

## Open Doors Project (Hull) Annual Report 2022 –23

This year we continue to progress as an independent charity and continue to work tirelessly amidst the challenges that come with this development. We have kept the regular weekly activities going and are in the process of reviewing some of the present and proposed future activities. The Thursday drop-in sessions, starts from 9.30am to 12pm. Last year we decided to extend the drop-in session time to 3pm but this has not materialised, so it remains at 12pm finish.

We have continuously provided support to our clients and those who walk through our doors seeking advice in progressing their application for Leave to Remain in the UK. We have done this on a weekly basis throughout the year. This year, we have also seen an increase in the number of clients registering with us and about ninety to hundred clients attend our weekly drop-in sessions.

Presently, many clients are faced with accommodation crisis and homelessness, this number includes six clients presently residing at Hull International House.

We have been able to provide our clients with food parcels on a weekly basis. We also support our destitute clients financially with the amount of £10 weekly.

We provide advice in certain areas like housing, immigration, in completing medical forms, accessing GPs and dentists etc, with the help of our volunteers and service providers. We signpost clients to other service providers outside Open Doors depending on their needs.

The English classes on Tuesdays and Wednesdays are still going on and the numbers are building up again. I recently had conversations with the Tuesday English class teachers regarding the number of clients attending the classes and the possibility of merging both classes but due to the recent increase in number for both classes, this has been put on hold and will be reviewed in the new year 2024.

Our thanks to all the teachers who give their time each week to make this happen.

The clothes store that we run on Tuesdays between 12pm and 2pm is in full operation and is structured and organised. Many thanks to all volunteers who helps hugely in making this happen each week.

We extend thanks also to all our supporters, churches, people in the local community who have continuously donated items for the clothes store including food items and cash donations. We always acknowledge their generosity with either emails, or cards to extend our thanks and appreciation.

Many of the clients attending the Tuesday clothes store see this as another opportunity to meet and chat with others.

## Other Activities

Tea and coffee with hot meals are served at lunch time during the drop-in sessions. Hot drinks and toasts/snacks are also provided to our clients, volunteers, staff and other service providers throughout the drop-in session on Thursdays. This has been well received and appreciated, more so as we draw closer to the winter period. We say a big Thank You to the volunteers who look after the kitchen and ensure tea and coffee with snacks are served to everyone.

**The Lord Mayor of Hull Christmas Tree Festival** – For the third year running we have been invited to take part in the Christmas Tree festival event to be held in Hull Minster and will be hosted by the Lord Mayor Councillor Calvin Neal. The Open Doors Project (Hull) will be putting up a Christmas tree with decorations as part of this celebration.

**Hull Truck Theatre** – Continues to attend some of our drop-in sessions and provide activities and discounted tickets for our clients and children to attend their shows.

**Students Placements** – This year, we provided placement opportunities for up to three postgraduate students from the University of Hull for their research programmes. The students spent about eight weeks with us and volunteered during their research. They had the opportunity of helping in every section of the project on a rotational basis while been supervised. Some of these students have kept in contact with the project and one of them still volunteers with us.

**Refugee Week Celebrations 2023** – This event was celebrated at the Open Doors Project (Hull) on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023, with the theme: Community and Compassion. It was attended by the Lord Mayor who opened the event with a keynote address. There were representatives from other organisations in Hull who made speeches. The celebration was a total success with the opportunity of networking with guests who attended the event. We hope to repeat this event again next year.

### **Coach Trip to Toll Gavel Methodist Church Beverley -**

The Rev. Fran Rhys and members of Toll Gavel church invited Open Doors Project (Hull) clients and volunteers for a day trip to Beverley. The day was well spent with some food, music entertainments and guided tours.

Music and other forms of recreational activities are gradually picking up again and we have organised a few music events for our clients in the recent past. My plan is to create more of these activities for our clients and get them participating in more social events that we organise.

I was recently approached by Abdu from the Tigers Trust which is connected to the University of Hull, about the possibility of bringing some football activities to the Open Doors Project (Hull) for men and women respectively.



I have also attended a series of activities and meetings organised by other likeminded organisations with the aim of working together in providing support networks for those seeking sanctuary in Hull.

We are grateful to the other service providers who provide regular support and advice to our clients on a weekly basis. Their support has been immense both to the clients and the project. With this support we have had success in meeting the needs of our clients and have been able to connect them with the right services including immigration, medical, housing and educational needs.

Some of these organisations include:

- CIAC – Community Integration and Advocacy Centre
- Hull City Council
- Mesmac
- British Red Cross
- Hull Truck Theatre
- University of Hull
- HANA – Humber and All Nations Alliance
- Job Centre

**Berkeley Street** – All clients moved out of this accommodation last year after we were directed to do so by the executor. The project has made some financial contributions towards the cleaning and maintenance of the property whilst waiting for the court's direction about ownership of the property.

**International House** – Six of our clients residing at Hull International House are due to move out of the property sometime this month. We are hoping that the Home Office can provide accommodation for these clients following application made by CU Support.

**Training for Volunteers and Staff** – Before becoming an independent charity last year, we completed the first Safeguarding training for staff and volunteers through the Methodist Church in November 2022. We also made some DBS applications for staff and volunteers, to ensure a safer working environment for everyone. We plan to undertake various training sessions in the coming year, 2024, for staff and volunteers, which will include Safeguarding, First Aid, Food and Hygiene, Administration and Management training.

I am presently sourcing avenues that will provide us with such training, and possible DBS checks through Hull City Council. However, I recommend that the Open Doors Project (Hull) becomes a registered organisation with the DBS services so that we can apply for DBS checks for our staff and volunteers directly and thus avoid using other providers which can be costly.

Amongst our volunteers there are team leaders for every section and the team leaders are those with valid DBS and Safeguarding certificates. They also supervise other volunteers/helpers who have yet to complete their training.

After Covid-19 restrictions were relaxed, Open Doors Project (Hull) has re-established itself by making representation at various churches and community events. During such events, representatives from Open Doors are given the opportunity to talk about the project. On these occasions, we have been able to solicit more support both in cash and in kind. Our monthly Newsletter has also played a vital part in disseminating information about the project which has generated more support in diverse ways. A big thanks to our Newsletter editor.

This year we have received an overwhelming outpouring of gifts, donations both in cash and in kind. We extend thanks to all our donors and supporters.

We have safely recruited more volunteers who have dedicated their time and experiences in contributing to the goals and aims of the project.

On behalf of the management and staff of The Open Doors Project (Hull), I would like to thank our previous line manager Peter Vince and welcome our interim line manager Rev. Mick Neal.

Thanks also to all our volunteers and everyone who support the work of the Open Doors Project (Hull).

Submitted,  
Cecil Jones  
Manager/Project Coordinator

# OPEN DOORS PROJECT (HULL)

Receipts and Payments Account for the period 27/10/2022 to 31/08/2023

Receipts		2022/23	2021/22	Payments		2022/23	2021/22
<u>Balance at 27/10/2022</u>							
Current Accounts	42281			Pay Costs	E1	42734	43223
Cash	383						
CFB account	<u>40403</u>	83067		Trav & Subs	E2	780	353
Grants(R1)	R1	31220	18915	Kitchen	E3	879	225
Group 200(R2)	R2	9601	11471	Groceries	E4	13185	9690
Donations(R3)	R3	18315	16137	Thursday Money	E5	6500	11010
Stewardship(R4)	R4	2090	3747	Housing	E6	18760	19972
Gift Aid(R5)	R5	2175	5234	Utilities	E7	5111	2357
Acts 435(R6)	R6	2765	8355	IT & Comms	E8	803	2264
Interest		693	167	Equip & Materials	E9	893	1235
Other (R9)	R8/R9	82	171	Fees & Charges	E10	662	1204
				Rental/hire	E11	50	65
				Other	E12	56	390
				Acts 435	E13	3707	8415
				Christmas Gifts	E14	2863	
				Insurance		328	
				<u>Balance at 31/08/2023</u>			
				Current Accounts		31411	
				Cash		190	
				Epworth Account		21097	52697
<b>Total</b>		<b>150008</b>		<b>Total</b>		<b>150008</b>	

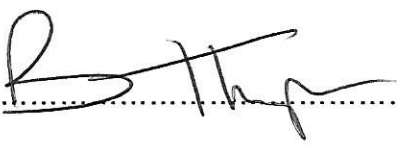
B. Thapa - Treasurer

17/10/23

M. A. Neal - Chair of Trustees.  
9/11/23

## Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2023 have been prepared from the records of the Open Doors Project and that they include all funds under the control of the trustees.

Signature of treasurer .....  ..... Date ..... 17/10/23

Name and address of treasurer ..... Barrie Thompson

144 Goddard Avenue Hull HU5 2BA

### Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the period 27 October 2022 to 31 August 2023 to be presented to the meeting of the Church trustees on 9/11/23

Signature of the Chair of the meeting .....  .....

Name of the Chair of the meeting ... MICHAEL A NEAL ... Date .....

## Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

### Open Doors Project (Hull)

Charity Number 120838

### Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Open Doors Project (Hull) for the period 27 October 2022 to 31 August 2023 set out on the attached. As the Project's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').



## Open Doors Project (Hull)

### 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 (other than that disclosed below\*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do 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 in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signature of independent examiner ..... *J. Carr*

Name of independent examiner ..... JUNE CARR

Relevant qualifications of independent examiner ..... CHURCH STEWARD

Name of firm (where appropriate) ..... N/A

Address ..... 144 BLENHEIM STREET

..... HULL. Post Code HU5 3AN

Date ..... 1-11-2023