governance costs and support costs relating to charitable activities have been apportioned based on staff time and facilities used in each activity.

The allocation of support and governance costs is analysed in note 6.

(g) Charitable Activities

Costs of charitable activities include governance costs and an apportionment of support costs as shown in Note 5.

(h) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets are included in the accounts at net book value. Additions of a single item or a group of similar assets exceeding £500, are capitalised at cost (valuation for donated assets). Depreciation is provided to write off the cost less the estimated residual value of tangible fixed assets over their estimated useful lives as follows:-

Office Equipment & Furniture	25% on cost
Computers	33.3% on cost

(i) Taxation

The organisation is exempt from income tax by reason of its charitable status. Income tax suffered on investment income is reclaimed in full. The Charity is not currently registered for VAT.

(j) Pensions

The trustees implemented an auto enrolment pension scheme during 2016. The charity has no liability beyond making its contributions and paying across the deductions for the employee's contributions. Employer contributions are charged to expenditure as they fall due.

(k) Contingent liabilities

A contingent liability is identified and disclosed for those transactions resulting from a possible obligation which will only be confirmed by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the trustees' control.

(l) Operating Leases

Payments under operating leases are charged to the income and expenditure account in the period to which they relate.

(m) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

(n) Creditors and Provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of the funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

(o) Donated Goods, Facilities or Services

During the year goods to the approximate value of £850 were donated to the organisation in the form of food for the food bank. These donations are not reflected in the income and expenditure account.

(p) Costs of raising funds

The costs of raising funds consists of rental of a property which is sublet to homeless refugees.

2 DONATIONS & LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations	11,537	-	11,537	37,486	1,080	38,566
	<u>11,537</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,537</u>	<u>37,486</u>	<u>1,080</u>	<u>38,566</u>

3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	Funds	Funds	2025
	£	£	£
National Lottery Community Fund	-	94,247	94,247
National Lottery Community Fund- Awards for All		7,272	7,272
Sport England		7,500	7,500
Access to Justice	-	-	-
GMCA	-	185	185
GMIAU	-	19,751	19,751
Henry Smith Charity	-	69,900	69,900
Lloyds Foundation	24,375	-	24,375
Manchester City Council (RIS)	-	50,000	50,000
Manchester City Council (SASCA)	-	-	-
Manchester City Council (OMVCS & Other)	-	66,396	66,396
Refugee Action	-	44,781	44,781
Tudor Trust	-	11,391	11,391
Forever Manchester	-	-	-
MACC - Household Support Fund	-	13,650	13,650
MCC - HSF	-	4,200	4,200
MCC Destitution fund	-	1,440	1,440
Migrant Help	-	-	-
Blue Thread		8,333	8,333
Newby Trust		10,000	10,000
Income from Destitute Housing	24,730	-	24,730
The Fore Foundation	-	-	-
Eat Well Get Well		50	50
Minor Grants	3,505	500	4,005
	<u>52,610</u>	<u>409,596</u>	<u>462,206</u>

Previous Year	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	Funds	Funds	2024
	£	£	£
National Lottery Community Fund	-	89,148	89,148
Access to Justice	-	27,678	27,678
GMCA	-	24,500	24,500
GMIAU	-	14,259	14,259
Henry Smith Charity	-	70,000	70,000
Lloyds Foundation	25,000	-	25,000
Manchester City Council (RIS)	-	50,000	50,000
Manchester City Council (SASCA)	-	30,000	30,000
Manchester City Council (OMVCS & Other)	-	59,646	59,646
Refugee Action	-	123,305	123,305
Tudor Trust	-	31,004	31,004
Forever Manchester	-	5,000	5,000
MACC - Household Support Fund	-	28,650	28,650
MCC Destitution fund	-	240	240
Migrant Help	-	5,000	5,000
Income from Destitute Housing	23,064	0	23,064
The Fore Foundation	30,000	0	30,000
Other Grants	30,089	-	30,089
	<u>108,153</u>	<u>558,430</u>	<u>666,583</u>

4 EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2025	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024
	Funds	Funds		Funds	Funds	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Local Giving membership	180	-	180	180	-	180
	<u>180</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>180</u>

5 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	Advice &		Total 2025
	Temporary Accommodation	Other Work	
	£	£	£
Employment Costs		285,988	285,988
Freelance Workers		3,120	3,120
Recruitment Costs		-	-
DBS Costs		58	58
Provision of temporary accommodation	23,991		23,991
Service user refreshments		296	296
Service user telephone		160	160
Service user travel		-	-
Food Supplies		932	932
Project Partner		-	-
Staff Travel		1,514	1,514
Staff Training & Teambuilding		2,281	2,281
Staff Refreshments		1,473	1,473
Staff Appreciation		-	-
Venue Hire, Events & Activities		22,459	22,459
Subscriptions		1,804	1,804
Household Support		18,160	18,160
Volunteer Travel & Expenses		10,815	10,815
Volunteer Rewards		62	62
Support Costs		140,584	140,584
Governance Costs		1,878	1,878
	<u>23,991</u>	<u>491,584</u>	<u>515,575</u>
			Restricted Funds 400,063
			Unrestricted Funds 115,512
			<u>515,575</u>

Previous Year	Advice &		2024
	Temporary Accommodation	Other Work	
	£	£	£
Employment Costs		270,138	270,138
Freelance Workers		9,823	9,823
Recruitment Costs		575	575
DBS Costs		18	18
Provision of temporary accommodation	12,839		12,839
Service user refreshments		150	150
Service user telephone		120	120
Service user travel		250	250
Food Supplies		2,147	2,147
Project Partner		30,000	30,000
Staff Travel		1,448	1,448
Staff Training & Teambuilding		604	604
Staff Refreshments		668	668
Staff Appreciation		1,461	1,461
Venue Hire, Events & Activities		4,905	4,905
Subscriptions		1,846	1,846
Household Support		28,220	28,220
Volunteer Travel & Expenses		3,171	3,171
Volunteer Rewards		2,975	2,975
Support Costs		140,757	140,757
Governance Costs		2,917	2,917
	<u>12,839</u>	<u>502,193</u>	<u>515,032</u>
			Restricted Funds 460,146
			Unrestricted Funds 54,886
			<u>515,032</u>

6 ALLOCATION OF GOVERNANCE AND SUPPORT COSTS		General Support	Governance	2025 Total	2024 Total
	<i>Basis of Apportionment</i>	£	£	£	£
Support Costs:					
Employment Costs	<i>Facilities Used</i>	57,425	-	57,425	57,425
Premises Costs	<i>Facilities Used</i>	27,741	-	27,741	22,629
Repairs & Maintenance	<i>Facilities Used</i>	2,373	-	2,373	8,094
Minor Equipment	<i>Facilities Used</i>	879	-	879	3,290
Printing, Stationery & Postage	<i>Facilities Used</i>	6,240	-	6,240	3,633
Cleaning & PPE	<i>Facilities Used</i>	4,725	-	4,725	3,063
Telephone	<i>Facilities Used</i>	6,831	-	6,831	7,220
Insurance	<i>Facilities Used</i>	714	-	714	775
Equipment Rental	<i>Facilities Used</i>	1,798	-	1,798	1,680
IT Support & Equipment	<i>Facilities Used</i>	6,405	-	6,405	7,436
Depreciation	<i>Facilities Used</i>	9,314	-	9,314	10,072
Book-keeping	<i>Facilities Used</i>	6,107	-	6,107	2,020
Accountancy & Payroll	<i>Governance</i>	1,937	1,260	3,197	3,059
Bank Charges	<i>Facilities Used</i>	494	-	494	486
AGM & Management Committee	<i>Governance</i>	-	618	618	1,388
Consultancy		5,163	-	5,163	4,176
Legal Fees		-	-	-	5,829
Sundry	<i>Facilities Used</i>	2,438	-	2,438	1,399
		<u>140,584</u>	<u>1,878</u>	<u>142,462</u>	<u>143,674</u>

7 STAFF COSTS

The charity considers its key management personnel comprises of the trustees and the manager. The total employment benefits, including employer pension contributions of the key management personnel were £57,425. No employee has benefits in excess of £60,000 .

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and Salaries	314,150	299,266
Redundancy	0	912
Social Security Costs	18,012	16,802
Pension Costs	11,251	10,583
	<u>343,413</u>	<u>327,563</u>
No employee earned £60,000 per annum or more.		
The average number of employees during the year was 17 with a full time equivalent of 11:		
Services	10	10
Management	1	1
	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>

8 INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS FEES

	2025 £	2024 £
Independent examination fees	1,260	1,200
Other Services	8,044	3,879
	<u>9,304</u>	<u>5,079</u>

9 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS AND TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

There are no related party transactions which require disclosure.

No remuneration was paid or payable to any of the trustees in respect of the period. Except as disclosed below no reimbursement of expenses has been made or is due to be made to any of the trustees in respect of the period.

		£
Travel Expenses	1 trustee	160
Destitution expenses	1 trustee	600
Christmas dinner provision	1 trustee	1,000
		<u>1,760</u>

10 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	Building Improvements	Computer Equipment	Office Equip. & Furniture	Total
COST	£	£	£	£
Brought forward at 1 April 2024	7,071	21,708	8,295	37,074
Additions	-	2,572	-	2,572
At 31 March 2025	<u>7,071</u>	<u>24,280</u>	<u>8,295</u>	<u>39,646</u>
DEPRECIATION				
Brought forward at 1 April 2024	1,286	12,674	4,120	18,080
Charge for the Period	643	6,388	2,283	9,314
At 31 March 2025	<u>1,929</u>	<u>19,062</u>	<u>6,403</u>	<u>27,394</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 March 2025	<u>5,142</u>	<u>5,218</u>	<u>1,892</u>	<u>12,252</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>5,785</u>	<u>9,034</u>	<u>4,175</u>	<u>18,994</u>

11 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Contracted but not provided for	nil	nil

12 DEBTORS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other Debtors	25,630	31,754
Prepayments	13,412	2,294
	<u>39,042</u>	<u>34,048</u>

In 2025 £38,413 (2024 £33,413) debtors and prepayments relates to restricted funds.

13 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other Creditors	213	1,029
Other Taxes & Social Security Costs	9,753	4,374
Accruals	13,156	4,759
Deferred Income	113,543	48,137
	<u>136,665</u>	<u>58,299</u>

In 2025 £126,699 (2024 £52,896) relates to restricted funds.

14 DEFERRED INCOME

	2025	2024
	£	£
Deferred income transferred from old charity	-	-
Balance brought forward	48,137	105,846
Amount released to income earned from charitable activities	(48,137)	(105,846)
Grant income deferred during the year	113,543	48,137
	<u>113,543</u>	<u>48,137</u>

15 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	Balance at 1 April 2024	Incoming	Transfers	Outgoing	Balance 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds:					
National Lottery Community Fund	5,295	94,247	-	(84,314)	15,228
National Lottery Community Fund- Awards for All Emerge	10,234	7,272	-	(6,000)	1,272
Esme Fairbairn	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
Access To Justice	20,059	-	-	-	20,059
Forever Manchester -destitute project	1,914	-	-	-	1,914
Forever Manchester	3,724	-	-	-	3,724
Greater Manchester Mayors Fund	12,858	-	-	-	12,858
GMCA	3,627	185	-	-	3,812
Manchester City Council (Afghan Support)	3,130	-	-	-	3,130
Manchester City Council (DF Somali)	220	-	-	-	220
Manchester City Council (SASCA)	3,940	-	-	-	3,940
Manchester City Council (OMVCS)	13,785	66,396	-	(80,181)	-
Manchester City Council (RIS)	-	50,000	-	(50,000)	-
Manchester City Council (HSF)	140	4,200	-	(3,489)	851
MCC Destitution Fund	-	1,440	-	(1,440)	-
Safford CVS	3,642	-	-	-	3,642
Refugee Action	38,994	44,781	-	(57,270)	26,505
Tudor Trust	20,808	11,391	-	-	32,199
Migrant Help	4,290	-	-	(1,505)	2,785
UK Community Foundation	9,670	-	-	-	9,670
Sport England	1,242	7,500	-	(4,162)	4,580
Lloyds Foundation	11,646	-	-	-	11,646
Wai Yin	11,734	-	-	-	11,734
Carnegie UK Trust	2,270	-	-	-	2,270
Donation - Eat Well Get Well	380	50	-	(50)	380
Henry Smith Charity	32,074	69,900	-	(76,477)	25,497
MACC	1,190	-	-	-	1,190
MACC - HSF	-	13,650	-	(13,650)	-
Minor Grants	1,290	500	-	(500)	1,290
GMAIU	3,007	19,751	-	(10,818)	11,940
Blue Thread	-	8,333	-	(5,636)	2,697
Newby Trust	-	10,000	-	(4,000)	6,000
Crisis Covid	4,900	-	-	-	4,900
Groundwork UK	500	-	-	-	500
RAFT	4,153	-	-	-	4,153
Restricted Donations	275	-	-	-	275
Clothworker	5,144	-	-	(571)	4,573
Total Restricted Funds:	241,135	409,596	-	(400,063)	250,668
Unrestricted Funds:					
Designated - Building Fund	50,000	-	-	-	50,000
General	227,407	64,817	-	(115,692)	176,532
Total Unrestricted Funds:	277,407	64,817	-	(115,692)	226,532
	518,542	474,413	-	(515,755)	477,200

Designated Fund - Building Fund

The trustees have decided to set aside surpluses from unrestricted funds towards the establishment of a an MRSN building.

14 Cont...	Balance at				Balance
Previous Year	1 April	Incoming	Transfers	Outgoing	31 March
	2023				2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds:					
National Lottery Community Fund	2,770	89,148	-	(86,623)	5,295
Emerge	10,234	-	-	-	10,234
Esme Fairbairn	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
Access To Justice	14,568	27,678	-	(22,187)	20,059
Forever Manchester -destitute project	1,914	-	-	-	1,914
Forever Manchester	3,724	5,000	-	(5,000)	3,724
Greater Manchester Mayors Fund	12,858	-	-	-	12,858
Joseph Levy Foundation	1,524	-	170	(1,694)	-
GMCA	-	24,500	-	(20,873)	3,627
Manchester City Council (Afghan Support)	3,130	-	-	-	3,130
Manchester City Council (DF Somali)	300	240	-	(320)	220
Manchester City Council (SASCA)	3,940	30,000	-	(30,000)	3,940
Manchester City Council (OMVCS)	11,325	59,646	-	(57,186)	13,785
Manchester City Council (RIS)	-	50,000	-	(50,000)	-
Manchester City Council (HSF)	140	-	-	-	140
Salford CVS	3,642	-	-	-	3,642
Refugee Action	(2,379)	123,305	-	(81,932)	38,994
Tudor Trust	12,229	31,004	-	(22,425)	20,808
Migrant Help	-	5,000	-	(710)	4,290
UK Community Foundation	9,670	-	-	-	9,670
Sport England	2,579	-	-	(1,337)	1,242
Lloyds Foundation	11,646	-	-	-	11,646
Wai Yin	11,734	-	-	-	11,734
Carnegie UK Trust	2,270	-	-	-	2,270
Donation - Eat Well Get Well	-	1,080	-	(700)	380
Henry Smith Charity	-	70,000	-	(37,926)	32,074
MACC	1,390	-	-	(200)	1,190
MACC - HSF	-	28,650	-	(28,650)	-
Minor Grants	1,290	-	-	-	1,290
GMIAU	-	14,259	-	(11,252)	3,007
British Red Cross	284	-	-	(284)	-
Destitution & Crisis Funds					
Crisis Covid	4,900	-	-	-	4,900
Groundwork UK	500	-	-	-	500
RAFT	4,153	-	-	-	4,153
Restricted Donations	551	-	-	(276)	275
Capital					
Clothworker	5,715	-	-	(571)	5,144
Total Restricted Funds:	141,601	559,510	170	(460,146)	241,135
Unrestricted Funds:					
Designated - Building Fund	25,000	25,000	-	-	50,000
General	161,963	120,680	(170)	(55,066)	227,407
Total Unrestricted Funds:	186,963	145,680	(170)	(55,066)	277,407
	328,564	705,190	-	(515,212)	518,542

Purpose of funds:-

MCC Destitution Fund	to assist individuals experiencing hardship
National Lottery Community Fund	towards Shared Route project
National Lottery Community Fund- Awards for All	to help community thrive
Emerge	towards the Emerge 3Rs Rafiki Project
Esme Fairbairn	towards the Afghan Refugees settlement process
Access To Justice	towards welfare & immigration advice workers
Forever Manchester -destitute project	to assist individuals experiencing hardship
Forever Manchester	towards community development work
Greater Manchester Mayor	towards refugee integration service & salary costs
GMCA	towards English language education, volunteering & community participation
Migrant Help	towards IT and garden costs

The Henry Smith Charity	towards the employment costs of three advice workers
Manchester City Council OMVCS	General Advice & Community Development Project
Manchester City Council RIS	towards RIS workers
Salford CVS	towards cancer awareness work
Refugee Action	towards housing project, experts by experience & asylum guide
Tudor Trust	towards manager salary costs
UK Community Foundation	towards community development work & capacity building
Sport England	towards health & wellbeing project
Lloyds Foundation	towards project worker costs
Wai YIN	towards the Old people project (OPEN)
Carnegie UK Trust	towards training costs including travel
Donation- Eat Well Get Well	towards health activities
MACC	towards costs of migrant destitution fund & household support
GMIAU	Justice Together grant towards OISC level 2 worker
Blue Thread	towards worker salary
Newby Trust	towards worker salary
Restricted Donations	donations towards destitution project
Clothworker	towards centre refurbishment. Balance represents future depreciation

16 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total £
Tangible fixed assets	1,489	#REF!	#REF!
Cash at bank and in hand	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	#REF!	(19,483)	#REF!
Total	226,532	250,668	#REF!

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £
Previous Year			
Tangible fixed assets	16,975	2,019	18,994
Cash at bank and in hand	265,200	258,599	523,799
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	(4,768)	(19,483)	(24,251)
Total	277,407	241,135	518,542

17 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

There were no contingent liabilities at 31st March 2025 (2024 £nil).

18 OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

The charity has the following annual commitment under operating leases.	Equipment 2025 £	Land and Buildings 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Operating leases which expire:				
within one year	-	6,100	6,100	6,100
between 2 and 5 years	-	18,300	18,300	18,300
after 5 years	-	21,350	21,350	27,450
	-	45,750	45,750	51,850

The 15 year lease in respect of the property at Princess Road, Manchester, ran to November 2033 and is in the process of being renewed.

19 POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

The Trustees do not consider that there have been any events since the balance sheet date that impact materially on the financial statements.

20 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

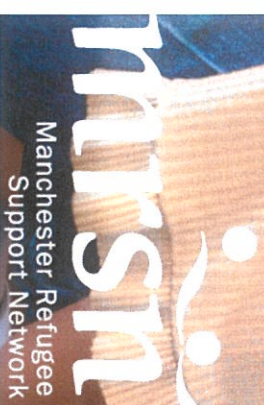
The organisation only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised on a transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at an amortised cost using the effective interest method.

21 GOING CONCERN

The company's main source of income is grant funding. The trustees consider that it is appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis and, consequently, the accounts do not include any adjustments that would be necessary if the funding income should cease.

MANCHESTER REFUGEE SUPPORT NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025



Manchester Refugee
Support Network

LETTER FROM OUR MANAGER

Manchester Refugee Support Network delivered vital services to over 2,000 refugees and asylum seekers in Manchester this year, including advice, housing, integration support and peer-led training. Our dedicated team provided specialist immigration guidance, helped hundreds facing homelessness, and ran arts and wellbeing activities in local asylum hotels.

We strengthened lived-experience leadership, built new partnerships, and responded to rising community need despite financial pressures. Thanks to all staff, volunteers and supporters, we continue to stand with those seeking safety and opportunity in Manchester.

Financially, this year has been challenging, with expenditure exceeding income and a reduction in total funds, reflecting both ambition and growing need (net income -£41,342). Yet our progress would not be possible without the continued support of partners, funders, volunteers, and—most importantly—the resilience and leadership of our refugee community itself.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to collaborative working, improving access to housing and employment, and amplifying the voices of those with lived experience. We thank everyone who has contributed to our mission and look forward to another year of standing together in support, education, and empowerment for all refugees and asylum seekers in Manchester.

Relay Keshay



OUR CONTENTS

OUR AIMS	4
OUR OBJECTIVES	5
GENERAL REFUGEE ADVICE	6
IMMIGRATION ADVICE	8
ASYLUM SUPPORT PROJECT	10
SHARED ROUTES PROJECT	12
REFUGEE INTEGRATION SERVICE	14
HOTEL PROJECT	16
EXPERT BY EXPERIENCE	18
HEALTH AND WELLBEING	20
OUR FUNDERS	22
OUR PARTNERS	23
FINANCIAL REVIEW	24

OUR AIMS



SUPPORT

To support refugees to access services and opportunities on an equal basis, in order to prevent all forms of poverty and allow individuals to fulfil their potential.



EDUCATE

To educate refugees and asylum seekers on their rights and responsibilities as active citizens, and contribute to positive media representation of refugees.



EMPOWER

To empower refugees to establish strong community organisations and provide platforms for them to represent the needs and aspirations of their communities.

OUR OBJECTIVES

1

To advance education and relieve financial hardship amongst those seeking asylum and those granted refugee status particularly by the provision of legal and other advice.

2

To support and promote the physical and mental health of asylum seekers, refugees and their dependents.

3

To advance the education and training of those granted refugee status and their dependents in need thereof so as to advance them in life and assist them to adapt within a new community.

4

To advance the education and knowledge of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.

5

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 age, race, gender, religion, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances.

6

To relieve the effects of financial poverty on refugees and asylum seekers through the provision of temporary accommodation.

GENERAL REFUGEE ADVICE

Charlotte continued to coordinate General Refugee Advice, with Birhanemeskel was supporting as Refugee Advice Worker. They have continued to provide high quality support through their drop ins and appointments. Unfortunately we have said goodbye to Charlotte but she hopes to continue to volunteer with MRSN in the future. Sophie has taken on Charlotte's role as interim General Refugee Advice coordinator on Mondays. We also now have Angel supporting from RIS, acting as Employability service case worker on Mondays which as been an important addition.

This service continues to be extremely busy, particularly with the refugee homelessness ever increasing in Manchester and MRSN being only of the only refugee-focused services that do drop in services for these issues.



I am not sure what I would have done without MRSN - where would I have gone? Thank you so much to MRSN for their hard work.

FEEDBACK FROM OUR CLIENTS THIS YEAR

989 INDIVIDUAL CLIENTS WERE SUPPORTED
1586 CASES WERE OPENED

92	CASES OPENED TO ACCESS UNIVERSAL CREDIT SUPPORT	72	CASES OF RELATING TO ACCESSING COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT	49	CASES OPENED TO SUPPORT PASSPORT AND TRAVEL DOCUMENT APPLICATIONS
-----------	---	-----------	--	-----------	---

154	APPLICATIONS FOR EVISAS & BRP CARDS	221	CASES TO SUPPORT WITH ACCESS TO HOUSING	24	CASES OPENED TO SUPPORT BANKING AND CREDIT
------------	-------------------------------------	------------	---	-----------	--

28	CASES TO SUPPORT WITH ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE	41	CASES OF SUPPORTING ACCESS TO CHILD BENEFITS	93	CASES TO SUPPORT MANCHESTER MOVE APPLICATIONS
-----------	--	-----------	--	-----------	---

42	CASES RELATING TO ACCESSING EDUCATION	224	CASES SUPPORTING UTILITY BILLS	50	PROVISIONAL LICENSES CASES
-----------	---------------------------------------	------------	--------------------------------	-----------	----------------------------

IMMIGRATION ADVICE

What MRSN has done for my life is never to be forgotten - I thank God everyday for this help.

FEEDBACK FROM OUR CLIENTS THIS YEAR

Alex and Bridget continue to manage the Immigration Advice service with the help of staff and volunteers. Bridget passed her level 2 Immigration exam in November last year, which means she is now able to do more complex immigration applications, particularly private and family life applications, which we are seeing a lot of at the drop in. It is also helpful to have a deeper understanding of these applications for refused asylum seekers who now have a family life in the UK, as a potential other route to being granted status. We also held our volunteer training day in March - which was a great success.



851 INDIVIDUAL CLIENTS WERE SUPPORTED

1115 CASES WERE OPENED

157 CASES OPENED FOR
EVISA APPLICATIONS

169 CASES TO SUPPORT
WITH CITIZENSHIP
APPLICATIONS

225 CASES TO SUPPORT
WITH PASSPORT &
TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

357 CASES TO SUPPORT
REFUGEES STAYING IN
THE UK

40 **20**

CASES TO SUPPORT
FEE WAIVER
APPLICATIONS

CASES TO SUPPORT
ASYLUM SEEKERS

47 CASES TO SUPPORT
BRP CARDS

44 INDEFINITE LEAVE TO
REMAIN APPLICATIONS

IMMIGRATION ADVICE

What MRSN has done for my life is never to be forgotten - I thank God everyday for this help.

FEEDBACK FROM OUR CLIENTS THIS YEAR

851 INDIVIDUAL CLIENTS WERE SUPPORTED
1115 CASES WERE OPENED

157 CASES OPENED FOR
EVISA APPLICATIONS

169 CASES TO SUPPORT
WITH CITIZENSHIP
APPLICATIONS

225 CASES TO SUPPORT
WITH PASSPORT &
TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

357 CASES TO SUPPORT
REFUGEES STAYING IN
THE UK

Alex and Bridget continue to manage the Immigration Advice service with the help of staff and volunteers. Bridget passed her level 2 Immigration exam in November last year, which means she is now able to do more complex immigration applications, particularly private and family life applications, which we are seeing a lot of at the drop in. It is also helpful to have a deeper understanding of these applications for refused asylum seekers who now have a family life in the UK, as a potential other route to being granted status. We also held our volunteer training day in March - which was a great success.



40 CASES TO SUPPORT
FEE WAIVER
APPLICATIONS

20 CASES TO SUPPORT
ASYLUM SEEKERS

47 CASES TO SUPPORT
BRP CARDS

44 INDEFINITE LEAVE TO
REMAIN APPLICATIONS

ASYLUM SUPPORT PROJECT

918 CASES TO SUPPORT ASYLUM SEEKERS

517 INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED

53 CASES FOR ACCESSING GOVERNMENT ASYLUM SUPPORT

191 CASES TO SUPPORT ASYLUM SEEKERS STAYING IN THE UK

89 ASYLUM SEEKERS WERE SUPPORTED TO LODGE AN APPEAL

28 CASES TO SUPPORT ACCOMMODATION/HOUSING

270 CASES TO SUPPORT ACCESSING LEGAL ADVICE

17 CHILD ASYLUM SEEKERS SUPPORTED

Kira has been leading on the Asylum drop in service on Mondays, with our new member of staff Dervla, as Bridget works on complex cases. There has been a massive increase in asylum appeals so the team has been very busy. Kira has also passed her IAA Level 2 qualification and is currently working towards her IAA Level 3. Bridget has been working with Asylum Aid on complex cases and has managed to help a refused Sudanese asylum seeker be granted humanitarian protection. She is still waiting to hear about the decision from 2 other complex cases she is working on.

CASE STUDY: FAHMI'S STORY

When Fahmi first arrived in the UK, he had fled unimaginable danger in his home country, hoping to find safety. Instead, he was kidnapped upon arrival and forced into domestic servitude. Trapped in a house, he was not allowed to leave and was made to cook, clean, and do everything for the people who controlled him. When he became seriously ill and asked to see a doctor, they refused. Eventually, he found the strength to escape — only to be detained for three months by immigration authorities.

For six years, Fahmi lived in the UK with no help or support from any organisation. Isolated and traumatised, he was recently refused asylum, and his mental health was at breaking point. That's when he found MRSN.

Through MRSN, Fahmi was introduced to Bridget, a specialist caseworker who immediately began helping him with compassion and expertise. She supported him through a new claim as a victim of modern slavery and worked tirelessly to secure his refugee status.

Now, Fahmi is beginning to rebuild. He is receiving specialist trauma therapy from Freedom from Torture and has recently started attending college, taking steps toward a more stable and independent future.

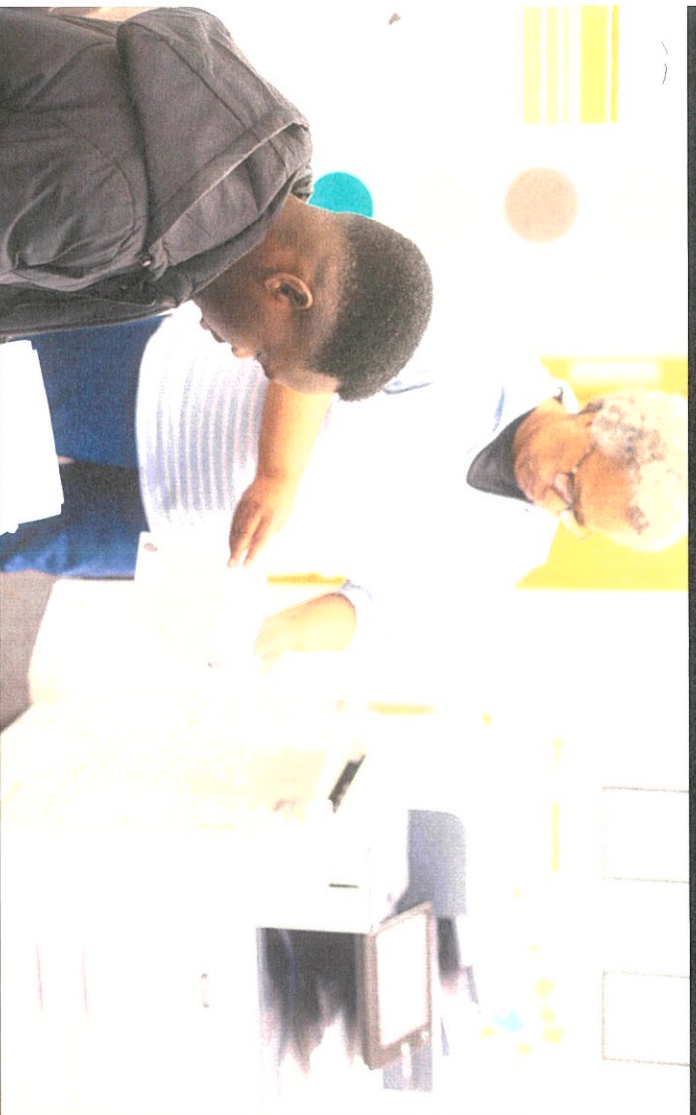
Reflecting on his journey, Fahmi says: "I'm feeling much happier — before, I felt very bad, but now I feel happy, and this is all down to Miss Bridget and MRSN."

Fahmi's story is a powerful reminder of how critical it is to reach survivors of exploitation — even years after they arrive — and how the right support at the right time can change everything.

REFUGEE INTEGRATION SERVICE

Our Refugee Integration Service, led by Sophie and Angel, provides vital, long term one-to-one support for newly granted refugees as they navigate life after asylum. This period is often overwhelming, and Sophie, Angel and Tamador have been working tirelessly on complex cases, helping people access the services and stability they need. One of the most urgent challenges is housing. Many individuals are made homeless or face the risk of homelessness shortly after receiving their refugee status, due to the sudden loss of asylum accommodation and the difficulty of securing housing with limited income and support. We're excited to welcome Angel into a new role supporting clients around employment and job readiness as part of RIS. And looking ahead, Sophie will soon begin working in asylum hotels, contributing to a cross-organisational initiative aimed at reducing homelessness among refugees in Manchester.

Through advocacy, casework, and compassionate guidance, the team supports clients with housing applications, benefits, employment, healthcare, and more — ensuring that newly recognised refugees are not left behind.



436

**CASES OPENED IN
2024/2025**

171

**INDIVIDUAL CLIENTS
SUPPORTED IN 2024/25**

138 CASES RELATED TO SUPPORT WITH HOUSING

33 CASES RELATED TO MANCHESTER MOVE

20 CASES SUPPORTING WITH BENEFITS,
GRANTS AND LOANS

13 CASES SUPPORTING WITH IMMIGRATION
ISSUES

34 CASES SUPPORTING WITH UNIVERSAL
CREDIT

15 CASES SUPPORTING EVICTED NEW REFUGEES

4 CASES SUPPORTING WITH ACCESS TO
HEALTHCARE

8 CASES RELATED TO ACCESS TO EDUCATION

SHARED ROUTES PROJECT

SR delivered successfully 5 training courses, one of them as a face-to-face course, compressed to 2 days which increased the training's accessibility. The training continued to immensely benefit our service users as feedback showed. We kept including our service user in the design and delivery of our work. We held a review workshop on our activities with our evaluator and service user and based on SUS' suggestion we're now holding in-person network meetings with our peer navigators. We also started a new partnership with Oxfam with many volunteer opportunities which can be tailored as needed. Led by Randa, and ably supported by Chefena and Kashif, we continued delivering impactful peer-led training. After 7 years of success, we are now working hard on a new National Lottery funding bid to ensure we can keep this vital work going.

We are overjoyed by our service users' feedback how much our training and support into volunteering helped them to connect locally and opened opportunities for their personal and professional development.

78 PEER NAVIGATORS COMPLETED THE TRAINING THIS YEAR

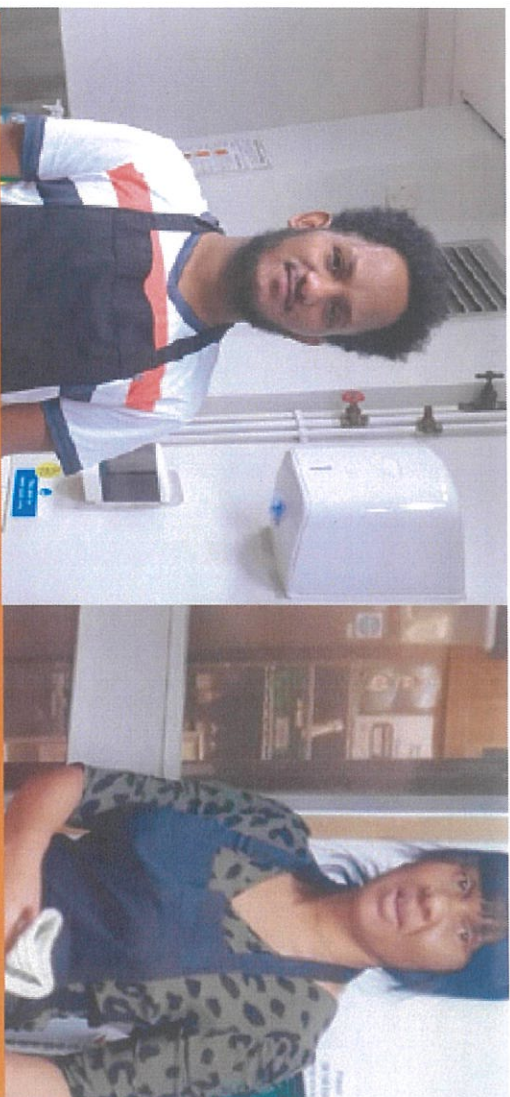
60 PEER NAVIGATORS PLACED IN VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

93% PEER NAVIGATORS REPORTED INCREASED CONFIDENCE FOLLOWING TRAINING.

82% PEER NAVIGATORS KNOW MORE WAYS TO TAKE PART IN WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THEIR LOCAL AREA

"After taking this training, I understood the value of volunteering and its positive impact to the community. Also, how volunteering could enhance the chances of an individual getting a job and have a good reference."

QUOTE FROM PEER NAVIGATOR



100% PEER NAVIGATORS REPORTED IMPROVED SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

100% PEER NAVIGATORS REPORTED IMPROVED KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF UK AGENCIES

"I didn't know there were many volunteer opportunities in my local council but after this opportunity I learnt how to apply for these opportunities that I am passionate about. Thank you."

QUOTE FROM PEER NAVIGATOR

"I now know the British culture and communication at work which will enable me to excel in my voluntary work and even future career. I am confident to go out there and look for voluntary role. In fact, Shared Routes referred me to Oxfam and I am called for an induction soon. I am very happy and excited. This wouldn't have happened if it was not for attending this training program. I want to thank all the mentors for their precious time. I am very thankful and happy about this training."

QUOTE FROM PEER NAVIGATOR

HOTEL PROJECT

Led by Jennifer, MRSN's Asylum Hotel Project supports residents across four hotels in Greater Manchester. The project provides ESOL classes, wellbeing and arts activities, and organises clothing donations to help reduce isolation and improve quality of life for asylum seekers in temporary accommodation.

25 SINGLE FEMALE ASYLUM SEEKERS SUPPORTED

15 VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT THE ESOL PROJECT EVERY WEEK

52 ESOL CLASSES DELIVERED

50 FAMILIES SUPPORTED

100 MALE ASYLUM SEEKERS SUPPORTED

40 ARTS AND CRAFTS SESSIONS

30 KIDS MUSIC ACTIVITY SESSIONS

MRSN delivers ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes for adult male asylum seekers, providing a safe and supportive environment to build language skills, confidence, and connection. These classes help reduce isolation and empower participants to engage more fully with their communities and the asylum process.



MRSN has partnered with Band on the Wall to deliver engaging music activities for children living in asylum hotels across Greater Manchester. These sessions offer a creative outlet for young asylum seekers, helping to boost confidence, reduce stress, and bring moments of joy during a challenging time.

Through singing, rhythm, and hands-on music-making, children are able to express themselves, connect with others, and simply be children — even in uncertain surroundings. This partnership brings the power of music directly into hotel settings, supporting wellbeing and belonging through creativity.

As mentioned before, Sophie will soon be taking on a new role within the asylum hotel project, where she will support a city-wide partnership effort focused on preventing homelessness among newly granted refugees in Manchester. Her involvement will strengthen our collaborative approach to ensuring no one is left without support

EXPERT BY EXPERIENCE

In 2024–2025, the group significantly expanded its external engagement, forging impactful partnerships with key regional bodies. Collaborations with the Regional Strategic Migration Partnership (RSMP) and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) have enabled Experts by Experience (Ebe) members to provide valuable lived experience input into the Step Change and Work and Skills programmes, both aimed at enhancing refugee integration in Greater Manchester.

The group's involvement in the co-design of the Kompasí referral platform, launched in May 2024, marked a major milestone. Three Ebe members worked alongside CAST and the funder DISRUPT from inception to delivery. Additionally, five members contributed to discussions with Manchester City Council in its journey toward becoming a Council of Sanctuary, including active participation in a stakeholder event on 25th June 2024.

With the Step Change programme extended through to September 2028, Phase 2 now focuses on expanding Ebe representation across all 10 Greater Manchester boroughs. Since October 2024, membership has grown from 9 to 16 individuals, now representing 7 boroughs, with recruitment ongoing.

Two key work strands have emerged: First, strengthening collaboration with other lived experience groups across the region—building on a 2022 mapping exercise—and second, advancing advocacy efforts to shape campaign priorities around the pressing issues affecting refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants within the city region.

7

MEMBERS HAVE JOINED THE EBE GROUP SINCE 2024

16

MEMBERS OF THE EBE GROUP OVERALL

3

EBE GROUP MEMBERS INVOLVED IN KOMPASI CO-DESIGN

5

EBE MEMBERS INVOLVED IN MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS

7

MANCHESTER BOROUGHs REPRESENTED

4

YEARS EXTENSION OF THE STEP CHANGE PROGRAMME

HEALTH AND WELLBEING



The Refugee Health and Well-Being project was established to provide vital support to refugees and asylum seekers, ensuring they have the opportunity to live healthier, more fulfilling lives. Recognising the unique challenges faced by people forced to flee their homes—such as trauma, isolation, and barriers to accessing healthcare—this initiative seeks to address both physical and emotional well-being in a holistic way.

Through the project, MRSN delivers a wide range of activities and tailored support. This includes regular physical exercise and football sessions that promote fitness, teamwork, and social connection. In addition, one-to-one support is offered to individuals who need guidance navigating health systems, understanding their rights, or accessing essential care. A variety of workshops are organised on healthy living, nutrition, and self-care, while yoga sessions provide both physical benefits and a calming space for relaxation and mental balance.

Beyond these structured activities, the project also helps participants engage in volunteering opportunities, join support groups, and connect with others in the community. This not only strengthens their health and resilience but also combats loneliness and fosters a sense of belonging.

During the reporting period, the Refugee Health and Well-Being project supported around 60 refugees and asylum seekers each week. Feedback from participants shows that:

- Over **80%** reported feeling more confident in managing their own health and accessing services.
- Many participants experienced **reduced levels of stress and anxiety**, particularly through yoga and group support activities.
- A significant number reported **forming new friendships and social networks**, which helped to reduce isolation and build community connections.
- Several individuals have gone on to volunteer within MRSN or in the wider community, demonstrating **increased confidence and a stronger sense of purpose**.
- By combining practical assistance with social and emotional support, the project is making a real difference—helping individuals to rebuild their lives with dignity, improved health, greater resilience, and stronger community ties.



OUR FUNDERS

- AB Charitable Trust
- Access To Justice Foundation
- Forever Manchester
- GMCA
- Henry Smith
- Lloyds Bank Foundation
- MACC
- Manchester City Council
- National Lottery Community Fund
- Newby Trust
- Refugee Action
- Sported
- Sport England
- The Bulldog Trust
- The Tudor Trust



OUR PARTNERS

- ACM
- Asylum Aid
- Asylum Matters
- Bately Law Solicitors
- Boaz Trust
- British Red Cross
- Care4Calais
- Caritas
- CAST
- Chorlton Refugee Aid
- Citizen's Advice Bureau
- City of Sanctuary
- Cornerstones
- DISRUPT
- Emerget/touchwood
- ESOL Manchester
- Flow Max Group
- Freedom From Torture
- Greater Manchester Combines Authority
- Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit
- Growing together
- Levenshulme
- Home in Manchester
- IAS
- Manchester BME Network
- Manchester City Council
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Manchester Urban Diggers
- Maz Linford
- Migrant Help
- Nathan Dale Gardeners
- Nazarene Theological College
- NIA Centre
- NRPF
- One Manchester
- Precision Dentist Clinic
- PRIDES
- Princess Butcher
- Project 17
- Projekts
- Rainbow Haven
- Refugee Action
- Refugee Aid
- Refugees at Home
- Regional Strategic Migration Partnership
- Revive
- Salvation Army
- SASCA
- Save the Children Shelter
- St James Church
- Street League
- The Little Sri Lankan
- The Mustard Tree
- The Woolf Institute
- UKIL
- Women's Aid
- Peak District National Champions
- Manchester Half Marathon

OUR FUNDERS

- AB Charitable Trust
- Access To Justice Foundation
- Forever Manchester
- GMCA
- Henry Smith
- Lloyds Bank Foundation
- MACC
- Manchester City Council
- National Lottery Community Fund
- Newby Trust
- Refugee Action
- Sported
- Sport England
- The Bulldog Trust
- The Tudor Trust



OUR PARTNERS

- ACM
- Asylum Aid
- Asylum Matters
- Bately Law Solicitors
- Boaz Trust
- British Red Cross
- Care4Calais
- Caritas
- CAST
- Chorlton Refugee Aid
- Citizen's Advice Bureau
- City of Sanctuary
- Cornerstones
- DISRUPT
- Emerget/touchwood
- ESOL Manchester
- Flow Max Group
- Freedom From Torture
- Greater Manchester Combines Authority
- Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit
- Growing together
- Levenshulme
- Home in Manchester
- IAS
- Manchester BME Network
- Manchester City Council
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Manchester Urban Diggers
- Maz Linford
- Migrant Help
- Nathan Dale Gardeners
- Nazarene Theological College
- NIA Centre
- NRPF
- One Manchester
- Precision Dentist Clinic
- PRIDES
- Princess Butcher
- Project 17
- Projekts
- Rainbow Haven
- Refugee Action
- Refugee Aid
- Refugees at Home
- Regional Strategic Migration Partnership
- Revive
- Salvation Army
- SASCA
- Save the Children Shelter
- St James Church
- Street League
- The Little Sri Lankan
- The Mustard Tree
- The Woolf Institute
- UKIL
- Women's Aid
- Peak District National Champions

FINANCIAL REVIEW

INCOME: £474,413

GIFTS AND DONATIONS: £11,537
CHARITABLE INCOME: £462,206
OTHER INCOME: £670

EXPENDITURE: £515,755

RAISING FUNDS: £180
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES: £515,575

NET INCOME: -£41,342
TOTAL FUNDS AT START OF YEAR: £518,542
TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR: £477,200



MANCHESTER REFUGEE SUPPORT NETWORK

England & Wales - Charity number 1196560

Accounts

MANCHESTER REFUGEE SUPPORT NETWORK

CHARITY REGISTRATION NO:1196560

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST MARCH 2024**

INDEX

Page	
1-6	Trustees Annual Report
7	Independent Examiners Report
8	Statement of Financial Activities
9	Balance Sheet
10	Statement of Cash Flows
11-19	Notes to the Accounts
appendix	Chair & Manager's Report

Manchester Refugee Support Network

Report of the trustees for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Reference and administrative information

Charity Name: Manchester Refugee Support Network

Charity Number: 1196560

Trustees

Mike Mpofu

Ahmed Mohamed

Addisu Tewelde

Amina Said

Sadia Muminovic

Zahid Kahan

Selamawit Reda (appointed 15.12.23)

Key Personnel

A scheme of delegation is in place and the CEO, Belay Kahsay has responsibility for the day to day operational management of the organisation, individual supervision of the staff and also ensuring that the staff continue to develop their skills and working practices to ensure high quality service provision.

Principal Office

129 Princess Road

Moss Side

Manchester

M14 4RB

Independent Examiners

Community Accountancy Service Limited

The Grange, Pilgrim Drive

Beswick

Manchester

M11 3TQ

Manchester Refugee Support Network

Bankers

NatWest Bank
438 Barlow Moor Road
Chorlton-cum-Hardy
Manchester
M21 0BR

Structure, governance and management

The organisation is a charitable incorporated organisation and was registered as a charity on 12th November 2021, and is governed under its Constitution.

The Charity took over the assets and activities of Manchester Refugee Support Network, an unincorporated charity number 1109990 on 1st April 2022.

Appointment of trustees

The charity trustees will be elected by the membership with one half retiring from office at each AGM. Those trustees can make themselves available for re-appointment. The charity must have between 3 and 8 trustees.

Trustee induction and training

Following their election, new trustees are provided with Governance training covering:

- The obligations of trustee's members and signposting to relevant Charity Commission publications.
- Current agenda items for trustees' meetings.
- The main documents and policies which set out the operational framework for the charity, including the Constitution.
- The finance and funding of the organisation including the Finance Policy, Strategy and Plan as well as the latest independently audited accounts.
- Business Plan and future objectives.

Membership

Full Membership of MRSN is open to all properly constituted refugee community organisations in Greater Manchester who have charitable objectives, support the aims of MRSN, have had an AGM in the last 15 months and are refugee led. Associate Membership of MRSN is open to any adult who is interested in furthering the work of MRSN. Only full paid up members have the right to vote at Annual or Special General Meetings.

Each refugee community organisation constitutes a single member of MRSN and nominates a representative to vote on its behalf at any Annual General Meeting or any other Special General Meetings of the membership, including the election of the Management Committee.

Manchester Refugee Support Network

Objectives and activities

- To advance education and relieve financial hardship amongst those seeking asylum and those granted refugee status particularly by the provision of legal and other advice.
- To support and promote the physical and mental health of asylum seekers, refugees and their dependants.
- To advance the education and training of those granted refugee status and their dependants in need thereof so as to advance them in life and assist them to adapt within a new community.
- To advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.
- The provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life of those persons in need of such facilities by reason of their age, race, gender, religion, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances.
- To relieve the effects of financial poverty on refugees and asylum seekers through the provision of temporary accommodation.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives, in planning future activities, and setting the policies for the year.

The charity furthers its charitable purposes for the public benefit through

- Community development services to build capacity within refugee community organisations and to support the delivery of the key priorities enshrined in the Refugee Charter for Manchester
- Legal advice and support to help people affected by poverty, unemployment, homelessness and immigration status
- Volunteer programmes to provide meaningful work experiences and training to refugees and other members of the local community to enhance their employment prospects and to extend the reach of MRSN's advice and other activities
- Provision of temporary accommodation and hardship support

A review of our achievement and performance: how our activities delivered public benefit

Public Benefit the Charities Act 2011 requires charities to demonstrate that their work is of direct benefit to the public. When planning the MRSN's activities each year, the trustees of MRSN review our objective and activities to ensure they continue to reflect our charitable aims and objectives. In carrying out this review of our work trustees have taken due regard of the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

This impact report meets the guidance on public benefit by setting out our charitable objects and mission, providing a summary review of the activities we have carried out of for the public benefit, and then describing in more details the strategies adopted and activities undertaken during the reporting period. This impact report also describes the successes and outcomes of our key activities, and considers how future activities will continue to

Manchester Refugee Support Network

contribute towards our aims and objective

Volunteers

Volunteers support MRSN through reception work and interpreting for clients who don't speak English. They also provide basic information and make telephone calls on behalf of clients. The role can also include advocacy and support for clients including by accompanying them to appointments. Volunteers also give advice on different issues.

Financial review

Total income in the year was £705,190 (2023£484,138) and total expenses were £515,212 (2023 £432,997) leaving a surplus of £189,978.

Our income increased from previous year. The manager has been working hard and it can be seen by the significant increase in the number of funders and amount of funding. He has established a strong relationship with a number of funders who have offered us substantial support at a time when many charities have seen their income falls significantly. We continue to pursue many more possibilities.

The continued support from individuals and local organisations who provide our unrestricted funds is vital to MRSN's ongoing activities and we are very grateful that this continued.

We will keep raising the funds we need to keep Manchester Refugee Support Network open and maintain the vital services it provides to asylum seekers and refugees in Greater Manchester.

Investment powers and policy

The trustees, having regard to the liquidity requirements of operating the charity, have kept available funds in an interest-bearing account.

Reserves policy and going concern

The balance held in unrestricted reserves at 31st March 2024 was £277,407 of which £260,432 is free reserves (after allowing for funds tied up in tangible fixed assets). The balance held in restricted reserves at 31st March 2024 was £241,135.

The trustees aim to maintain free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately six months of unrestricted charitable expenditure. The trustees consider that this level will provide sufficient funds to respond to applications for grants and ensure that support and governance costs are covered.

Risk management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. The Trustees recognise the importance of identifying and putting in place effective arrangements for the management of risk. A risk register has been established and has been approved by the Board of Trustees. It is kept under continual review by the Board

Manchester Refugee Support Network

of Trustees and any changes to risk are reviewed at each Trustees meeting. Financial risks associated with reducing income streams from the government and trust funding has led to development of income generation strategy which allow for the diversification of funding and activities. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been in place to diminish the risk the charity faces. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure they continue to meet the needs of the charity.

Achievement and plans for future periods

Manchester has always been a place for people fleeing from persecution and extreme hardship in their homeland. Our clients often experience major challenges and trauma on their journey here. Once here they face an increasingly complex and inefficient legal system and often struggle to get even basic support and help. The past few years has seen the deliberate fostering of a hostile environment based on misinformation and prejudice. All indications are that migration will continue and the city will continue to need a dedicated agency supporting people seeking asylum and helping refugees settle and play a full part in their new community.

The trustees of MRSN will continue review our objective and activities to ensure they continue to reflect our charitable aims and fulfil our agreed ambition to help build a society in which refugees are welcome, respected and safe and be a place where they can achieve their full potential.

Our future strategy is based on five key goals:

1. Continuing to deliver quality services that meet people's needs and enable people to become independent members of the community.
2. Enabling people seeking asylum and refugees to make progress and move into employment, training or volunteering.
3. To encourage collaboration and partnerships that benefit our clients
4. To help build a strong community that is open, welcoming and encourages integration.
5. To build an organisation that is effective, involves people throughout, has a high profile and a sustainable business model

To do this we will have to listen to and involve our clients and use their experience to shape our services. We want to explore ways of working with other agencies to help people progress and play a full part in their new community. We also want to play a key part in educating people about migration, challenging prejudice and creating a diverse and thriving city.

Please refer to the appendix for further details of our achievements.

Trustees responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

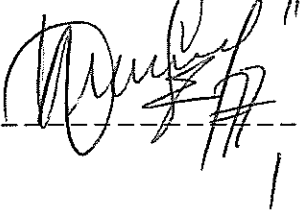
Manchester Refugee Support Network

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting principles and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures that must be disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is appropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provision of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees on 8TH October 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Chair of trustees

Ahmed Mohamed

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
MANCHESTER REFUGEE SUPPORT NETWORK
REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1196560**

I report on the accounts of the charity, for the Period Ended 31ST March 2024 which are set out on pages 8 to 19.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity is preparing accrued accounts and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiners 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 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.

Signed: .. *E.L. Anderson*

E.L Anderson MA FCA CTA

Date: 8th October 2024

Community Accountancy Service Ltd
The Grange, Pilgrim Drive, Beswick,
Manchester, M11 3TQ

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024
(Including income & expenditure account)

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Year Ended 31.03.24 Total Funds £	Period from 01.11.21 31.03.23 Total Funds £
INCOME FROM:					
Donations & Legacies	(2)	37,486	1,080	38,566	19,783
Charitable Income	(3)	108,153	558,430	666,583	462,949
Other Income		28	-	28	1,402
Investment Income		13	-	13	4
TOTAL		145,680	559,510	705,190	484,138
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising Funds	(4)	180	-	180	30
Charitable Activities	(4)	54,886	460,146	515,032	432,967
TOTAL		55,066	460,146	515,212	432,997
NET INCOME (EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR)					
Transfer between funds	(15)	90,614 (170)	99,364 170	189,978 -	51,141 -
Net income after transfers		90,444	99,534	189,978	51,141
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total Funds Transferred from 1109990		186,963	141,601	328,564	277,423
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	(15)	277,407	241,135	518,542	328,564

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year.

The notes on pages 11 to 19 form part of these accounts.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

CIO 1196560

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Fixed Assets	(10)	18,994	15,044
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	(12)	34,048	16,697
Cash at Bank and in Hand		<u>523,799</u>	<u>415,134</u>
		557,847	431,831
LIABILITIES:			
Amounts falling due within one year	(13)	<u>(58,299)</u>	<u>(118,311)</u>
		(58,299)	(118,311)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		499,548	313,520
NET ASSETS		<u>518,542</u>	<u>328,564</u>
ACCUMULATED FUNDS			
Unrestricted	(15)	277,407	186,963
Restricted	(15)	<u>241,135</u>	<u>141,601</u>
		<u>518,542</u>	<u>328,564</u>

Approved on behalf of the Board of Trustees



Trustee Addisu Tewelde

Date: 8th October 2024

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net movement in funds	189,978	51,141
Add back depreciation	10,072	8,008
Less Investment Income	(13)	(4)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(17,351)	(16,697)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(60,012)	118,311
Net Assets excluding cash transferred from old charity	-	(43,213)
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>122,674</u>	<u>117,546</u>
Cash flows from investment activities:		
Purchase of fixed assets	(14,022)	(6,625)
Investment Income	13	4
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>(14,009)</u>	<u>(6,621)</u>
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents during the year	108,665	110,925
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward	415,134	-
Transferred from old charity 1109990	-	304,209
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	<u><u>523,799</u></u>	<u><u>415,134</u></u>

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 1st January 2019 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

(b) Funds structure

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or trust deed. There were 33 restricted funds at the year end date.

Unrestricted income funds comprise those funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects. Unrestricted funds may include designated funds where the trustees, at their discretion have created a fund for a specific purpose.

Further details of each fund are disclosed in note 14.

(c) Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

(d) Expenditure Recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings. For more information on this attribution refer to note (f) below.

(e) Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the expenditure heading for which it was incurred.

(f) Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support costs. Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs related to independent examination and legal fees together with an apportionment of overhead and support costs.

Governance costs and support costs relating to charitable activities have been apportioned based on staff time and facilities used in each activity.

The allocation of support and governance costs is analysed in note 6.

(g) Charitable Activities

Costs of charitable activities include governance costs and an apportionment of support costs as shown in Note 5.

(h) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets are included in the accounts at net book value. Additions of a single item or a group of similar assets exceeding £500, are capitalised at cost (valuation for donated assets).

Depreciation is provided to write off the cost less the estimated residual value of tangible fixed assets over their estimated useful lives as follows:-

Office Equipment & Furniture	25% on cost
Computers	33.3% on cost

(i) Taxation

The organisation is exempt from income tax by reason of its charitable status. Income tax suffered on investment income is reclaimed in full. The Charity is not currently registered for VAT.

(j) Pensions

The trustees implemented an auto enrolment pension scheme during 2016. The charity has no liability beyond making its contributions and paying across the deductions for the employee's contributions. Employer contributions are charged to expenditure as they fall due.

(k) Contingent liabilities

A contingent liability is identified and disclosed for those transactions resulting from a possible obligation which will only be confirmed by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the trustees' control.

(l) Operating Leases

Payments under operating leases are charged to the income and expenditure account in the period to which they relate.

(m) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

(n) Creditors and Provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of the funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

(o) Donated Goods, Facilities or Services

During the year goods to the approximate value of £850 were donated to the organisation in the form of food for the food bank. These donations are not reflected in the income and expenditure account.

(p) Costs of raising funds

The costs of raising funds consists of rental of a property which is sublet to homeless refugees.

2 DONATIONS & LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Donations	37,486	1,080	38,566	19,783	-	19,783
	<u>37,486</u>	<u>1,080</u>	<u>38,566</u>	<u>19,783</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,783</u>

3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024
	£	£	£
National Lottery Community Fund	-	89,148	89,148
Access to Justice	-	27,678	27,678
GMCA	-	24,500	24,500
GMIAU	-	14,259	14,259
Henry Smith Charity	-	70,000	70,000
Lloyds Foundation	25,000	-	25,000
Manchester City Council (RIS)	-	50,000	50,000
Manchester City Council (SASCA)	-	30,000	30,000
Manchester City Council (OMVCS & Other)	-	59,646	59,646
Refugee Action	-	123,305	123,305
Tudor Trust	-	31,004	31,004
Forever Manchester	-	5,000	5,000
MACC - Household Support Fund	-	28,650	28,650
MCC Destitution fund	-	240	240
Migrant Help	-	5,000	5,000
Income from Destitute Housing	23,064	-	23,064
The Fore Foundation	30,000	-	30,000
Other Grants	30,089	-	30,089
	<u>108,153</u>	<u>558,430</u>	<u>666,583</u>

Previous Year	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023
	£	£	£
National Lottery Community Fund	-	59,667	59,667
Access to Justice	-	46,210	46,210
Emerge	-	18,296	18,296
GMIAU	-	16,340	16,340
Greater Manchester Mayor	-	7,951	7,951
Lloyds Foundation	33,476	-	33,476
Manchester City Council (RIS)	-	37,500	37,500
Manchester City Council (SASCA)	-	39,400	39,400
Manchester City Council (VCS & Other)	-	43,540	43,540
Refugee Action	-	60,004	60,004
Tudor Trust	-	31,067	31,067
Wai Yin	-	5,000	5,000
Salford CVS	-	6,500	6,500
Forever Manchester	-	5,000	5,000
Sport England	-	4,950	4,950
MCC (HSF)	-	3,480	3,480
MCC Destitution fund (Somali)	-	4,780	4,780
Manchester BME Network	1,000	-	1,000
Income from Destitute Housing	17,788	-	17,788
Other Grants	21,000	-	21,000
	<u>73,264</u>	<u>389,685</u>	<u>462,949</u>

4 EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Local Giving membership	180	-	180	30	-	30
	<u>180</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30</u>

5 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	Temporary Accommodation	Advice & Other Work	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Employment Costs		270,138	270,138
Freelance Workers		9,823	9,823
Recruitment Costs		575	575
DBS Costs		18	18
Provision of temporary accommodation	12,839		12,839
Service user refreshments		150	150
Service user telephone		120	120
Service user travel		250	250
Food Supplies		2,147	2,147
Project Partner		30,000	30,000
Staff Travel		1,448	1,448
Staff Training & Teambuilding		604	604
Staff Refreshments		668	668
Staff Appreciation		1,461	1,461
Venue Hire, Events & Activities		4,905	4,905
Subscriptions		1,846	1,846
Household Support		28,220	28,220
Volunteer Travel & Expenses		3,171	3,171
Volunteer Rewards		2,975	2,975
Support Costs		140,757	140,757
Governance Costs		2,917	2,917
	<u>12,839</u>	<u>502,193</u>	<u>515,032</u>
			Restricted Funds 460,146
			Unrestricted Funds 54,886
			<u>515,032</u>

Previous Year	Temporary Accommodation	Advice & Other Work	2023
	£	£	£
Employment Costs		235,527	235,527
Freelance Workers		4,629	4,629
Provision of temporary accommodation	11,608		11,608
Interpreters		60	60
Service user refreshments		1,757	1,757
Service user telephone		762	762
Service user travel		621	621
Food Supplies		495	495
Childcare		60	60
Project Partner		36,960	36,960
Staff Travel		946	946
Staff Training & Teambuilding		3,569	3,569
Staff Refreshments		74	74
Venue Hire, Events & Activities		12,270	12,270
Grants made		1,250	1,250
Subscriptions		1,537	1,537
Destitution Payments		7,502	7,502
Volunteer Expenses		743	743
Volunteer Rewards		845	845
Support Costs	1,325	107,995	109,320
Governance Costs		2,432	2,432
	<u>12,933</u>	<u>420,034</u>	<u>432,967</u>
			Restricted Funds 429,825
			Unrestricted Funds 3,142
			<u>432,967</u>

6 ALLOCATION OF GOVERNANCE AND SUPPORT COSTS	Basis or Apportionment	General Support	Governance	2024 Total	2023 Total
		£	£	£	£
Support Costs:					
Employment Costs	Facilities Used	57,425	-	57,425	44,605
Premises Costs	Facilities Used	22,629	-	22,629	25,100
Repairs & Maintenance	Facilities Used	8,094	-	8,094	2,453
Minor Equipment	Facilities Used	3,290	-	3,290	873
Printing, Stationery & Postage	Facilities Used	3,633	-	3,633	1,800
Cleaning & PPE	Facilities Used	3,063	-	3,063	3,059
Telephone	Facilities Used	7,220	-	7,220	5,856
Insurance	Facilities Used	775	-	775	743
Equipment Rental	Facilities Used	1,680	-	1,680	1,677
IT Support & Equipment	Facilities Used	7,436	-	7,436	4,631
Depreciation	Facilities Used	10,072	-	10,072	8,008
Book-keeping	Facilities Used	2,020	-	2,020	1,634
Accountancy & Payroll	Governance	1,530	1,529	3,059	2,784
Bank Charges	Facilities Used	486	-	486	515
AGM & Management Committee	Governance	-	1,388	1,388	1,284
Consultancy		4,176	-	4,176	4,521
Legal Fees		5,829	-	5,829	1,325
Sundry	Facilities Used	1,399	-	1,399	884
		<u>140,757</u>	<u>2,917</u>	<u>143,674</u>	<u>111,752</u>

7 STAFF COSTS

The charity considers its key management personnel comprises of the trustees and the manager. The total employment benefits, including employer pension contributions of the key management personnel were £57,425. No employee has benefits in excess of £60,000 .

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and Salaries	299,266	258,312
Redundancy	912	-
Social Security Costs	16,802	12,862
Pension Costs	10,583	8,958
	<u>327,563</u>	<u>280,132</u>

No employee earned £60,000 per annum or more.

The average number of employees during the year was 17 with a full time equivalent of 11:

	2024	2023
Services	10	10
Management	1	1
	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>

8 INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS FEES

	2024 £	2023 £
Independent examination fees	1,200	1,140
Other Services	3,879	3,792
	<u>5,079</u>	<u>4,932</u>

9 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS AND TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

There are no related party transactions which require disclosure.

No remuneration was paid or payable to any of the trustees in respect of the period. Except as disclosed below no reimbursement of expenses has been made or is due to be made to any of the trustees in respect of the period.

		£
Travel Expenses	1 trustee	341
		<u>341</u>

10 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Building Improvements £	Computer Equipment £	Office Equip. & Furniture £	Total £
COST				
Brought forward at 1 April 2023	7,071	11,471	4,510	23,052
Additions	-	10,237	3,785	14,022
At 31 March 2024	<u>7,071</u>	<u>21,708</u>	<u>8,295</u>	<u>37,074</u>
DEPRECIATION				
Brought forward at 1 April 2023	643	5,778	1,587	8,008
Charge for the Period	643	6,896	2,533	10,072
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,286</u>	<u>12,674</u>	<u>4,120</u>	<u>18,080</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 March 2024	<u>5,785</u>	<u>9,034</u>	<u>4,175</u>	<u>18,994</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>6,428</u>	<u>5,693</u>	<u>2,923</u>	<u>15,044</u>

11 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

	2024 £	2023 £
Contracted but not provided for	nil	nil

12 DEBTORS

	2024 £	2023 £
Other Debtors	31,754	13,039
Prepayments	2,294	3,658
	<u>34,048</u>	<u>16,697</u>

In 2024 £33,413 (2023 £14,603) debtors and prepayments relates to restricted funds.

13 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Other Creditors	1,029	7,901
Other Taxes & Social Security Costs	4,374	-
Accruals	4,759	4,564
Deferred Income	48,137	105,846
	<u>58,299</u>	<u>118,311</u>

In 2024 £52,896 (2023 £107,097) relates to restricted funds.

14 DEFERRED INCOME

	2024 £	2023 £
Deferred income transferred from old charity	-	34,751
Balance brought forward	105,846	-
Amount released to income earned from charitable activities	(105,846)	(34,751)
Grant income deferred during the year	48,137	105,846
	<u>48,137</u>	<u>105,846</u>

15 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	Balance at 1 April 2023	Incoming	Transfers	Outgoing	Balance 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds:					
National Lottery Community Fund	2,770	89,148		(86,623)	5,295
Emerge	10,234	-		-	10,234
Esme Fairbairn	5,000	-		-	5,000
Access To Justice	14,568	27,678		(22,187)	20,059
Forever Manchester -destitute project	1,914	-		-	1,914
Forever Manchester	3,724	5,000		(5,000)	3,724
Greater Manchester Mayors Fund	12,858	-		-	12,858
Joseph Levy Foundation	1,524	-	170	(1,694)	-
GMCA	-	24,500		(20,873)	3,627
Manchester City Council (Afghan Support)	3,130	-		-	3,130
Manchester City Council (DF Somali)	300	240		(320)	220
Manchester City Council (SASCA)	3,940	30,000		(30,000)	3,940
Manchester City Council (OMVCS)	11,325	59,646		(57,186)	13,785
Manchester City Council (RIS)	-	50,000		(50,000)	-
Manchester City Council (HSF)	140	-		-	140
Salford CVS	3,642	-		-	3,642
Refugee Action	(2,379)	123,305		(81,932)	38,994
Tudor Trust	12,229	31,004		(22,425)	20,808
Migrant Help	-	5,000		(710)	4,290
UK Community Foundation	9,670	-		-	9,670
Sport England	2,579	-		(1,337)	1,242
Lloyds Foundation	11,646	-		-	11,646
Wai Yin	11,734	-		-	11,734
Carnegie UK Trust	2,270	-		-	2,270
Donation - Eat Well Get Well	-	1,080		(700)	380
Henry Smith Charity	-	70,000		(37,926)	32,074
MACC	1,390	-		(200)	1,190
MACC - HSF	-	28,650		(28,650)	-
Minor Grants	1,290	-		-	1,290
GMIAU	-	14,259		(11,252)	3,007
British Red Cross	284	-		(284)	-
Destitution & Crisis Funds					
Crisis Covid	4,900	-		-	4,900
Groundwork UK	500	-		-	500
RAFT	4,153	-		-	4,153
Restricted Donations	551	-		(276)	275
Capital					
Clothworker	5,715	-		(571)	5,144
Total Restricted Funds:	141,601	559,510	170	(460,146)	241,135
Unrestricted Funds:					
Designated - Building Fund	25,000	25,000		-	50,000
General	161,963	120,680	(170)	(55,066)	227,407
Total Unrestricted Funds:	186,963	145,680	(170)	(55,066)	277,407
	328,564	705,190	-	(515,212)	518,542

Designated Fund - Building Fund

The trustees have decided to set aside surpluses from unrestricted funds towards the establishment of a an MRSN building.

14 Cont... Previous Year	Transferred from MRSN old charity on 1st April 2022	Incoming	Outgoing	Balance 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds:				
National Lottery Community Fund	13,508	59,667	(70,405)	2,770
Emerge	2,614	18,296	(10,676)	10,234
Esme Fairbairn	5,000	-	-	5,000
Access To Justice	173	46,210	(31,815)	14,568
Forever Manchester -destitute project	3,923	-	(2,009)	1,914
Forever Manchester	-	5,000	(1,276)	3,724
Greater Manchester Mayors Fund	4,907	7,951	-	12,858
Joseph Levy Foundation	3,218	-	(1,694)	1,524
Manchester City Council (equality)	719	-	(719)	-
Manchester City Council (Afghan Support)	3,130	-	-	3,130
Manchester City Council (DF Somali)	-	4,780	(4,480)	300
Manchester City Council (SASCA)	-	39,400	(35,460)	3,940
Manchester City Council (OMVCS)	-	43,540	(32,215)	11,325
Manchester City Council (RIS)	-	37,500	(37,500)	-
Manchester City Council (HSF)	-	3,480	(3,340)	140
Salford CVS	-	6,500	(2,858)	3,642
Refugee Action	75,770	60,004	(138,153)	(2,379)
Tudor Trust	-	31,067	(18,838)	12,229
UK Community Foundation	10,440	-	(770)	9,670
Sport England	3,456	4,950	(5,827)	2,579
Lloyds Foundation	12,313	-	(667)	11,646
Wai Yin	6,734	5,000	-	11,734
Carnegie UK Trust	2,770	-	(500)	2,270
BBC Children in Need	26	-	(26)	-
BBC Children in Need: Covid	33	-	(33)	-
MACC	1,390	-	-	1,390
Minor Grants	2,540	-	(1,250)	1,290
GMIAU	534	16,340	(16,874)	-
MIND	330	-	(330)	-
WEA	11,042	-	(11,042)	-
British Red Cross	741	-	(457)	284
Destitution & Crisis Funds				
Crisis Covid	4,900	-	-	4,900
Groundwork UK	500	-	-	500
RAFT	4,153	-	-	4,153
Restricted Donations	591	-	(40)	551
Capital				
Clothworker	6,286	-	(571)	5,715
Total Restricted Funds:	181,741	389,685	(429,825)	141,601
Unrestricted Funds:				
Designated - Building Fund	-	25,000	-	25,000
General	95,682	69,453	(3,172)	161,963
Total Unrestricted Funds:	95,682	94,453	(3,172)	186,963
	277,423	484,138	(432,997)	328,564

Purpose of funds:-

Destitution Fund & Welfare Grants	to assist individuals experiencing hardship
National Lottery Community Fund	towards Shared Route project
Emerge	towards the Emerge 3Rs Rafiki Project
Esme Fairbairn	towards the Afghan Refugees settlement process
Big Lottery	towards general advice project & community development
Access To Justice	towards welfare & immigration advice workers
Forever Manchester	towards community development work
Greater Manchester Mayor	towards refugee integration service & salary costs
Joseph Levy Foundation	towards destitute project costs & IT upgrade
GMCA	towards English language education, volunteering & community participation
Migrant Help	towards IT and garden costs

The Henry Smith Charity	towards the employment costs of three advice workers
Manchester City Council OMVCS	General Advice & Community Development Project
Manchester City Council RIS	towards RIS workers
Salford CVS	towards cancer awareness work
Refugee Action	towards housing project, experts by experience & asylum guide
Tudor Trust	towards manager salary costs
UK Community Foundation	towards community development work & capacity building
Sport England	towards health & wellbeing project
Lloyds Foundation	towards project worker costs
Wai YIN	towards the Old people project (OPEN)
Carnegie UK Trust	towards training costs including travel
MACC	towards costs of migrant destitution fund & household support
GMIAU	Justice Together grant towards OISC level 2 worker
British Red Cross	towards activity costs
Restricted Donations	donations towards destitution project
Clothworker	towards centre refurbishment. Balance represents future depreciation

16 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024 Total
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	16,975	2,019	18,994
Cash at bank and in hand	265,200	258,599	523,799
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	(4,768)	(19,483)	(24,251)
Total	277,407	241,135	518,542

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023 Total
	£	£	£
Previous Year			
Tangible fixed assets			
Cash at bank and in hand	391	14,653	15,044
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	195,692	219,442	415,134
Total	(9,120)	(92,494)	(101,614)
	186,963	141,601	328,564

17 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

There were no contingent liabilities at 31st March 2024 (2023 £nil)..

18 OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

The charity has the following annual commitment under operating leases.	Equipment	Land and Buildings	Total	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Operating leases which expire:				
within one year	-	6,100	6,100	7,220
between 2 and 5 years	-	18,300	18,300	18,300
after 5 years	-	27,450	27,450	33,550
	-	51,850	51,850	59,070

The 15 year lease in respect of the property at Princess Road, Manchester, ran to November 2033 and is in the process of being renewed.

19 POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

The Trustees do not consider that there have been any events since the balance sheet date that impact materially on the financial statements.

20 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The organisation only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised on a transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at an amortised cost using the effective interest method.

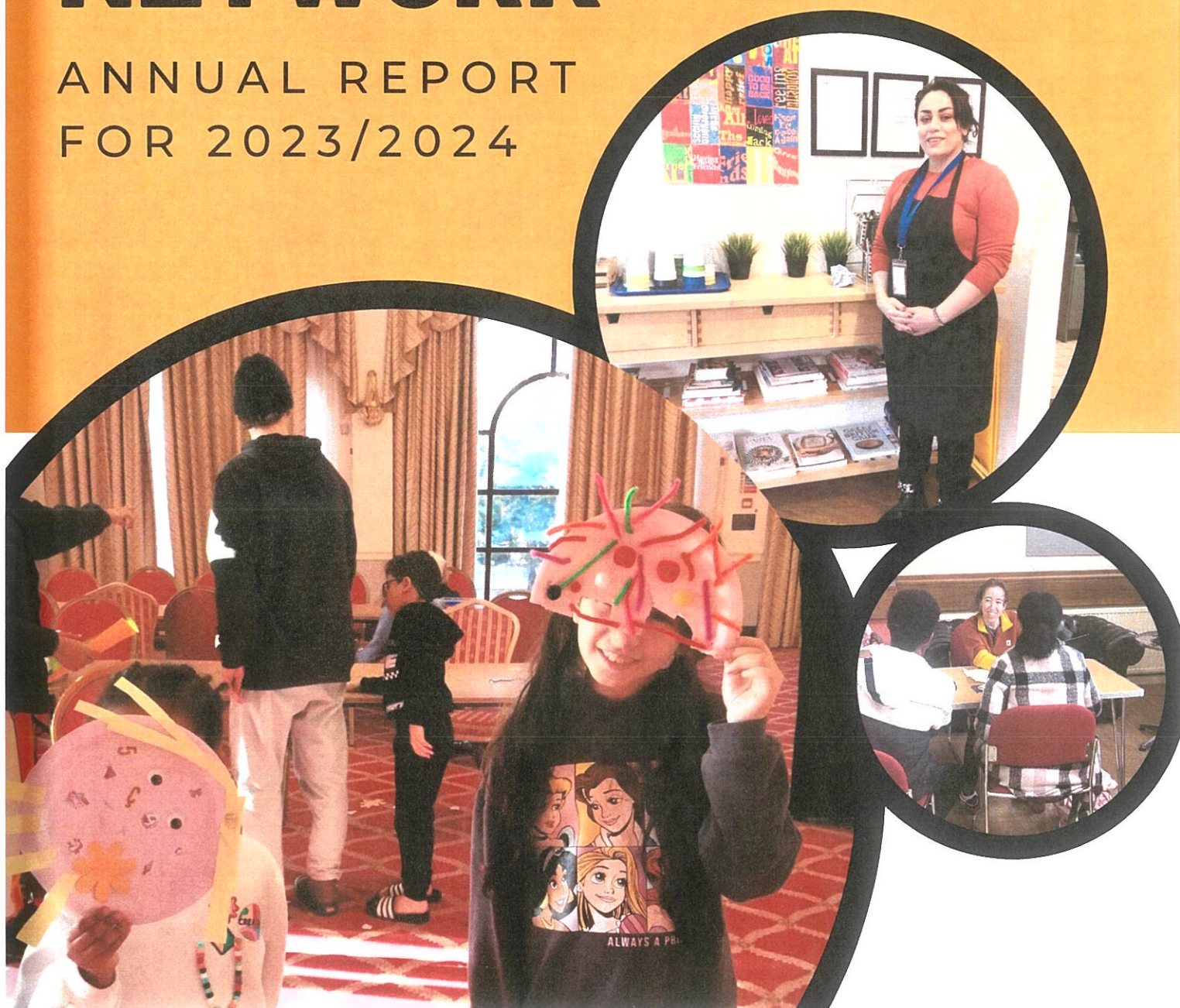
21 GOING CONCERN

The company's main source of income is grant funding. The trustees consider that it is appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis and, consequently, the accounts do not include any adjustments that would be necessary if the funding income should cease.



MANCHESTER REFUGEE SUPPORT NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 2023/2024



LETTER FROM OUR MANAGER

Welcome to our annual report 2023-24. It has been a busy time at MRSN as we all continually work to improve our services for refugees and people seeking asylum. I am writing this following the mass counter-demonstrations resulting from extremist riots that faced many areas of the country. It was heart-warming to receive good wishes and support from individuals and organisations who recognise the difficult work carried out by MRSN, and other fellow organisations. Over the past 3 months we have been working to review and set out our future direction. Supported by Lloyd's business consultant, MRSN staff, trustees and clients were reminded of the importance of revisiting our aims and objectives. MRSN is a local registered charity with a clear vision – We want to help build a society in which refugees are welcome, respected and safe and be a place where they can achieve their full potential. Established in 1995 by local people, we work to support individuals and build strong refugee community organisations that contribute to the life of our city.

Manchester has always been a place for people fleeing from persecution and extreme hardship in their homeland. Our clients often experience major challenges and trauma on their journey here. Once here they face an increasingly complex and inefficient legal system and often struggle to get even basic support and help. The past few years has seen the deliberate fostering of a hostile environment based on misinformation and prejudice. All indications are that migration will continue and the city will continue to need a dedicated agency supporting people seeking asylum and helping refugees settle and play a full part in their new community.

MRSN are proud to be a central organisation that contributes to that vital support. We offer our thanks to all those that choose to fund and support our charitable work. I hope you enjoy reading about our development and successes 2023-2024 and our plans for the future.



In Peace
Belay Kahsay
CEO of MRSN

OUR CONTENTS

OUR AIMS	4
OUR OBJECTIVES	5
GENERAL REFUGEE ADVICE	6
IMMIGRATION ADVICE	8
SHARED ROUTES PROJECT	10
EXPERT BY EXPERIENCE	12
ASYLUM SUPPORT PROJECT	14
HOTEL PROJECT	16
REFUGEE INTEGRATION SERVICE	18
HEALTH AND WELLBEING	20
OUR FUNDERS	22
OUR PARTNERS	23
FINANCIAL REVIEW	24

OUR AIMS



SUPPORT

To support refugees to access services and opportunities on an equal basis, in order to prevent all forms of poverty and allow individuals to fulfil their potential.



EDUCATE

To educate refugees and asylum seekers on their rights and responsibilities as active citizens, and contribute to positive media representation of refugees.



EMPOWER

To empower refugees to establish strong community organisations and provide platforms for them to represent the needs and aspirations of their communities.



OUR OBJECTIVES

1

To advance education and relieve financial hardship amongst those seeking asylum and those granted refugee status particularly by the provision of legal and other advice.

2

To support and promote the physical and mental health of asylum seekers, refugees and their dependents.

3

To advance the education and training of those granted refugee status and their dependents in need thereof so as to advance them in life and assist them to adapt within a new community.

4

To advance the education and knowledge of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.

5

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 age, race, gender, religion, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances.

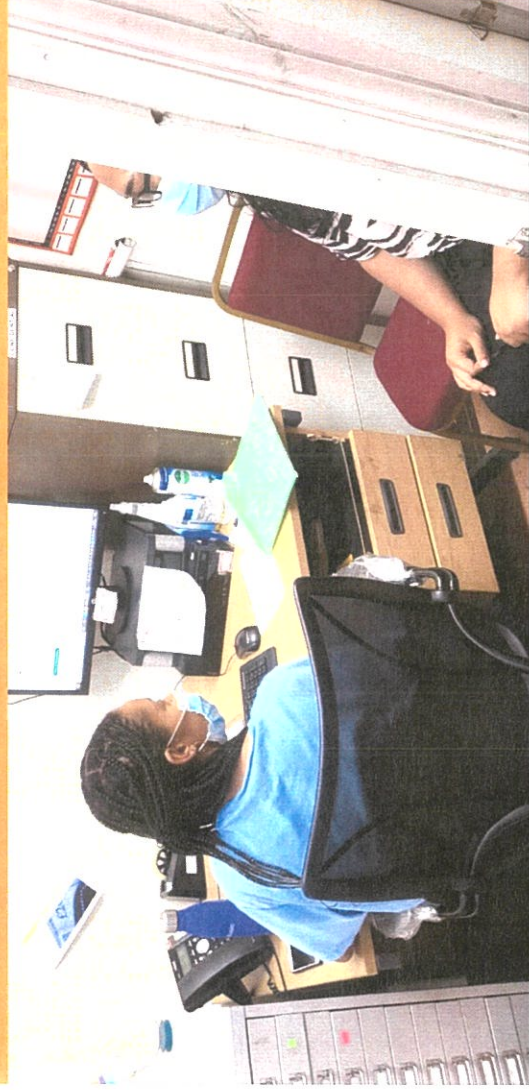
6

To relieve the effects of financial poverty on refugees and asylum seekers through the provision of temporary accommodation.

GENERAL REFUGEE ADVICE

Over the last year, Charlotte has taken over the coordination of General Refugee Advice, and Birhanemeskel was recruited as Refugee Advice Worker. They have continued to provide high quality support through their drop ins and appointments.

This project continues to be phenomenally supported by our fantastic volunteers and Charlotte has been expanding the training provided to volunteers.



I am very satisfied with what you have done for me!
Many people's lives have changed with your help.
Thank you very much for what you have done!

FEEDBACK FROM OUR CLIENTS THIS YEAR

751 INDIVIDUAL CLIENTS WERE SUPPORTED

1182 CASES WERE OPENED



34

CASES OPENED
RELATING TO ACCESS
TO EDUCATION

83

CASES OF SUPPORT
WITH UNIVERSAL
CREDIT

17

CASES TO SUPPORT
ACCESS TO
EMPLOYMENT AND
VOLUNTEERING



299

CASES TO SUPPORT
WITH ACCESS TO
HOUSING (EXCLUDING
MANCHESTER MOVE)

148



CASES TO SUPPORT
WITH ACCESS TO
HEALTHCARE

147

CASES OF OPENING
MANCHESTER MOVE
APPLICATIONS

IMMIGRATION ADVICE

This year Alex, Bridget and Kira have been managing the project alongside a great team of volunteers. The team have been continuing to work hard to expand their own immigration expertise in order that we can provide more support to clients. We would also like to congratulate Kira, who not only moved into a role with MRSN in the last year, but passed the OISC Level 1 immigration/asylum.



The staff's patience and calmness in responding to the refugees was far beyond my imagination.

Very good service and wonderful and helpful people are working hard to help us to get our rights.

797 INDIVIDUAL CLIENTS WERE SUPPORTED

1054 CASES WERE OPENED

13

INDEFINITE LEAVE TO
REMAIN
APPLICATIONS

389

CASES TO SUPPORT
WITH TRAVEL
DOCUMENTS

220

CASES TO SUPPORT
WITH CITIZENSHIP
APPLICATIONS

99

CASES TO PROVIDE
SUPPORT FOR ASYLUM
SEEKERS

FEEDBACK FROM OUR CLIENTS THIS YEAR

13

VOLUNTEERS
SUPPORTED THE
PROJECT THIS
YEAR



SHARED ROUTES PROJECT

The Shared Routes Project has continued to build upon its reputation of high quality training and support. Over the last year, the team have provided 4 courses, and built even more pathways to accessing volunteer opportunities, including placing people within internal volunteer roles within other projects in MRSN.

77 PEER NAVIGATORS COMPLETED THE TRAINING THIS YEAR

58 PEER NAVIGATORS PLACED IN VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

80% PEER NAVIGATORS REPORTED INCREASED CONFIDENCE FOLLOWING TRAINING.

85% PEER NAVIGATORS REPORTED MAKING FRIENDS ON THE COURSE.



100%

PEER NAVIGATORS REPORTED IMPROVED SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

100%

PEER NAVIGATORS REPORTED IMPROVED KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF UK AGENCIES

I enjoyed the training very much and I can now volunteer in the field that I love because when I started thinking about it I didn't know how to get into the sustainability field. I want to thank you and all the team for this amazing opportunity for me.

QUOTE FROM PEER NAVIGATOR

I've managed to register at local Bolton CVS who help me to find a volunteer job during the Shared Routes Project course. I felt very confident during the interview as I learnt job interview skills through the Shared Routes course. Also the course trainers are very kind and professional and I used them as a job reference. Thank you MRSN for all ongoing help and support.

QUOTE FROM PEER NAVIGATOR

EXPERT BY EXPERIENCE

In the year 2023-2024, the group has been busy engaging with many other external partners including The Woolf Institute in Cambridge in the launch of their report on Refugees Integration, we have worked with the RSMP (Regional Strategic Migration Partnership) in Manchester to provide Lived Experience input for building their website, we have also worked with the GMCA (Greater Manchester Combines Authority).



4

EbE group members took part in the Communities Not Camps event and workshop campaign hosted by Home in Manchester in collaboration with Refugee Action and Asylum Matters.

5

EbE members have also been involved in discussions with Manchester City Council in their process to become a council of Sanctuary, we are proud to be invited among other organisations that support refugees and people seeking in the region to take part in the Manchester City Council stakeholder event for further discussion around MCC to become a council of sanctuary.

3

EbE group members have worked in collaboration with the developer CAST and the funder DISRUPT to co-design the Greater Manchester referral platform -Kompassi- which was finally live in May this year 2024 and the EbE group is proud to have been involved in the design process from start to completion.

The EbE is going from strength to strength and we are very proud to say that we are Great!

ASYLUM SUPPORT PROJECT

After the closure of the Asylum Guide project, in partnership with Refugee Action, the now named Asylum Support Project reopened in September 2023 when our long time coordinator Bridget came back to work.

SINCE SEPTEMBER WE HAVE:

331 NEW CLIENTS WERE SUPPORTED WITH CASEWORK

12 UNDERAGE ASYLUM SEEKERS WERE HELPED AFTER BEING INCORRECTLY AGED BY THE HOME OFFICE

30 ASYLUM SEEKERS WERE SUPPORTED TO LODGE AN APPEAL

We have helped roughly 30 asylum seekers lodge an appeal, who have been unrepresented at the appeal stage, to have a second chance to argue their case. Unfortunately access to legal aid solicitors is very limited at the moment, but we have had some success in referring these clients on to IAS, UKIL and Bately Law solicitors so they don't go to the appeal hearing unrepresented.



CASE STUDY OF SUPPORTING A HOMELESS FAMILY

The following case is a great example of the integral role support organisations play. The asylum system is complicated and even amongst organisations like the council and the Home Office it isn't always clear where responsibility lies.

We had a family come into the drop-in who had been sporadically homeless over 2 years and wanted help requesting emergency accommodation. After speaking with Migrant Help, it was discovered that their asylum case had been withdrawn. This meant the Home Office had no duty to house them. As the family had 3 young children, all under 10, the council would have a duty to house the family under section 17 of the children's act. We helped them call the council who said they would call the family back soon about housing.

Later that week at the immigration drop-in, I discovered the council had instructed them to go to the police but they hadn't done so as they'd tried that previously and found it to be unhelpful. Therefore, together we called the council and they initially said their case had been closed as they hadn't followed previous instructions. After some back and forth, they agreed to reopen the case and refer them to children's services and the NRPF team.

The NRPF team contacted us and said it wasn't their area but they would try and help anyway. Children's services contacted us and said they could house them until Monday when their appeal could be accepted and the Home Office would then house them. After explaining the situation to the Home Office, I was told the staff member there would have to speak to their manager and get back to me.

I managed to arrange NRPF team to house the family in a hotel until Monday with the hopes we would've heard back from the Home Office by then. They told me to contact children's services and arrange a one-off £50 payment to assist them in the meantime.

By Monday I still hadn't received a response from the Home Office so I made an appointment for them at further submissions unit in Liverpool for the Friday of that week, as an alternative way to reopen their asylum claim. The NRPF team agreed to house them until the following Monday. I also arranged a food parcel for them to collect on during the week.

The following Friday the client attended his further submissions appointment and I was then able to take steps to get them housing. After discussions with ACM and the NRPF team about whether the case is relevant to schedule 10, section 17, section 98 or section 95, we decided to apply for emergency housing through the Home Office. We also had to chase up the council and police for letters stating the steps taken on the family's part and why the support could not be provided, as evidence that they were eligible for alternative support. By Tuesday the family are being housed by the Home Office.

Later that month, I was contacted by the client as his section 95 support application had been rejected without the right to appeal. I contacted ACM again to discuss and they said they would assist him in appealing on the grounds his asylum claim was withdrawn previously without following Home Office guidance. They were successful and the client and his family have continued to be supported by the Home Office and we hope they now will have a stable living situation.

HOTEL PROJECT

Jennifer started as an Asylum Hotel Coordinator in April 2023 providing ESOL and wellbeing support to the adults and playful activities for the young children within 1 hotel in Manchester. We then expanded to support two further hotels housing men.

18 VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT THE ESOL PROJECT EVERY WEEK

15 VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

UPTO 25 ATTENDEES AT EACH ESOL CLASS

UPTO 80 CHILDREN ATTENDED PARTY EVENTS



ABOUT OUR ACTIVITIES

ESOL

For 2 hours every week we provide ESOL for adult females. We have two qualified teachers offering their support to the needs of the captive audience. The teaching materials used were very well sourced from established and trusted ESOL providers online for us to explore and obtain to suit the needs of the recipients. The ESOL classes at both the male only hotels were similar in execution but tweaked to meet varied levels of understanding.

EVENTS

We put on many events for the occupants of the hotels some of them included fun days with bouncy castles, magicians, circus acts and food and exciting cakes. We organised Christmas parties for the ESOL classes and gave gifts to everyone who attended. We took the ESOL groups for coffee and cakes. There were many occasions for joyful conversations to alleviate anxiety, isolation and depression.

CHILDREN

Every week we set up at the hotel for activities with the children and this included, board games for the teenagers, reading materials, jigsaw puzzles, crafts, games with small prizes and some fun games including football which we were supported by Street League who came each week and took those who wanted to take part outside to have a kick around.

ARTS AND CRAFTS

This was supported by 3 ladies from Refugee Aid who came fortnightly to encourage the women to join in learning to knit and crochet and do embroidery too. Many of the women already had this as a previous skill so totally enjoyed regaining the opportunity to get back into it again and to also teach their skill to those who wanted to learn. We all worked collaboratively to make it a successful and welcoming space.

MANCHESTER URBAN DIGGERS

We are thankful as well to the collaboration with Manchester Urban Diggers. This charity is for those who enjoyed sharing a special peaceful space with the community whilst if possible planting a few fruit and veg, or assisting with harvesting. People can also partake in music, singing, cooking and or joining in conversational English or just eating healthy organic food together. This allotment space broke barriers in so many ways, alleviated some symptoms of anxiety and depression.

YOGA

Yoga became a welcomed space for one hour each fortnight whilst children were at school and the women could take some time for themselves. Rosalind our volunteer professional teacher ran the sessions and brought relief and relaxation to women who knew what it meant to their wellbeing.



REFUGEE INTEGRATION SERVICE

Over the last year the RIS project has seen some considerable changes. In May, due to a cut in funding the Housing Access Scheme (HAS), a sister project of RIS and managed by RIS staff, had to close.

As a result of this reduction in funding, we had to let go two of our part time staff members, Hassan and Tsegaye who were not only excellent in their roles but also provided multilingual support. This meant the project struggled to deliver at its usual capacity.

However, RIS have managed to secure some excellent volunteers from our Shared Routes Project, in Tamador and Portia who are an enormous help in triage, translation and some casework.

Beyond internal staffing, housing has become an increasingly complex area as the council are reducing the level of assistance to all groups and family reunion is no longer being funded. We have seen housing allowance increase which is positive as it encourages private landlords to get on board with housing our clients, which could open more options to clients.

DESPITE THESE CHANGES, THE PROJECT HAS INCREASED THEIR SUPPORT FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

171*

322

**CASES OPENED IN
2023/2024**

116*

245

**INDIVIDUAL CLIENTS
SUPPORTED IN 2023/24**



WHO RIS SUPPORT:

- people who have received refugee status in the last 9 months.
- people with learning difficulties
- people with mental or physical disabilities
- people who are pensionable age

203 CASES RELATED TO SUPPORT WITH HOUSING

36 CASES RELATED TO MANCHESTER MOVE

3 CASES RELATED TO ACCESS TO EDUCATION

**29 CASES SUPPORTING WITH BENEFITS,
GRANTS AND LOANS**

**13 CASES SUPPORTING WITH IMMIGRATION
ISSUES**

**4 CASES SUPPORTING WITH ACCESS TO
HEALTHCARE**

8 CASES SUPPORTING WITH TAXES AND BILLS

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Refugee Health and Wellbeing provide Health and wellbeing support to refugees and asylum seekers. MRSN offers a range of services and support to enable people to lead healthy and fulfilling lives. As well as physical exercise and football sessions, the project give one-to-one support and organizes healthy living workshops. Support is also provided around issues such as access to health and mental health care, volunteering, or joining support groups

The project is helping around 120 refugees and asylum seekers every week to lead healthy and fulfilling lives and improve their wellbeing and health.



REFUGEE WEEK 2023

Over the week of June 20th – June 26th, charities across the UK were taking time to celebrate Refugee Week, whilst focusing on the theme of Healing. To celebrate it ourselves, we ran our annual and favourite tradition of the Refugee World Cup. Teams came from across Greater Manchester to compete and it was a spectacular and thoroughly enjoyable event for all involved.

We plan to continue our tradition in 2024 with another Refugee World Cup. Please check our website and social media for updates on this.

120
REFUGEES
SUPPORTED EACH
WEEK



OUR FUNDERS

- AB Charitable Trust
- Access To Justice Foundation
- Forever Manchester
- GMCA
- Henry Smith
- Lloyds Bank Foundation
- MACC
- Manchester City Council
- National Lottery Community Fund
- Newby Trust
- Refugee Action
- Sported

- Sport England
- The Bulldog Trust
- The Tudor Trust



OUR PARTNERS

- ACM
- Asylum Aid
- Asylum Matters
- Bately Law Solicitors
- Boaz Trust
- British Red Cross
- Care4Calais
- Caritas
- CAST
- Chorlton Refugee Aid
- Citizen's Advice Bureau
- City of Sanctuary
- Cornerstones
- DISRUPT
- Emerge/touchwood
- ESOL Manchester
- Flow Max Group
- Freedom From Torture
- Greater Manchester Combines Authority
- Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit
- Growing together
- Levenshulme
- Home in Manchester
- IAS
- Manchester BME Network
- Manchester City Council
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Manchester Urban Diggers
- Maz Linford

- Migrant Help
- Nathan Dale Gardners
- Nazarene Theological College
- NIA Centre
- NRPF
- One Manchester
- Precision Dentist Clinic
- PRIDES
- Princess Butcher
- Project 17
- Projekts
- Rainbow Haven
- Refugee Action
- Refugee Aid
- Refugees at Home
- Regional Strategic Migration Partnership
- Revive
- Salvation Army
- SASCA
- Save the Children
- Shelter
- St James Church
- Street League
- The Little Sri Lankan
- The Mustard Tree
- The Woolf Institute
- UKIL
- Women's Aid

FINANCIAL REVIEW

INCOME: £705,190.00

GIFTS AND DONATIONS: 5.5%
CHARITABLE INCOME: 94.5%
OTHER INCOME: 0.01%

EXPENDITURE: £515,212.00

RAISING FUNDS: 0.1%
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES: 99.9%

NET INCOME: £189,978.00
TOTAL FUNDS AT START OF YEAR: £328,564.00
TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR: £518,542.00





Registered charity number: 1196560

129 Princess Road
Manchester
M14 4RB

Tel: 0161 868 0777
Email: info@mrsn.org.uk



@MRSNManchester

Member of

advice UK



MANCHESTER REFUGEE SUPPORT NETWORK

England & Wales - Charity number 1196560

Accounts

MANCHESTER REFUGEE SUPPORT NETWORK

CHARITY REGISTRATION NO:1196560

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED
31ST MARCH 2023**

INDEX

Page	
1-6	Trustees Annual Report
7	Independent Examiners Report
8	Statement of Financial Activities
9	Balance Sheet
10	Statement of Cash Flows
11-18	Notes to the Accounts
appendix	Chair & Manager's Report

Manchester Refugee Support Network

Report of the trustees for the Period Ended 31st March 2023

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the period ended 31st March 2023. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Reference and administrative information

Charity Name: Manchester Refugee Support Network

Charity Number: 1196560

Trustees

Mike Mpofu	(appointed 25.11.22)
Ahmed Mohamud	(appointed 25.11.22)
Ellen Ghebretatios	(appointed 25.11.22)
Addisu Tewolde	(appointed 25.11.22)
Amina Said	(appointed 25.11.22)
Sadia Muminovic	(appointed 25.11.22)
Zahid Kahan	(appointed 25.11.22)

Key Personnel

A scheme of delegation is in place and the Manager, Belay Kashay has responsibility for the day to day operational management of the organisation, individual supervision of the staff and also ensuring that the staff continue to develop their skills and working practices to ensure high quality service provision.

Principal Office

129 Princess Road
Moss Side
Manchester
M14 4RB

Independent Examiners

Community Accountancy Service Limited
The Grange, Pilgrim Drive
Beswick
Manchester
M11 3TQ

Manchester Refugee Support Network

Bankers

NatWest Bank
438 Barlow Moor Road
Chorlton-cum-Hardy
Manchester
M21 0BR

Structure, governance and management

The organisation is a charitable incorporated organisation and was registered as a charity on 12th November 2021, and is governed under its Constitution.

The Charity took over the assets and activities of Manchester Refugee Support Network, an unincorporated charity number 1109990 on 1st April 2022.

Appointment of trustees

The charity trustees will be elected by the membership with one half retiring from office at each AGM. Those trustees can make themselves available for re-appointment. The charity must have between 3 and 8 trustees.

Trustee induction and training

Following their election, new trustees are provided with Governance training covering:

- The obligations of Management Committee members and signposting to relevant Charity Commission publications.
- Current agenda items for Management Committee meetings.
- The main documents and policies which set out the operational framework for the charity, including the Constitution.
- The finance and funding of the organisation including the Finance Policy, Strategy and Plan as well as the latest independently audited accounts.
- Business Plan and future objectives.

Membership

Full Membership of MRSN is open to all properly constituted refugee community organisations in Greater Manchester who have charitable objectives, support the aims of MRSN, have had an AGM in the last 15 months and are refugee led. Associate Membership of MRSN is open to any adult who is interested in furthering the work of MRSN. Only full paid up members have the right to vote at Annual or Special General Meetings.

Each refugee community organisation constitutes a single member of MRSN and nominates a representative to vote on its behalf at any Annual General Meeting or any other Special General Meetings of the membership, including the election of the Management Committee.

Manchester Refugee Support Network

Objectives and activities

- To advance education and relieve financial hardship amongst those seeking asylum and those granted refugee status particularly by the provision of legal and other advice.
- To support and promote the physical and mental health of asylum seekers, refugees and their dependants.
- To advance the education and training of those granted refugee status and their dependants in need thereof so as to advance them in life and assist them to adapt within a new community.
- To advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.
- The provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life of those persons in need of such facilities by reason of their age, race, gender, religion, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances.
- To relieve the effects of financial poverty on refugees and asylum seekers through the provision of temporary accommodation.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives, in planning future activities, and setting the policies for the year.

The charity furthers its charitable purposes for the public benefit through

- Community development services to build capacity within refugee community organisations and to support the delivery of the key priorities enshrined in the Refugee Charter for Manchester
- Legal advice and support to help people affected by poverty, unemployment, homelessness and immigration status
- Volunteer programmes to provide meaningful work experiences and training to refugees and other members of the local community to enhance their employment prospects and to extend the reach of MRSN's advice and other activities
- Provision of temporary accommodation and hardship support

A review of our achievement and performance: how our activities delivered public benefit

Public Benefit the Charities Act 2011 requires charities to demonstrate that their work is of direct benefit to the public. When planning the MRSN's activities each year, the Trustees take due regard of the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. Within the constraint of resources, and subject to any eligibility criteria for a specific service, the MRSN's services, described above, are available to all refugees and people claiming asylum. Services are offered in many of our clients' languages, without charging fees, and recognising the difficulties many face in meeting travelling costs. Our general Advice, refugee integration and refugee awareness of the general public about refugee issues benefits the whole community by supporting community cohesion. Our work on policy,

Manchester Refugee Support Network

legislation and advocacy advances human rights and access to employment, education and health care, and combats destitution. For further information please refer to the appendix.

Volunteers

Volunteers support MRSN through reception work and interpreting for clients who don't speak English. They also provide basic information and make telephone calls on behalf of clients. The role can also include advocacy and support for clients including by accompanying them to appointments. Volunteers also give advice on different issues.

Financial review

Total income in the period was £484,138 and total expenses were £432,997 leaving a surplus of £51,141.

Our income increased from previous year. The manager has been working hard and it can be seen by the significant increase in the number of funders and amount of funding. He has established a strong relationship with a number of funders who have offered us substantial support at a time when many charities have seen their income falls significantly. The number of funders we have received grants from increased during the reporting period and we continue to pursue many more possibilities.

The continued support from individuals and local organisations who provide our unrestricted funds is vital to MRSN's ongoing activities and we are very grateful that this held up at a such a difficult time.

We will keep raising the funds we need to keep Manchester Refugee Support Network open and maintain the vital services it provides to asylum seekers and refugees in Greater Manchester.

Investment powers and policy

The trustees, having regard to the liquidity requirements of operating the charity, have kept available funds in an interest-bearing account.

Reserves policy and going concern

The balance held in unrestricted reserves at 31st March 2023 was £186,963 of which £186,572 is free reserves (after allowing for funds tied up in tangible fixed assets). The balance held in restricted reserves at 31st March 2023 was £141,601.

The trustees aim to maintain free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately six months of unrestricted charitable expenditure. The trustees consider that this level will provide sufficient funds to respond to applications for grants and ensure that support and governance costs are covered.

Manchester Refugee Support Network

Risk management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. The Trustees recognise the importance of identifying and putting in place effective arrangements for the management of risk. A risk register has been established and has been approved by the Board of Trustees. It is kept under continual review by the Board of Trustees and any changes to risk are reviewed at each Trustees meeting. Financial risks associated with reducing income streams from the government and trust funding has led to development of income generation strategy which allow for the diversification of funding and activities. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been in place to diminish the risk the charity faces. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure they continue to meet the needs of the charity.

Achievement and plans for future periods

We have at the core of our mission the need to provide a place where the basic needs of refugees and asylum-seekers can be addressed and where their poverty and social isolation can be overcome. We want to build new partnerships and informal alliances in both our service delivery and campaigning, bringing together our varied expertise and networks to maximise our collective reach and impact. Continuing to campaign hard and lead on refugee issues in the region; MRSN will also work to secure a significant increase in the quantity and quality of legal advice available to refused asylum-seekers and refugees.

As the needs of our service users continue to grow, we need to increase and expand our income streams from sources that will support those aims, so that we can continue to respond in a positive way.

We are clear we want to become increasingly user led and will prioritise the appointment of staff and volunteers with lived experiences.

We are improving our buildings and premises, so they are more accessible, creative, welcoming and family friendly

Understanding and sharing the impact that our work has on our service users is becoming increasingly important, so we are looking to enhance our impact measurement and monitoring

As of 1st April 2022, the trustees have agreed to transfer all activities, assets and liabilities to the newly formed Manchester Refugee Support Network CIO (registration number 1196560)

Please refer to the appendix for further details of our achievements.

Manchester Refugee Support Network

Trustees responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting principles and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures that must be disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is appropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provision of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees on 27th September 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Addisu Tewolde

Chair of trustees

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
MANCHESTER REFUGEE SUPPORT NETWORK
REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1196560**

I report on the accounts of the charity, for the Period Ended 31ST March 2023 which are set out on pages 8 to 18.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity is preparing accrued accounts and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiners 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 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.

Signed: 

E.L Anderson MA FCA CTA

Date: 27th September 2023

Community Accountancy Service Ltd
The Grange, Pilgrim Drive, Beswick,
Manchester, M11 3TQ

MANCHESTER REFUGEE SUPPORT NETWORK

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023
(Including income & expenditure account)

8

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Period from 01.11.21 31.03.23 Total Funds £
INCOME FROM:				
Donations & Legacies	(2)	19,783	-	19,783
Charitable Income	(3)	73,264	389,685	462,949
Other Income		1,402	-	1,402
Investment Income		4	-	4
TOTAL		94,453	389,685	484,138
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Raising Funds	(4)	30	-	30
Charitable Activities	(4)	3,142	429,825	432,967
TOTAL		3,172	429,825	432,997
NET INCOME (EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR		91,281	(40,140)	51,141
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total Funds Transferred from 1109990		95,682	181,741	277,423
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	(15)	186,963	141,601	328,564

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year.
The charity took over the assets and activities of Manchester Refugee Support Network, Registered Charity Number 1109990
with effect from 1st April 2022

The notes on pages 11 to 18 form part of these accounts.

MANCHESTER REFUGEE SUPPORT NETWORK

9

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

CIO 1196560

	Notes	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible Fixed Assets	(10)	15,044
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	(12)	16,697
Cash at Bank and in Hand		<u>415,134</u>
		431,831
LIABILITIES:		
Amounts falling due within one year	(13)	<u>(118,311)</u>
		(118,311)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		313,520
NET ASSETS		<u><u>328,564</u></u>
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
Unrestricted	(15)	186,963
Restricted	(15)	<u>141,601</u>
		<u><u>328,564</u></u>

Approved on behalf of the Board of Trustees



Trustee

Ahmed Mohamed

Date: 27th September 2023

The notes on pages 11 to 18 form part of these accounts.

MANCHESTER REFUGEE SUPPORT NETWORK

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31ST MARCH 2023

10

Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023 £
Net movement in funds	51,141
Add back depreciation	8,008
Less Investment Income	(4)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(16,697)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	118,311
Net Assets excluding cash transferred from old charity	<u>(43,213)</u>
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>117,546</u>
Cash flows from investment activities:	
Purchase of fixed assets	(6,625)
Investment Income	<u>4</u>
Net cash provided by investing activities	(6,621)
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents during the year	110,925
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward	-
Transferred from old charity 1109990	<u>304,209</u>
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	<u><u>415,134</u></u>

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**(a) Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern**

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 1st January 2019 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

(b) Funds structure

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or trust deed. There were 30 restricted funds at the period end date.

Unrestricted income funds comprise those funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects. Unrestricted funds may include designated funds where the trustees, at their discretion have created a fund for a specific purpose.

Further details of each fund are disclosed in note 14.

(c) Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

(d) Expenditure Recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings. For more information on this attribution refer to note (f) below.

(e) Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the expenditure heading for which it was incurred.

(f) Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support costs. Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs related to independent examination and legal fees together with an apportionment of overhead and support costs.

Governance costs and support costs relating to charitable activities have been apportioned based on staff time and facilities used in each activity.

The allocation of support and governance costs is analysed in note 6.

(g) Charitable Activities

Costs of charitable activities include governance costs and an apportionment of support costs as shown in Note 5.

(h) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets are included in the accounts at net book value. Additions of a single item or a group of similar assets exceeding £500, are capitalised at cost (valuation for donated assets).

Depreciation is provided to write off the cost less the estimated residual value of tangible fixed assets over their estimated useful lives as follows:-

Office Equipment & Furniture	25% on cost
Computers	33.3% on cost

(i) Taxation

The organisation is exempt from income tax by reason of its charitable status. Income tax suffered on investment income is reclaimed in full. The Charity is not currently registered for VAT.

(j) Pensions

The trustees implemented an auto enrolment pension scheme during 2016. The charity has no liability beyond making its contributions and paying across the deductions for the employee's contributions. Employer contributions are charged to expenditure as they fall due.

(k) Contingent liabilities

A contingent liability is identified and disclosed for those transactions resulting from a possible obligation which will only be confirmed by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the trustees' control.

(l) Operating Leases

Payments under operating leases are charged to the income and expenditure account in the period to which they relate.

(m) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

(n) Creditors and Provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of the funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured of estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

(o) Donated Goods, Facilities or Services

During the year goods to the approximate value of £850 were donated to the organisation in the form of food for the food bank. These donations are not reflected in the income and expenditure account.

(p) Costs of raising funds

The costs of raising funds consists of rental of a property which is sublet to homeless refugees.

2 DONATIONS & LEGACIES	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Donations	19,783	-	19,783
	<u>19,783</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,783</u>

MANCHESTER REFUGEE SUPPORT NETWORK

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

13

3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
National Lottery Community Fund	-	59,667	59,667
Access to Justice	-	46,210	46,210
Emerge	-	18,296	18,296
GMIAU	-	16,340	16,340
Greater Manchester Mayor	-	7,951	7,951
Lloyds Foundation	33,476	-	33,476
Manchester City Council (RIS)	-	37,500	37,500
Manchester City Council (SASCA)	-	39,400	39,400
Manchester City Council (VCS & Other)	-	43,540	43,540
Refugee Action	-	60,004	60,004
Tudor Trust	-	31,067	31,067
Wai Yin	-	5,000	5,000
Salford CVS	-	6,500	6,500
Forever Manchester	-	5,000	5,000
Sport England	-	4,950	4,950
MCC (HSF)	-	3,480	3,480
MCC Destitution fund (Somali)	-	4,780	4,780
Manchester BME Network	1,000	-	1,000
Income from Destitute Housing	17,788	-	17,788
Other Grants	21,000	-	21,000
	<u>73,264</u>	<u>389,685</u>	<u>462,949</u>
4 EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023
Local Giving membership	30	-	30
	<u>30</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30</u>
5 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	Temporary Accommodation	Advice & Other Work £	Total 2023 £
Employment Costs		235,527	235,527
Freelance Workers		4,629	4,629
Provision of temporary accommodation	11,608		11,608
Interpreters		60	60
Service user refreshments		1,757	1,757
Service user telephone		762	762
Service user travel		621	621
Food Supplies		495	495
Childcare		60	60
Project Partner		36,960	36,960
Staff Travel		946	946
Staff Training & Teambuilding		3,569	3,569
Staff Refreshments		74	74
Venue Hire, Events & Activities		12,270	12,270
Grants made		1,250	1,250
Subscriptions		1,537	1,537
Destitution Payments		7,502	7,502
Volunteer Expenses		743	743
Volunteer Rewards		845	845
Support Costs	1,325	107,995	109,320
Governance Costs		2,432	2,432
	<u>12,933</u>	<u>420,034</u>	<u>432,967</u>
		Restricted Funds	429,825
		Unrestricted Funds	3,142
			<u>432,967</u>

MANCHESTER REFUGEE SUPPORT NETWORK

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

14

6 ALLOCATION OF GOVERNANCE AND SUPPORT COSTS		General Support	Governance	2023 Total
	<i>Basis of Apportionment</i>	£	£	£
<i>Support Costs:</i>				
Employment Costs	<i>Facilities Used</i>	44,605	-	44,605
Premises Costs	<i>Facilities Used</i>	25,100	-	25,100
Repairs & Maintenance	<i>Facilities Used</i>	2,453	-	2,453
Minor Equipment	<i>Facilities Used</i>	873	-	873
Printing, Stationery & Postage	<i>Facilities Used</i>	1,800	-	1,800
Cleaning & PPE	<i>Facilities Used</i>	3,059	-	3,059
Telephone	<i>Facilities Used</i>	5,856	-	5,856
Insurance	<i>Facilities Used</i>	743	-	743
Equipment Rental	<i>Facilities Used</i>	1,677	-	1,677
IT Support & Equipment	<i>Facilities Used</i>	4,631	-	4,631
Depreciation	<i>Facilities Used</i>	8,008	-	8,008
Book-keeping	<i>Facilities Used</i>	1,634	-	1,634
Accountancy & Payroll	<i>Governance</i>	1,636	1,148	2,784
Bank Charges	<i>Facilities Used</i>	515	-	515
AGM & Management Committee	<i>Governance</i>	-	1,284	1,284
Consultancy		4,521	-	4,521
Legal Fees		1,325	-	1,325
Sundry	<i>Facilities Used</i>	884	-	884
		<u>109,320</u>	<u>2,432</u>	<u>111,752</u>

7 STAFF COSTS

The charity considers its key management personnel comprises of the trustees and the manager. The total employment benefits, including employer pension contributions of the key management personnel were £44,605. No employee has benefits in excess of £60,000.

	2023 £
Wages and Salaries	258,312
Social Security Costs	12,862
Pension Costs	8,958
	<u>280,132</u>

No employee earned £60,000 per annum or more.

The average number of employees during the year was 15 with a full time equivalent of 11:

Services	10
Management	1
	<u>11</u>

8 INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS FEES

	2023 £
Independent examination fees	1,140
Other Services	3,792
	<u>4,932</u>

9 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS AND TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

There are no related party transactions which require disclosure.

No remuneration was paid or payable to any of the trustees in respect of the period. Except as disclosed below no reimbursement of expenses has been made or is due to be made to any of the trustees in respect of the period.

		2023 £
Appreciation Gifts	5 trustees	250
Travel Expenses	1 trustee	241
		<u>491</u>

MANCHESTER REFUGEE SUPPORT NETWORK

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

15

10 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	Building Improvements £	Computer Equipment £	Office Equip. & Furniture £	Total £
COST				
At 1 April 2022 (transferred from 1109990)	7,071	4,846	4,510	16,427
Additions	-	6,625	-	6,625
At 31 March 2023	<u>7,071</u>	<u>11,471</u>	<u>4,510</u>	<u>23,052</u>
DEPRECIATION				
Charge for the Period	643	5,778	1,587	8,008
At 31 March 2023	<u>643</u>	<u>5,778</u>	<u>1,587</u>	<u>8,008</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 March 2023	<u>6,428</u>	<u>5,693</u>	<u>2,923</u>	<u>15,044</u>

11 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

	2023 £
Contracted but not provided for	<u>nil</u>

12 DEBTORS

	2023 £
Prepayments	3,658
Other Debtors	13,039
	<u>16,697</u>

In 2023 £14,603 debtors and prepayments relate to restricted funds.

13 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £
Other Creditors	7,901
Accruals	4,564
Deferred Income	105,846
	<u>118,311</u>

In 2023 £107,097 relates to restricted funds.

14 DEFERRED INCOME

	£
Deferred income transferred from old charity	34,751
Amount released to income earned from charitable activities	(34,751)
Grant income deferred during the year	105,846
	<u>105,846</u>

MANCHESTER REFUGEE SUPPORT NETWORK

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

16

15 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	Transferred from MRSN old charity on 1st April 2022	Incoming	Outgoing	Balance 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds:				
National Lottery Community Fund	13,508	59,667	(70,405)	2,770
Emerge	2,614	18,296	(10,676)	10,234
Esmé Fairbairn	5,000	-	-	5,000
Access To Justice	173	46,210	(31,815)	14,568
Forever Manchester - destitute project	3,923	-	(2,009)	1,914
Forever Manchester	-	5,000	(1,276)	3,724
Greater Manchester Mayors Fund	4,907	7,951	-	12,858
Joseph Levy Foundation	3,218	-	(1,694)	1,524
Manchester City Council (equality)	719	-	(719)	-
Manchester City Council (Afghan Support	3,130	-	-	3,130
Manchester City Council (DF Somali)	-	4,780	(4,480)	300
Manchester City Council (SASCA)	-	39,400	(35,460)	3,940
Manchester City Council (VCS & Other)	-	43,540	(32,215)	11,325
Manchester City Council (RIS)	-	37,500	(37,500)	-
Manchester City Council (HSF)	-	3,480	(3,340)	140
Salford CVS	-	6,500	(2,858)	3,642
Refugee Action	75,770	60,004	(138,153)	(2,379)
Tudor Trust	-	31,067	(18,838)	12,229
UK Community Foundation	10,440	-	(770)	9,670
Sport England	3,456	4,950	(5,827)	2,579
Lloyds Foundation	12,313	-	(667)	11,646
Wai Yin	6,734	5,000	-	11,734
Carnegie UK Trust	2,770	-	(500)	2,270
BBC Children in Need	26	-	(26)	-
BBC Children in Need: Covid	33	-	(33)	-
MACC	1,390	-	-	1,390
Minor Grants	2,540	-	(1,250)	1,290
GMIAU	534	16,340	(16,874)	-
MIND	330	-	(330)	-
WEA	11,042	-	(11,042)	-
British Red Cross	741	-	(457)	284
Destitution & Crisis Funds				
Crisis Covid	4,900	-	-	4,900
Groundwork UK	500	-	-	500
RAFT	4,153	-	-	4,153
Restricted Donations	591	-	(40)	551
Capital				
Clothworker	6,286	-	(571)	5,715
Total Restricted Funds:	181,741	389,685	(429,825)	141,601
Unrestricted Funds:				
Designated - Building Fund	-	25,000	-	25,000
General	95,682	69,453	(3,172)	161,963
Total Unrestricted Funds:	95,682	94,453	(3,172)	186,963
	277,423	484,138	(432,997)	328,564

MANCHESTER REFUGEE SUPPORT NETWORK

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

17

15 cont...

MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

Purpose of funds:-	
Destitution Fund & Welfare Grants	to assist individuals experiencing hardship
National Lottery Community Fund	towards Shared Route project
Emerge	towards the Emerge 3Rs Rafiki Project
Esme Fairbairn	towards the Afghan Refugees settlement process
Big Lottery	towards general advice project & community development
Access To Justice	towards welfare & immigration advice workers
Forever Manchester	towards community development work
Barrow Cadbury Trust	towards office refurbishment costs
Crisis	towards destitute project costs
Greater Manchester Mayor	towards refugee integration service & salary costs
Joseph Levy Foundation	towards destitute project costs & IT upgrade
Manchester City Council VCS	General Advice & Community Development Project
Salford CVS	towards cancer awareness work
Refugee Action	towards housing project, experts by experience & asylum guide
Tudor Trust	towards manager salary costs
UK Community Foundation	towards community development work & capacity building
Sport England	towards health & wellbeing project
Lloyds Foundation	towards project worker costs
Wai YIN	towards the Old people project (OPEN)
Carnegie UK Trust	towards training costs including travel
BBC Children in Need	towards football related activities and health sessions for young people in the Manchester area
BBC Children in Need: Covid	towards digital upgrade & website costs
MACC	towards costs of migrant destitution fund
GMIAU	Justice Together grant towards OISC level 2 worker
Manchester Mind	towards core costs
WEA	towards project worker and computer costs
British Red Cross	towards activity costs
Restricted Donations	donations towards destitution project
Clothworker	towards centre refurbishment. Balance represents future depreciation

16 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023 Total
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	391	14,653	15,044
Cash at bank and in hand	195,692	219,442	415,134
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	(9,120)	(92,494)	(101,614)
Total	186,963	141,601	328,564

17 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

There were no contingent liabilities at 31st March 2023 .

18 OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

The charity has the following annual commitment under operating leases.

	Equipment 2023	Land and Buildings 2023	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Operating leases which expire:			
within one year	1,120	6,100	7,220
between 2 and 5 years	-	18,300	18,300
after 5 years	-	33,550	33,550
	<u>1,120</u>	<u>57,950</u>	<u>59,070</u>

The 15 year lease in respect of the property at Princess Road, Manchester, runs to November 2033

19 POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

The Trustees do not consider that there have been any events since the balance sheet date that impact materially on the financial statements.

20 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The organisation only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised on a transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at an amortised cost using the effective interest method.

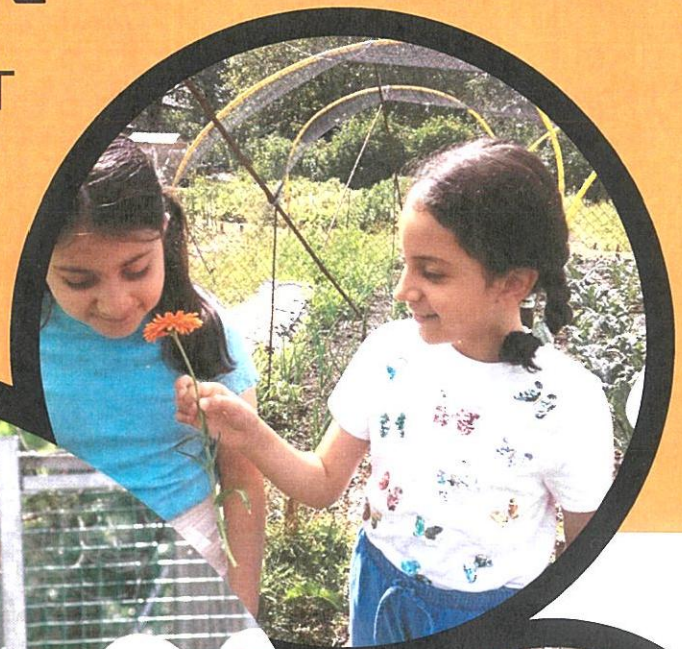
21 GOING CONCERN

The company's main source of income is grant funding. The trustees consider that it is appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis and, consequently, the accounts do not include any adjustments that would be necessary if the funding income should cease.



MANCHESTER REFUGEE SUPPORT NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 2022/2023



LETTER FROM OUR MANAGER

Since 2020, we have worked hard to establish new projects to respond to the constantly changing and worsening situations refugees and asylum seekers are facing. Over the last year we have been working hard to reapply for funding in order to keep these initiatives available to the community we support. This is not an easy task, as it can be very hard to secure funding to extend a project's lifespan however we are proud to announce a number of successes that we will detail throughout this annual report. We have also been able to launch new projects and build new partnerships with established charities who are expanding into the North West.

We have also been addressing how much our charity has grown over the last few years and the new opportunities and pressures that brings. In response, we have moved from a registered charity status to a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) in order that we can invest in assets such as accommodation to house refugees, and protect our trustees. We have also been exploring how we can better support our staff, with some of our staff members initiating mental health support and awareness sessions, for staff and volunteers, in order to help with issues of vicarious trauma and burnout.

After the disruption of the pandemic to our services, we have been trialling different ways to deliver support to our expanding client group. This has included trialling an appointment system where people can book online to meet with an advisor and rearranging when we run our drop in sessions. We are still in the process of exploring the best solutions for clients and staff and we appreciate the patience of our clients whilst we settle on the best structure moving forward.

Thank you for taking the time to read our latest annual report for 2022-2023 and thank you for your continued support, as we step into the next year.



In Peace
Belay Kahsay
Manager of MRSN

OUR CONTENTS

OUR AIMS	4
OUR OBJECTIVES	5
GENERAL AND IMMIGRATION ADVICE	6
REFUGEE INTEGRATION SERVICE	8
SHARED ROUTES PROJECT	10
EXPERT BY EXPERIENCE	12
ASYLUM GUIDE PROJECT	14
HOTEL OUTREACH	16
HEALTH AND WELLBEING	18
OUR FUNDERS	20
OUR PARTNERS	21
FINANCE REVIEW	22

OUR AIMS



SUPPORT

To support refugees to access services and opportunities on an equal basis, in order to prevent all forms of poverty and allow individuals to fulfil their potential.



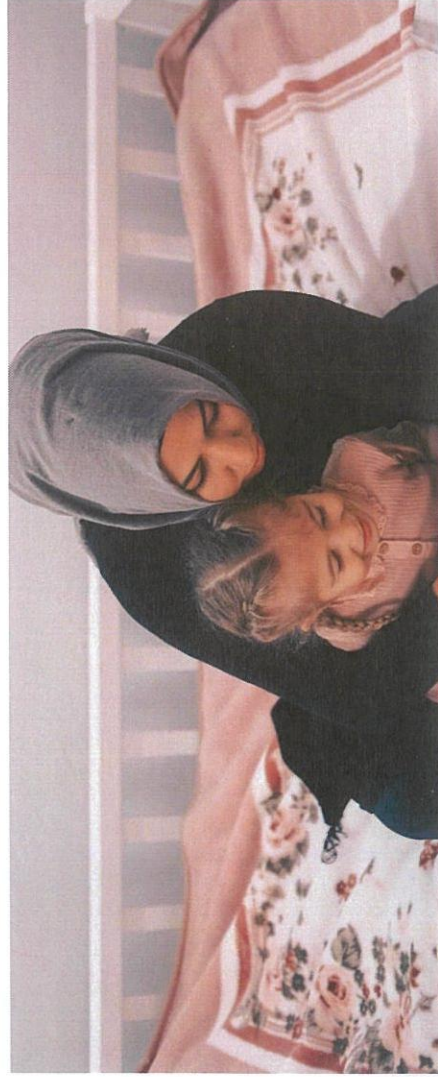
EDUCATE

To educate refugees and asylum seekers on their rights and responsibilities as active citizens, and contribute to positive media representation of refugees.



EMPOWER

To empower refugees to establish strong community organisations and provide platforms for them to represent the needs and aspirations of their communities.



OUR OBJECTIVES

1

To advance education and relieve financial hardship amongst those seeking asylum and those granted refugee status particularly by the provision of legal and other advice.

2

To support and promote the physical and mental health of asylum seekers, refugees and their dependents.

3

To advance the education and training of those granted refugee status and their dependents in need thereof so as to advance them in life and assist them to adapt within a new community.

4

To advance the education and knowledge of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.

5

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 age, race, gender, religion, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances

GENERAL AND IMMIGRATION ADVICE

After years of providing advice solely through a drop in system, from May 2022 we began trialing our online appointment system. This has come up against challenges but in many ways has proven successful. It meant we could manage client expectations and secure allocated appointment slots. It has also helped staff wellbeing as they know in advance what cases they will be handling. Clients have struggled at times with the booking system, as when it is fully booked for the coming 2 weeks it displays as no appointments available and we fill up incredibly quickly due to the number of people wanting an appointment. We are looking into how we can improve this system to reduce this frustration.

For 6 months we ran an advice session in Stockport in order to make our advice more accessible relative to location. After it closing, in its place we have begun running citizenship appointments, after discovered that we are the only centre in Manchester providing support with citizenship applications.

We have had the pleasure of welcoming Charlotte to our welfare advice team for 2.5 days a week as a welfare advisor. We also cannot forget the many volunteers we have supporting this project. Our team includes incredibly skilled previous service users and people trained with the Manchester Volunteer Advice Partnership. We have recently begun exploring corporate volunteering with companies such as Barclays and JMW Solicitors LLP.

1151 INDIVIDUAL CLIENTS WERE SUPPORTED

968 APPOINTMENTS WERE ATTENDED

1121 DROP IN SESSIONS ATTENDED



I've been volunteering here for about a year now and this place always fills me up with warmth. I feel like I make a difference everytime I help a refugee/asylum seeker with a problem. It's been a pleasure.

ZAHABIYA, VOLUNTEER

Manchester Refugee Support Network
☎ 0161 868 0777 www.mrsn.org.uk

175

APPLICATIONS FOR CITIZENSHIP

72

FIRST UNIVERSAL CREDIT ACCOUNTS OPENED

45

INDEFINITE LEAVE TO REMAIN APPLICATIONS

70

MANCHESTER MOVE APPLICATIONS (SOCIAL HOUSING)

291

APPLICATIONS FOR TRAVEL DOCUMENT



REFUGEE INTEGRATION SERVICE

Our Refugee Integration Service has gone through some big changes over the last year. Back in April our team of 3 RIS Case workers noticed that they were beginning to see more people with complex needs. In August they successfully secured funding from Manchester City Council to continue their project, and with that began a partnership in order to work together across agencies to support more complex needs.

Within RIS we will be supporting more low level needs through our drop in sessions and referring to alternative services when we cannot support. We hope this multi agency approach reduces the pressure on staff to have to support with all issues, and that these established referral pathways prevent people from falling through the cracks.

In January, our RIS Case Worker Sophie began the Housing Access Support Scheme (HASS). This is to support people who have been granted refugee status in the last 9 months and have one of the vulnerable needs as listed below, with applying for housing. The purpose of HASS is to teach people about access to accommodation in the UK and equip them with the tools to find homes on their own. It has been incredibly rewarding to see people attending house viewings and coming to sessions to use laptops to find places to live.

WHO RIS AND HASS SUPPORTS:

- people who have received refugee status in the last 9 months.
- people with learning difficulties
- people with mental or physical disabilities
- people who are pensionable age

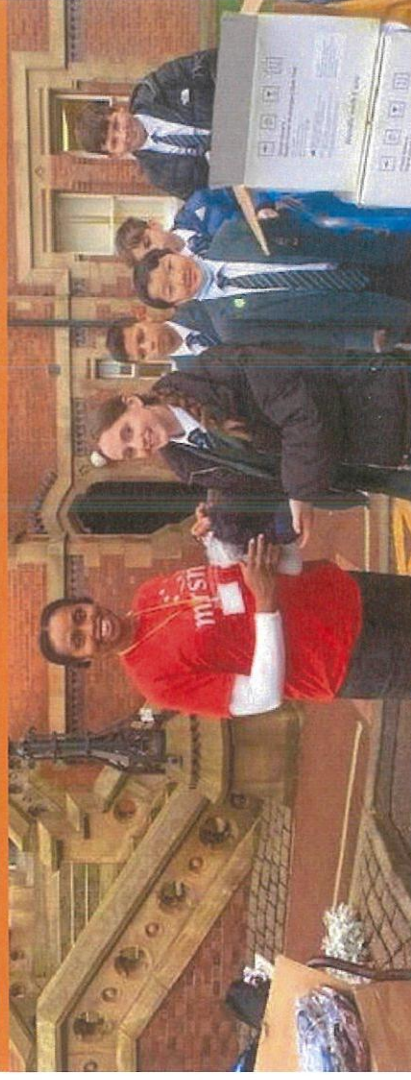
171 CASES OPENED
IN THE LAST
YEAR

116 INDIVIDUAL
CLIENTS SEEN



OUR DROP IN SESSIONS ARE AT THE FOLLOWING TIMES:

- RIS Tuesdays and Thursday afternoon drop in sessions are at St James Church, M14 4TH 1:30 – 4:00pm
- Home Search Club drop In session Thursday afternoons also at St James Church, M14 4TH 1:30 – 4:00pm



84 CLIENTS HELPED WITH HOUSING ISSUES

14 CLIENTS HELPED WITH BANKING, UNIVERSAL CREDIT AND EMPLOYMENT

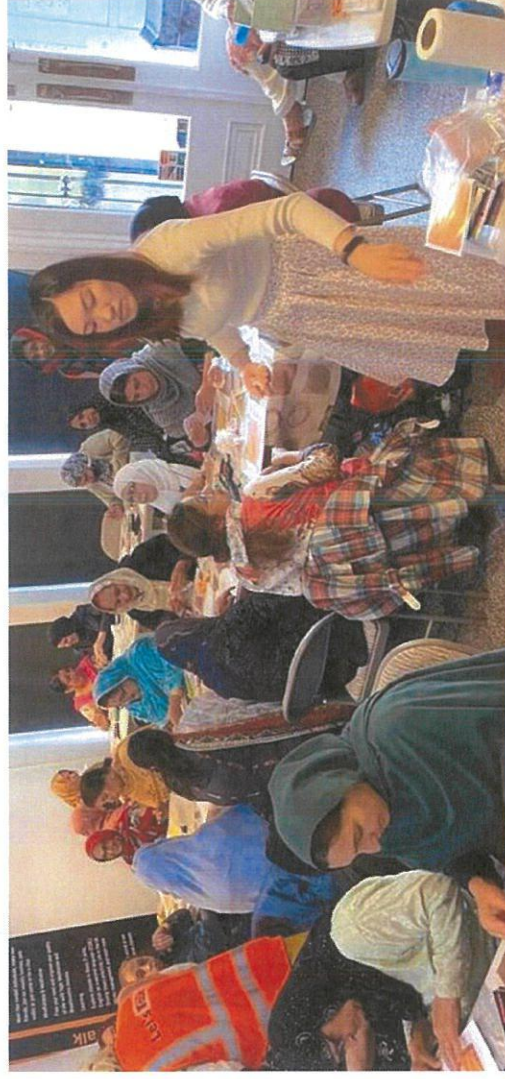
11 PEOPLE SUPPORTED WITH BILLS, TAXES AND DVLA APPLICATIONS

SHARED ROUTES PROJECT

The Shared Routes Project funding was set to run out on December of 2022, so this past year has been a big year for reapplying for funding and putting together an impact report of our work to date. Through this impact report as compiled by Sarah Forster, we can see 96% of individuals who take the course report improved skills development and improved understanding of UK agencies and communities. We can also see the jobs that Peer Navigators have gone on to do include office administrator, taxi driver, social care assistant or restaurant staff, or they have gone on to study interpreting, functional skills, mental health, psychotherapy, Maths, English or business management.

We are proud to announce we have secured funding to continue our project for another 3 years. This means we can continue to provide people with access to training and support getting into volunteering. We can also build on to our teams successes and continue to keep in contact with previous peer navigators, as our peer navigators experiences play a key role in shaping our programme for future individuals.

90 PEER NAVIGATORS APPLIED OR WERE REFERRED TO COMPLETE THE TRAINING



In addition to this we also relocated our office from Salford, to 113 Princess Road, which has meant we are closer to the rest of the MRSN team. We have also been going into hotels in order to raise awareness of our course, and provide opportunities for individuals to build skills whilst they are waiting for outcomes of their asylum applications.

96%

PEER NAVIGATORS REPORTED IMPROVED SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

96%

PEER NAVIGATORS REPORTED IMPROVED KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF UK AGENCIES

For the full impact report see: bit.ly/srpiimpact

"The feedback I have received from people who have done the programme has been amazing. It has a positive impact on the mental health and wellbeing of refugees and asylum seekers. It contributes to enhancing people's confidence levels and self-esteem. It gives people knowledge and skills so they can have better life chances and an improved quality of life."

ESOL COORDINATOR, TAMESIDE MBC

EXPERT BY EXPERIENCE

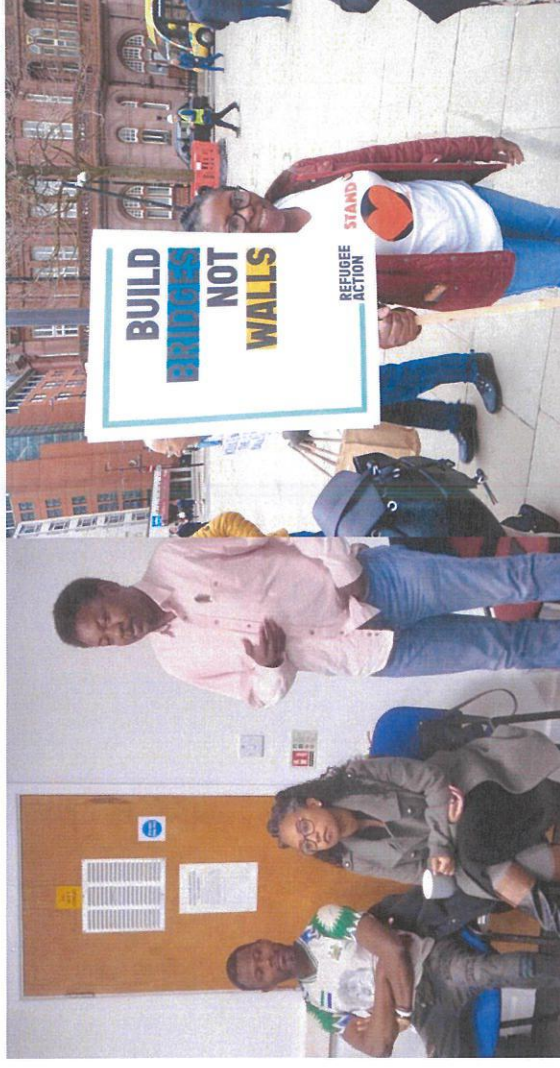
The EbE group is composed of 12 members and they have agreed to meet twice a month, with one activity benefiting their own skills development and needs, and the other inputting into the Step Change programme.

Between May and October 2022, the group took part in several training sessions including Public Speaking, Facilitation, Campaigning skills, Emotional Intelligence, Media, Mental Health First Aid, and Parliamentary training.

“The Public Speaking training has enabled me to feel more confident when I speak in front of people.”

“It was useful to know how the parliament works in this country.”

ITV NEWS



Current areas of focus identified by the EbE group are through the Campaigns work with Asylum Matters, the employability working group with Refugee and Mentors, as well as setting up the digital inclusion work stream with Revive and Rainbow Haven.

The group has also been involved in the GM Offer work where EbE members took part in interviews with Refugee Action regarding the User Research for the Step-Change GM Offer. As per feedback of one member, the interview was about their experience as an asylum seeker and what they could suggest to others.

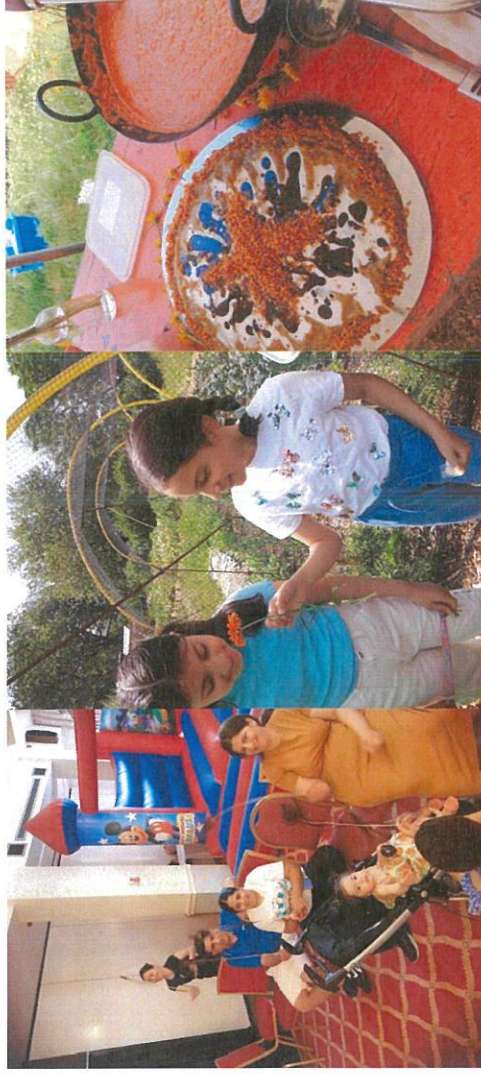
“ I felt confident when sharing my story to help others in the same situation. ”

In November, the group travelled to London to take part in “the Lift The Ban Rally” organised by Asylum Matter to support the campaign and introduce the “Street Challenge Lift the Ban Strategy”. In December, the group Had its reflection meeting to discuss about successes and challenges, and to plan the work for 2023 with an emphasis on the group visibility.

ASYLUM GUIDE PROJECT

The Asylum Guide project has been in operation in partnership with Refugee Action since 2020 and aims to work with asylum seekers going through the asylum process, to help them understand it better. There have been significant hold ups from the Home Office in processing asylum applications which means that people are waiting years for an outcome to their asylum application. Due to the huge number of asylum seekers being unprocessed and housed in hotels, we have been very busy running drop in advice sessions within the hotels. This is becoming an increasingly unmanageable situation and our staff have been trying to collaborate with STEP change partners in order to get a more coordinated response. Some hotels do not seem to have the basic support in place which has put more pressure on us to fill this gap.

The Home Office have introduced 'fast track asylum questionnaires' to try and speed up the process for certain nationalities, which will go some way to clearing the backlog, and will hopefully result in a positive decision for clients, as long as they return the questionnaire in time with the help of a solicitor. We have been working with GMIAU and Duncan Lewis to ensure that those without a solicitor can still receive legal advice on completing them.



114

ASYLUM SEEKERS STARTED RECEIVING SUPPORT OVER THE LAST YEAR

6

PEOPLE GRANTED REFUGEE STATUS WITHIN THE LAST YEAR

45

PEOPLE SUPPORTED IN THE LAST YEAR LIVING IN HOTELS

45

PEOPLE REFERRED FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

This is an incredibly anxious and distressing time for our clients to be waiting so long for updates on their process, and has been difficult on our staff and volunteers. However, we continue to work with a wonderful team of volunteers who are able to speak to clients in their own language and take the time to support them through these difficult times. We are expanding our work into the hotels into the coming year.

HOTEL OUTREACH

Our work in hotels not only just provides drop in advice sessions, but we also attend hotels weekly to provide activities and resources to people living there. This includes ESOL lessons and in April of 2022 we ran an event where we gave out clothes and food to people. We set this up to be a dignified experience where people could browse clothes and take time to try things on.

We also have run the Ramadan cooking project where we partnered with organisations across Manchester to provide meals to people in hotels for Ramadan, and in December we had enough funding in order to put together some food parcels along with hot food, and deliver them.

We have been trying to meet with other organisations to raise awareness of the poor conditions people are living in the hotels, however we have not seen much progress in terms of change. We work closely with the staff and SERCO in these hotels to try and ensure people's needs are being met.

We are excited to welcome back our colleague Jennifer Anderson to coordinate work within the hotels. Jennifer previously ran our Destitute project, and has been helping with work in the hotels since January 2023. She has taken on a team of volunteers to provide smaller ESOL teaching groups, and volunteers to provide play and learning sessions with children, every week.

40
**WOMEN ATTEND OUR ENGLISH
LESSONS EACH WEEK**



EID PARTY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CITY OF SANCTUARY

100+

RESIDENTS ATTENDED OUR EID PARTY AT THE HOTEL

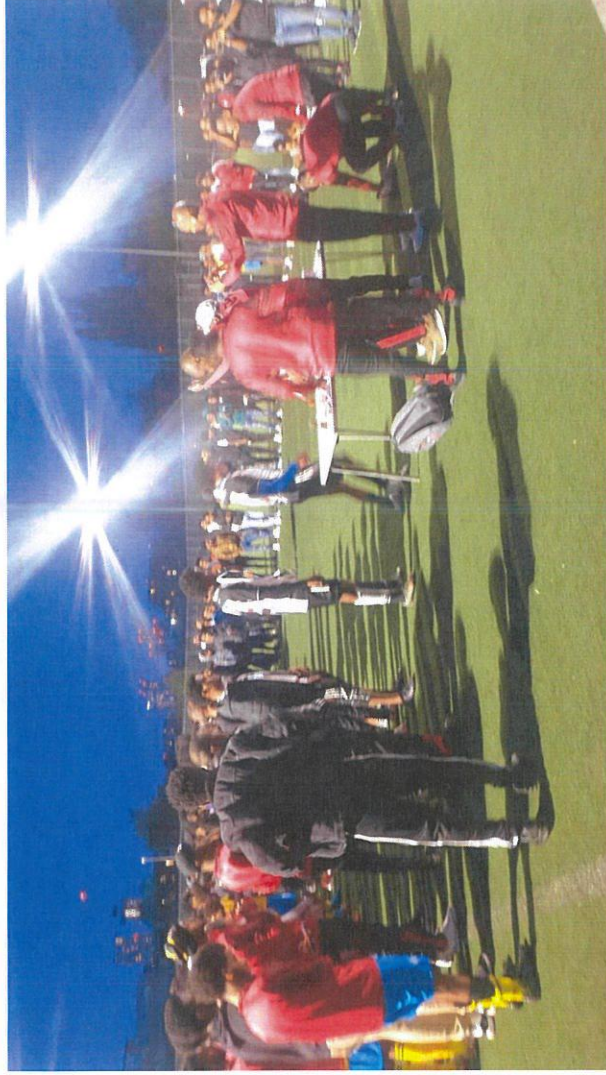
"On Saturday the 22nd April, we partnered with City of Sanctuary to celebrate Eid with the residents of one of the hotels we work in. Liz Hibberd and her team from city of Sanctuary charity, MRSN and other groups with their volunteers gave their support to an amazing day of activities like football henna face and hand painting, Circus acts, and a giant Bouncy castle. There were tables of cakes and juices and the children left at the end of the day with many amazing gifts donated from various sources. The whole event was buzzing with laughter and much happiness, it really lit up the Hotel atmosphere."

**JENNIFER ANDERSON,
ASYLUM HOTEL
COORDINATOR**

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Refugee Health and Wellbeing provide Health and wellbeing support to refugees and asylum seekers. MRSN offers a range of services and support to enable people to lead healthy and fulfilling lives. As well as physical exercise and football sessions, the project give one-to-one support and organizes healthy living workshops. Support is also provided around issues such as access to health and mental health care, volunteering, or joining support groups

The project is helping around 120 refugees and asylum seekers every week to lead healthy and fulfilling lives and improve their wellbeing and health.



REFUGEE WEEK 2022

Over the week of June 20th – June 26th, charities across the UK were taking time to celebrate Refugee Week, whilst focusing on the theme of Healing. To celebrate it ourselves, we ran our annual and favourite tradition of the Refugee World Cup. Teams came from across Greater Manchester to compete and it was a spectacular and thoroughly enjoyable event for all involved.

We plan to continue our tradition in 2023 with another Refugee World Cup. Please check our website and social media for updates on this.

120

**REFUGEES
SUPPORTED EACH
WEEK**



OUR FUNDERS

- Access To Justice Foundation
- Barrow Cadbury Trust
- BBC Children In Need
- BBC Children In Need COVID
- Big Lottery
- Cadbury/Lottery
- Crisis Covid
- Comic Relief
- Destitution Fund
- Forever Manchester
- GMCVO
- Greater Manchester Mayor's Charity
- Groundwork
- Joseph Levy Foundation
- Lloyds
- Lottery Community Fund
- MACC
- Manchester City Council VCS
- MIND
- National Lottery Community Fund
- RAFT
- Refugee Action
- The Tudor Trust
- UK Community Foundations
- WEA

OUR PARTNERS

- 5 Star Catering
- Equipment
- Ahmed Bros
- Asylum Matters
- Atiha Chaudry
- Boaz Trust
- British Red Cross
- Care4Calais
- Caritas
- Chorlton Refugee Aid
- Citizen's Advice Bureau
- City of Sanctuary
- Cornerstones
- Cracking Good Food
- El-Ammar Bakery
- Emerge/touchwood
- ESOL Manchester
- Farshare
- Flow Max Group
- Freedom From Torture
- Gatley Tandoori
- Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit
- Growing together
- Levenshulme
- Khandoker Restaurant
- Magic4smiles
- Manchester BME Network
- Manchester City Council
- Manchester Metropolitan University.
- Maz Linford
- Migrant Help
- Nathan Dale Gardners
- Nazarene Theological College
- NIA Centre
- One Manchester
- Precision Dentist Clinic
- PRIDES
- Princess Butcher
- Projekts
- Rainbow Haven
- Refugee Action
- Refugees at Home
- Revive
- Salvation Army
- SASCA
- Save the Children
- Shelter
- St James Church, Moss side
- The Little Sri Lankan
- The Mustard Tree
- Unicorn Grocery
- Vegware
- Women's Aid

FINANCIAL REVIEW

INCOME: £484,138.00

2021-2022: £462,208.00

GIFTS AND DONATIONS: 3.4%
CHARITABLE INCOME: 96.2%
OTHER INCOME: 0.4%

EXPENDITURE: £432,997.00

2021-2022: £461,462.00

FUNDRAISING AND GOVERNANCE: 4.4%
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES: 64.8%
SUPPORT COSTS: 30.8%

NET INCOME: £51,141.00
TOTAL FUNDS AT START OF YEAR: £277,423.00
TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR: £328,564.00





Registered charity number: 1196560

129 Princess Road
Manchester
M14 4RB

Tel: 0161 868 0777
Email: info@mrsn.org.uk

