



## **WANDSWORTH WELCOMES REFUGEES**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31/03/2025**

#### Overview

Wandsworth Welcomes Refugees is a member of the City of Sanctuary network. We support local organisations such as schools, libraries, cafes, and theatres to become accredited sanctuaries and are working with Wandsworth Council (an accredited Borough of Sanctuary). We also run events for Refugee Week as well as campaigns and appeals across the borough.

Registered address: Church of St Mary & St John the Divine, Balham High Road, London, SW12 9BS

Registered Charity number: 1199527

#### Structure, governance and management

Wandsworth Welcomes Refugees was registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022. It is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with a constitution whose only voting members are its charity trustees.

Wandsworth Welcomes Refugees must have at least three charity trustees and the maximum number of charity trustees is twelve.

The first charity trustees are as follows, and have been appointed for the following terms:

Penny Rogers for 2 years (July 2022 - July 2024) and an additional 3 year term (July 2024 - resigned December 2025)

Eleanor Pyemont for 3 years (July 2022 - July 2025)

Trustees subsequently appointed are as follows, and have been appointed for the following terms:

Sam Robins for 3 years (January 2023 - January 2026)

Amy White for 3 years (June 2023 - June 2026)

Molly Horsburgh for 3 years (August 2023 - resigned August 2025)

Grethe Gullborg Schepers for 3 years (September 2023 - September 2026)

Rebecca Joanne Richmond for 3 years (October 2025 - October 2028)

Pirayeh Sophie Gregory for 3 years (December 2025 - December 2028)

Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

The charity trustees must make available to each new charity trustee, on or before their first appointment: a copy of the current version of the CIO constitution; and a copy of the CIO's latest Trustees' Annual Report and statement of accounts.

Any decision by charity trustees is taken either at a meeting of the charity trustees or by resolution in writing or electronic form agreed by a majority of all of the charity trustees, which may comprise either a single document or several documents containing the text of the resolution in like form to which the majority of all of the charity trustees has signified their agreement.

Such a resolution shall be effective provided that a copy of the proposed resolution has been sent, at or as near as reasonably practicable to the same time, to all of the charity trustees; and the majority of all of the charity trustees has signified agreement to the resolution in a document or documents which has or have been authenticated by their signature, by a statement of their identity accompanying the document or documents, or in such other manner as the charity trustees have previously resolved, and delivered to the CIO at its principal office or such other place as the trustees may resolve within 28 days of the circulation date.

#### Financial overview

During this financial year, Wandsworth Welcomes Refugees continued to operate with appropriate oversight of its finances. Total income for the year amounted to £3,068, primarily from donations, while expenditure totalled £10,921. The apparent deficit for the year reflects the timing of grant funding rather than an underlying shortfall in resources.

The majority of expenditure incurred during the year relates to the delivery of activities funded by a local authority grant that was received and recognised in the previous financial year. As a result, expenditure in the current year exceeds income, with the difference being met from reserves held at the start of the year. This explains the discrepancy between revenue and expenses and does not indicate financial instability.

At the end of the financial year, the charity continued to hold reserves in line with its reserves policy. No individual fund is in material deficit, and the Committee remains satisfied that future planned expenditure can be met through a combination of existing reserves and recurring unrestricted donations. The reserves policy remains that balances under £5,000 are carried forward automatically, while balances in excess of £5,000 are brought to the Committee for discussion and approval.

The trustees are confident that the charity remains financially sustainable and that funds have been applied appropriately in furtherance of its charitable objectives.

#### Public benefit statement

The objects of Wandsworth Welcomes Refugees are:

1. To advance equality and diversity for the public benefit for people seeking sanctuary by collaborating as a network of individuals and organisations and promoting activities that foster understanding between people from diverse backgrounds and welcome people who have made Wandsworth their home.
2. To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people in Wandsworth from becoming socially excluded, and relieving the needs of those people within Wandsworth who are socially excluded by reason of their refugee or asylum seeker status and assisting them to integrate into society.
3. To advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.

In order to carry out the CIO's charitable purposes for the public benefit, during the year Wandsworth Welcomes Refugees has carried out the following activities:

Object	Activity
1	Delivered two 'Establishing Sanctuary in Wandsworth' workshops in March 2024 in Tooting and Putney as well as an online 'lunch and learn' session in April 2024. The workshops were attended by more than 30 diverse organisations, including advice centres, theatres, faith groups, shops, gardens, sporting facilities, cafés and community networks.
	Participated in Wandsworth Council's City of Sanctuary accreditation as a Borough of Sanctuary in May 2024 <sup>1</sup> and co-chaired the Wandsworth Migration Forum, acting as voluntary sector coordination lead.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/news/news-may-2024/wandsworth-is-officially-a-borough-of-sanctuary/>

	Organised an event in parliament in partnership with Fleur Anderson, Member of Parliament for Putney, to celebrate Wandsworth's Borough of Sanctuary status. Over 80 local leaders, organisations, and community members attended. <sup>2</sup>
<b>2</b>	Supported individuals in Wandsworth with lived experience of seeking sanctuary through a regular English language conversation group at Balham Library, two visits to Kew Gardens, a visit to 575 Wandsworth Road, and a regular drop-in at Ascension Church.
	Engaged with Oxfam Tooting to deliver an apprenticeship scheme for refugees to train in a range of retail management and leadership skills.
<b>3</b>	Coordinated over 50 community groups to produce a Sanctuary banner for Refugee Week which was displayed at locations around the borough including Wandsworth Town Hall, Battersea Arts Centre, All Saints Church, as well as Ravenstone School's end of year assembly held at Chestnut Grove.
	Collaborated with Backstory in Balham on a 'Refugee Tales' book launch in June 2024 <sup>3</sup> and Hope in the Heart on the HeART of Sanctuary Project which took place from March 2024 to March 2025 at Battersea Arts Centre. <sup>4</sup>
	Raised awareness of local, national and international refugee and asylum seeker issues through a monthly newsletter which has over 655 subscribers and social media activity which reaches over 2437 supporters.

The charity trustees have complied with the duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.putneysw15.com/default.asp?section=info&page=confleuranderson116.htm>

<sup>3</sup> <https://backstory.london/blogs/my-bookshop>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.hopeintheheart.org/the-heart-of-sanctuary.html>



## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

01/04/2024

To

31/03/2025

### 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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Bank Interest	11	-	-	11	15
One-off donations	2,291	-	-	2,291	1,332
Recurring donations	766	-	-	766	808
Fundraising on behalf of partners	-	-	-	-	163
Grants	-	-	-	-	14,300
Sales	-	-	-	-	79
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>3,068</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,068</b>	<b>16,697</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
None	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>3,068</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,068</b>	<b>16,697</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Bank fees	60	-	-	60	60
Insurance	99	-	-	99	99
Software	474	-	-	474	189
Printing and Merchandise	245	-	-	245	267
Website	540	-	-	540	-
Project Delivery		9,348	-	9,348	930
Direct Support Items	34	-	-	34	-
Events	120	-	-	120	184
Pass through donations to partners					4,163
Travel					91
Miscellaneous (rounding correction)	- 1	-	-	- 1	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>1,571</b>	<b>9,348</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,919</b>	<b>5,984</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
None	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>1,571</b>	<b>9,348</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,919</b>	<b>5,984</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>1,498</b>	<b>- 9,348</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 7,850</b>	<b>10,713</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

A6 Cash funds last year end	2,871	10,163	-	13,035	2,322
Cash funds this year end	4,369	816	-	5,185	13,035


## 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	Cash at bank	4,369	816	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>4,369</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	None	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	None		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	None		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)

B5 Liabilities

Establishing Sanctuary Project - Project Costs	Establishing Sanctuary in	10,000	30/04/2024
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Grethe Gullborg Schepers	30/01/2026