

REFUGEES WELCOME NORTH SOMERSET

England & Wales · Charity number 1198327

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2022-03-22

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

Contact

Address C/O RENS The Other Place
81-83 Meadow Street
Weston Super Mare
BS23 1QL

Phone 07955278016

Email trustees@rwns.org.uk

Website www.rwns.org.uk

Activities

Objects: FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, TO RELIEVE POVERTY AND DISTRESS AMONGST REFUGEES, ASYLUM-SEEKERS AND VULNERABLE MIGRANTS RESETTLED IN NORTH SOMERSET, PARTICULARLY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY: THE PROVISION AND COORDINATION OF A COUNTY-WIDE NETWORK OF TRAINED VOLUNTEER BEFRIENDERS; THE PROVISION OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PREPARATION OF HOUSING FOR FAMILIES; THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT FOR INTEGRATION INTO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY; THE PROVISION OF ADVICE, ADVOCACY AND PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE IN ACCESSING STATUTORY PUBLIC SERVICES, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING SERVICES, EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES; THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE EDUCATION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND DECISION-MAKERS ON POLICIES THAT AFFECT RESETTLED PEOPLE.

Activities: Collecting and distributing aid and essential items for asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants arriving in North Somerset. Welcome Centre for education, social activities and access to free shopPop up 'welcome cafe' sessions where people can socialise, access support and practice their English. A member led lunch provision.Befriending to support with appointments and integration

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Disability, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

Geography

- North Somerset

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£230,516	£236,015	-	-
2024-03-31	£102,690	£102,978	-	-
2023-03-31	£27,716	£5,531	-	-

REFUGEES WELCOME NORTH SOMERSET

England & Wales - Charity number 1198327

Accounts



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01/04/2024 **Period start date**
To 31/03/2025 **Period end date**

Charity name: Refugees Welcome North Somerset

Charity registration number: 1198327

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	For the public benefit, to relieve poverty and distress amongst refugees, asylum-seekers and vulnerable migrants resettled in North Somerset, particularly but not exclusively by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the provision and coordination of a county-wide network of trained volunteer befrienders;• the provision of household goods and preparation of housing for families;• the provision of support for integration into the local community;• the provision of advice, advocacy and practical assistance in accessing statutory public services, health and well-being services, education, training and employment opportunities;• the advancement of the education of the general public and decision-makers on policies that affect resettled people.

<p>Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts</p>	<p>Para 1.17 and 1.19</p>	<p>Up until 13 September 2024, we delivered services from our dedicated Welcome Centre in Weston-super-Mare. From this base we provided direct services, classes, support, and a range of special events and celebrations.</p> <p>Open Access Support</p> <p>We operated an open-access drop-in service two days a week, offering advice, friendship, a free shop, and Wi-Fi. Support included assistance with homelessness, job-seeking, and school admissions.</p> <p>Exercise and Wellbeing</p> <p>We delivered weekly women’s yoga and football sessions, funded by Sport England.</p> <p>Reclaim the Sea: In collaboration with a South West-based charity, we delivered trauma-informed swimming lessons in Weston Marine Lake for a group of sanctuary-seeking women. Eight swimmers were supported by nine volunteers and a volunteer swimming teacher. The final session took place at The Wave on 30 September.</p> <p>Beyond Equality: A men’s wellbeing group ran for three sessions.</p> <p>A women’s wellbeing group meets regularly, with activities provided by the North Somerset Training Hub.</p> <p>Capoeira sessions, Brazilian martial art and dance sessions were also well attended, moving to a larger venue to accommodate 29 sanctuary seeking people and people from the established community.</p> <p>Summer Event We arranged summer trips to the Bristol Refugee Festival, the Diaspora Festival, and the Weston Mela.</p>
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	<p>Photo Weston: We worked with Common Waves and photographer Michal Iwanowski on a series of workshops and activities culminating in an exhibition across Weston venues, including Grove Park.</p> <p>We hosted a film night at the Plaza Cinema, bringing an Arabic-language film to Weston-super-Mare audiences.</p> <p>Welcome Meals Project</p> <p>This project engages with and learns from the communities we serve to provide meals twice a week at the Welcome Centre. Meals are inspired by volunteers' home countries, nutritious, and environmentally considerate. The project has been a consistent and valued provision. Volunteers completed barista training and accessed free food and hygiene training.</p> <p>A total of 2,300 meals were served during the 2024–25 funding period, including approximately 80 meals at our Iftar supper. We also held Peace Feasts, sharing global cuisine and music with the wider Weston community.</p> <p>Next Gen Youth Club</p> <p>We are developing a youth provision in response to identified need. The group is led by young men with lived experience and aims to promote belonging and community. Ten young men have signed up. We are working with Sprout CIC and Super Culture to provide safe spaces and creative projects.</p> <p>Work Across North Somerset</p> <p>Outside Weston-super-Mare, we continued to meet the needs of asylum seekers and refugees across North Somerset.</p> <p>Initial Accommodation</p>
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	<p>We delivered weekly sessions with RWNS staff and volunteers, providing welcome packs of essential items, signposting, and move-on advice for those receiving their asylum decisions.</p> <p>Clothes Distribution: Working with Care4Calais, we distributed donated clothing to asylum seekers in the one initial accommodation in our region.</p> <p>Women and Children's Accommodation</p> <p>We offered friendship and practical support to women and children in asylum accommodation. This included accessing food parcels, attending appointments, orientation support, and assistance with school applications.</p> <p>Clevedon Welcome Hub</p> <p>Weekly sessions began on 6 August, providing children's activities, English classes, clothing, school uniform support, advice, and signposting.</p> <p>Nailsea Welcome Hub</p> <p>Weekly sessions continued with support from local churches and residents. We provided English classes in partnership with Weston College, activities for children, and a welcoming community space. Participants regularly included people from Hong Kong, Ukraine, Syria, and Afghanistan.</p> <p>Housing and Move-On Support</p> <p>Our dedicated Move-On Manager established robust processes to ensure a consistent offer for those facing homelessness upon receipt of refugee status. Working closely with North Somerset Council and supported by volunteers, we provided homelessness advice, applications, property searches,</p>
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		<p>practical assistance, and tenancy sustainment support.</p> <p>Welcome Home Project</p> <p>This National Lottery Community Fund project enabled us to support people moving into their first tenancies with essential household items, including beds and kitchen equipment. Although the project projected support for 24 households over 12 months, we supported 14 house moves in the first quarter up to March 2025.</p> <p>Resettlement Schemes</p> <p>Supported by funding and partnership with North Somerset Council’s resettlement team, we welcomed new families and individuals arriving under the Government’s Afghan resettlement scheme. In Weston, this included preparing properties for new arrivals.</p>
<p>Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit</p>	<p>Para 1.18</p>	<p>The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit when carrying out activities for the public benefit. They have considered the factors set out in the guidance when making decisions and have taken the guidance into account when producing this annual report. As a small charity, this report focuses on the main activities of the charity to further its charitable purpose for the public benefit – detailed under the summary of main activities section and achievements and performance section.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	<p>Since the beginning of RWNS, through its registration as a charity in March 2022 to the end of the reporting period, March 2025, we have relied on the contribution of volunteers to meet the emerging needs of asylum seekers and refugees in North Somerset.</p> <p>Trustees continue to shape the work as we grow in response to increased need.</p> <p>Our Volunteer Manager has produced a volunteer handbook and programme of training as we are committed to investing in our volunteer team.</p> <p>We have celebrated as volunteers with lived experience of seeking sanctuary have joined our team, some of whom have gone on to gain paid employment.</p> <p>The dedication and commitment of our volunteers are the bedrock of RWNS's success. Their tireless efforts and compassionate approach have made a significant impact on the lives of many asylum seekers and refugees in North Somerset.</p>
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
<p>Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.</p>	<p>Para 1.20</p>	<p>During the 2024-25 year, RWNS delivered a wide range of services to asylum seekers, refugees, and other displaced people across North Somerset, significantly improving their wellbeing, stability, and integration into the local community. Until September 2024, services were delivered from the Welcome Centre, a consistent point of support, community, and practical assistance.</p> <p>Our open-access drop-in service offered advice, friendship, essential items, and digital access, helping beneficiaries address urgent needs such as homelessness risk, job-seeking, and school admissions. Exercise and wellbeing programmes, including yoga, football, swimming, Capoeira, and gender-specific wellbeing groups, improved physical and mental health, reduced isolation, and created safe spaces for social connection.</p> <p>Cultural and community events, including Peace feasts, summer trips, film screenings, and the Photo Weston project, promoted inclusion and strengthened community cohesion. The Welcome Meals Project provided 2,300 nutritious meals, fostering dignity, routine, and cross-cultural exchange while supporting volunteers to gain new skills through accredited training.</p> <p>Across North Somerset, we delivered regular support in the initial accommodation setting and in community hubs in Worle, Clevedon and Nailsea. These hubs provided English classes, children's activities, clothing and practical guidance, enabling families to settle more confidently</p>

	<p>and reducing pressure on statutory services.</p> <p>Our housing and move-on work provided structured support for newly recognised refugees at risk of homelessness, including advice, applications, property searches, practical assistance, and tenancy sustainment. The Welcome Home Project equipped new tenancies with essential household items, enabling people to establish safe and stable homes. Fourteen households were supported in the first quarter alone.</p> <p>Through partnership with North Somerset Council, we continue to support families arriving under the Afghan resettlement scheme, helping prepare homes and ensuring a smooth transition into the community.</p> <p>The period was marked by significant external challenges. During the violent anti-migrant protests of summer 2024, we continued to provide a safe and welcoming environment for vulnerable communities who were disproportionately affected by rising tensions. Local residents, partners, and community groups actively demonstrated solidarity, offering practical assistance, reassurance, and public support for the charity's mission.</p> <p>In September 2024, flats above our welcome centre suffered a catastrophic flood that resulted in the damage of our premises and loss of much of our property. Despite this major setback, the response from the community was immediate and substantial. Again, local partner organisations rallied to provide temporary spaces, enabling us to maintain continuity of support for service users. This collective response demonstrated the strength of local partnerships and the value placed on our work.</p> <p>All this activity and consistent delivery improved service users' safety, wellbeing,</p>
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		<p>independence, and sense of belonging. The wider community benefited through increased social cohesion, reduced isolation among vulnerable groups, and strengthened local partnerships. We have also reduced demand on statutory services by providing early, preventative, and community-based support. Our organisation's achievements were recognised through the award of the Quartet Foundation's 2024 Penny Johnstone Award for inclusivity, adaptability, and positive community impact.</p>
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Financial Review

<p>Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period</p>	<p>Para 1.21</p>	<p>Income totalled £230,516 for the year and expenditure was £236,015, producing a deficit of £5,499. RWNS had a Surplus of £21,897 brought forward from last year's Accounts, giving a total of £16,398 surplus as at 31.03.25.</p> <p>Of this total, the Unrestricted Funds fell into a deficit of £1,910. However, this was due to a large Grant of £36,335 not being received until after the year end in April 2025. The Unrestricted funds therefore had more than enough to pay their expenses. The Restricted funds totalled £18,308 as at the year end and are for the purpose of current projects running. These include Asylum Support, Donations, Emergency Housing and Welcome Meals.</p> <p>All funds are held in cash at the bank. As at the year-end we had a liability of £3,352 which are taxes due to HMRC, but not paid until after the year-end, these were taken out of the Unrestricted funds account. There is also Computer Equipment to the value of £738 which has been kept as an asset to RWNS</p>
<p>Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held</p>	<p>Para 1.22</p>	<p>The trustees of RWNS aim to retain a reserve of 3 months average expenditure, held in the bank. This will enable the charity to source alternate income streams should current incomes cease.</p> <p>The reserves policy has been adhered to during the financial year 2024-25, but the closing bank balance did not reflect this due late arrival of unrestricted funds via outstanding invoices. The funds were held in the bank as of April 2025. We are looking at our invoicing process to ensure this deficit is avoided in future.</p>
<p>Amount of reserves held</p>	<p>Para 1.22</p>	<p>Please see above.</p>
<p>Reasons for holding zero reserves</p>	<p>Para 1.22</p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p>Details of fund materially in deficit</p>	<p>Para 1.24</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern</p>	<p>Para 1.23</p>	<p>The Trustees are confident that the charity is a going concern.</p>

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		Not applicable
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Advertising and recruitment via social media channels, with any appointment being made by consensus.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

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

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Refugees Welcome North Somerset
Other name the charity uses	Not applicable
Registered charity number	1198327
Charity's principal address	C/O The Other Place 81-83 Meadow Street, Weston super Mare BS23 1QL

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity * please note full names have been redacted in light of current community sensitivities.

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	CR			
2	MB			
3	DP			
4	MRS			
5	AB		6th November 2024	
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
n/a		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

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

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)		
N/A		

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

N/A

Other optional information

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

	Signature(s)		
	Full name(s)	CR	MRS
	Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Trustee	Trustee
	Date	26.01.2026	



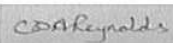
Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01.04.2024	To	Period end date 31.03.2025
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations, legacies and Grants	144,264	86,185	-	230,449	102,640
Interest on deposit account	67	-	-	67	50
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	144,331	86,185	-	230,516	102,690
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	144,331	86,185	-	230,516	102,690
A3 Payments					
		-	-	-	-
Cost of Fundraising events	10,238	17,044	-	27,282	23,373
Wages/Salaries & National Insurance	108,581	59,774	-	168,355	51,898
Pension	3,797	-	-	3,797	184
Rent/hire of rooms	15,878	-	-	15,878	16,353
Insurance	589	-	-	589	343
Audit & Accountancy Fees	6,913	-	-	6,913	2,975
Repairs & Maintenance	174	42	-	216	138
Light, Power & Heating	1,671	702	-	2,373	2,739
Water & Sewerage	1,315	-	-	1,315	436
Council Tax	2,367	-	-	2,367	1,630
Telephone & Internet	1,758	-	-	1,758	159
Printing, postage & Stationery	543	-	-	543	53
IT Software & Consumables	2,038	-	-	2,038	911
Training	2,096	339	-	2,435	1,681
Subscriptions/Memberships	98	-	-	98	45
Bank Interest & Charges	60	-	-	60	60
Sub total	158,115	77,900	-	236,015	102,978
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	158,115	77,900	-	236,015	102,978
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 13,784	8,285	-	- 5,499	- 288
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	11,874	10,023	-	21,897	22,185
Cash funds this year end	- 1,910	18,308	-	16,398	21,897

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	bank account balance	- 1,910	18,308	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	- 1,910	18,308	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
	none	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details			
	none		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details			
	Computer Equipment	Unrestricted	738	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details			
	Taxes due, but not yet paid	Unrestricted	3,352	25 April 2025
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		MRS C R	26.01.2026	



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name
Refugees Welcome North Somerset

On accounts for the year ended

31.03.25	Charity no (if any)	
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Set out on pages

16 and 17

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

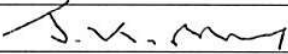
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records.

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

Signed: 

Date: 27.01.2026

Name: Julian Moore

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

M.A.A.T

Address:

Kestral Court Business Park,
Portishead.
BS20 7AN

Section B

Disclosure

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

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

N/A