

Hastings City of Sanctuary

Registered Charity Number 1200852

Annual Accounts

for the period

1 November 2022 - 31 March 2024

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Audit numbers including voided

Hastings Voluntary Action
Jackson Hall
Portland Place
Hastings
East Sussex
TN34 1QN

Hastings City of Sanctuary
Organisational information for the 18 months ended 31 March 2024

Name of charity:	Hastings City of Sanctuary Registered Charity Number 1200852
Legal form:	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Governing document:	Constitution (last amended 6 September 2022)
Address:	c/o Hastings voluntary Action Jackson Hall, Portland Place , Hastings TN34 1QN
Committee members:	Chair : Polly Gifford Treasurer : Julie Todd Olivia Cavanagh Jane Grimshaw Rachel Lowden
Bankers:	Lloyds Bank - PO Box 1000 Andover BX1 1LT
Independent Examiner:	Laura Dawson Finance Manager, Hastings Voluntary Action Jackson Hall, Portland Place, Hastings, TN34 1QN
Objects:	The objects of the CIO are to promote the following, for the public benefit: 1. The promotion of social inclusion for the public benefit among people who are refugees and asylum seekers, socially excluded on the grounds of their social and economic position, by promoting and/or co-ordinating services and facilities to assist them to adapt within a new community. 2. The relief of financial hardship among asylum seekers and refugees living or working in Hastings and surrounding areas by acting as an umbrella and resource for local refugee support services. 3. The advancement of the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum. 4. The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by promoting activities to foster understanding and good relations between the general public and people seeking sanctuary.
Reserves policy:	Hastings City of Sanctuary aims to keep a sum in reserve to cover unforeseen debts or unrecoverable expenses. The current level deemed to be prudent is £1,500. This policy is reviewed annually.

Hastings City of Sanctuary
The Report of the Trustees
for the 18 months ended 31 March 2024

April 22

Open Meeting held to recruit more volunteers. 60 people registered to attend, either in person or on line. Monthly volunteer meet-ups have happened since.

May

June

People's Boutique takes place at the beginning of Refugee Week. Approx 50 people attend (?)

Sanctuary Festival 2022

Another successful event was held at Hastings Museum on 26 June 2022. Approx 1500 people attended over the day.

There was a busier programme of activities with more partner organisations involved.

Good links established with Ark Alexandra Academy and Hastings Library, as part of the Sanctuary Awards.

July

Colombian Cultural Evening fundraiser at Zoom Arts

Renewed push on Pledge sign ups.

Aug

Sept

Felicity Laurence and Jay Kramer stood down from the Committee. Very many thanks to them for all their hard work.

Olivia Cavanagh stood down as Treasurer but remains on the Committee.

Julie Todd voted unanimously onto the Committee and then into the post of Treasurer.

Committee agree to register HCoS as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Stop Rwanda Demo on St Leonards Seafront – attended by approx. 250 people.

Fill The Skies With Hope event – national event led by Together With Refugees – attended by approx. 40 people.

Oct

Poster Project – posters inspired by the Conversations From Calais project but with quotes from refugees in Hastings, go up in shops and cafes around the town.

Hastings City of Sanctuary
The Report of the Trustees
for the 18 months ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

Nov

People moved into 'spot booked' hotels in Hastings by the Home Office. HCoS supporters donate clothing and funds to provide essentials to the residents.

Dec

Vigil held for the four people who died in a tragic accident in the Channel, one year on from the loss of 27 lives in the same way – nothing has been learnt.

Jan 23

Polly & Jane meeting with Sally-Anne Hart MP

Feb

City of Sanctuary UK Valentine's Day action

Call to send the PM, Home Secretary and/or MPs a Valentine's card altered to be about love for refugees.

Vigil to mark 1 year since the invasion of Ukraine.

Mar

Communities Not Camps public meeting in partnership with The Refugee Buddy Project.

In addition over the year the charity has donated over £4600 of clothing and equipment to refugees in local hostels, has financed the local beach response team and has supported the work done by the Refugee Buddy project, Community kitchen, and Karma foodbank amongst others.

Hastings City of Sanctuary

The Report of the Trustees

for the 18 months ended 31st March 2024

Hastings City of Sanctuary Review of the Year 2023/24

Hastings City of Sanctuary (known locally as Hastings Community of Sanctuary / HCoS) is a volunteer-run Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) committed to building a culture of welcome for people seeking sanctuary and refuge in Hastings and surrounding area. We work to raise awareness of the issues facing refugees and people seeking asylum, run collections for essential items and raise funds to support local projects.

Our projects include the annual **Sanctuary Festival**, **The People's Boutique** and the **Sanctuary Awards**.

We campaign for a fair and humane asylum system, including more safe and legal routes for people to seek asylum in the UK. Once here, we believe that people should be housed and supported in local communities and be able to work and contribute to those communities, while their claims are assessed.

HCoS grew out of community group Hastings Supports Refugees and joined the national City of Sanctuary movement in 2017. Hastings Supports Refugees now sits under the umbrella of HCoS. We work closely with other voluntary sector organisations and agencies. Key partnerships include The Refugee Buddy Project Hastings, Rother & Wealden, Hastings Museum & Art Gallery, East Sussex Library Service, Hastings Voluntary Action / Links Project, Hasting Borough Council and Community of Sanctuary UK.

Key Activities and Highlights for 2023/34

- **East Sussex Library Service becomes a Library of Sanctuary**

This year we supported our first local organisation to gain their Sanctuary Award. Offered through City of Sanctuary UK to encourage mainstream sectors to contribute to building a movement of welcome, the awards programme recognises and celebrates the organisations who go above and beyond to embed solidarity, compassion and inclusion within their work.

We started conversations with Ark Alexandra Secondary Academy and Christ Church Primary Academy about becoming Schools of Sanctuary, and with Hastings Museum & Art Gallery and East Sussex Library Service. The Library Service gained the award in July 2023.

- **Sanctuary Festival and creative outreach projects**

Thanks to additional funds raised from Arts Council England, Making It Happen, the Fonthill Foundation and the Foreshore Trust, and continued support from The National Lottery Awards for All, we were able to expand the reach of the festival this year with two creative outreach projects – one in partnership with Hastings Library and one with Ark Alexandra Secondary Academy.

Hastings Library project:

Nine Hastings residents with lived experience of the UK asylum system took part in creative workshops led by artists Anne-Marie Watson and Fatima Esayli, and English tutor Kathy Briscoe. The group had a really positive experience, and a beautiful artwork was created for the library foyer.

All the participants now feel very comfortable in the library and very proud that their work is so visible to all visitors.

"[We feel] very proud. Our soul is in the banner – different lives and cultures in Hastings together in one place in a colourful way." Participant feedback

The relationship between Hastings Community of Sanctuary and the library service has been strengthened and both are keen to continue to work together.

Ark Alexandra project:

Composer and musician Gwyneth Herbert created a school anthem with Yr8 students at Ark Alexandra Academy, that expressed their values as a School of Sanctuary. Gwyneth had a two-week residency at the school and worked with all 11 classes in Yr 8, writing a total of 6 songs in collaboration with the students. 5 songs were written between 2 classes each, and 1 was the collective anthem. The sessions took place in music lessons and directly contributed to the music curriculum. The sessions were co-delivered with the music teachers to support exchange of practice.

The songs were performed by Gwyneth at a Yr8 assembly, also attended by Yr7 students. The students joined in with their class songs and also with the communal anthem in a joyful and riotous celebration of creativity and sanctuary that clearly demonstrated the students' ownership of the songs. Gwyneth had also worked separately with three students with lived experience of being refugees and their words featured strongly in the anthem, in a safe way.

The creation of the lyrics in the lessons enabled a discussion of what sanctuary means to the young people, starting from their own experience and then bringing in reflection on the challenges facing refugees and people seeking asylum in the UK.

A small group of students joined Gwyneth to perform the songs at Sanctuary Festival.

- **Sanctuary Festival**

We were delighted with this year's festival, that attracted over 1500 people to Hastings Museum on 25 June in glorious sunshine. The festival supported 70 artists, including 15 with lived experience of the UK asylum system, 64 community participants, and 33 volunteers. 18 local groups and organisations had stalls at the event including The Refugee Buddy Project, Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain, Women's Voice and Stand Up to Racism.

The Talks programme included two panel discussions, one on the theme of Communities Not Camps, and one on the role of creativity for people navigating the UK asylum system.

We were able to develop several exciting new partnerships this year, including with Hear Me Out, a charity that runs music workshops with people in immigration detention centres, contingency accommodation and asylum hotels. Band from the Barracks are a group currently living in temporary accommodation at Napier Barracks in Folkestone, Kent who have been making music together in weekly workshops with Hear Me Out. They had never performed together before but and were one of the highlights of the music programme. The band members said that, since arriving in the UK, they had never been made to feel so welcome as they were in Hastings.

- **The People's Boutique**

This project provides free good quality adult and children's clothes in boutique environment, to give people a greater feeling of dignity and normality. Along with clothing, books and children's toys were available, and in previous years we have had hairdressers and manicurists.

Ongoing Activities:

- Monthly volunteer meetings, supported by the White Rock Hotel
- Attending regional City of Sanctuary online meetings

Apr-23	Support continued for the approx. 80 men still being housed in a local Hastings hotel, as well as in a hotel in Wealden. HCoS provide basic clothing and personal hygiene products, working closely with the Refugee Buddy Project Hastings, Rother & Wealden who were directly supporting the men. We continue to closely monitor the situation around the proposed asylum detention centre in Northeye in nearby Bexhill. We were able to share knowledge and experience gained by other City of Sanctuary groups who were opposing similar developments in other parts of the country. Application submitted to be community editors of the Radio 4 Today programme in August, in partnership with the Buddy Project. A HCoS supporter raised £500 running the Hastings Half Marathon.
May	Sanctuary Festival: • Library and School Project sessions take place • Volunteer steward recruitment Trustees Meeting

June	Sanctuary Festival 2023 • Another successful event was held at Hastings Museum on 25 June. Over 1500 people attended over the day. • There was a busier programme of activities with more partner organisations involved (see above).
July	East Sussex Library Service gain their Library of Sanctuary Award. Banner made by members of the local refugee community is installed in the foyer of Hastings Library and a celebration event held.
Aug	Vigil held for more lives lost at sea crossing The Channel. HCoS volunteers join the parade for Hastings Pride.
Sept	We continue to meet requests when new people arrive in the hotel. Trustees meeting.
Oct	Speaking Out for Sanctuary training session delivered by City of Sanctuary UK. Every Sort of People Party event in Newhaven in partnership with Sanctuary Festival. Article written by HCoS volunteer Pal Luthra about the Northeys proposals published by Hastings Online Times
Nov	Winter campaign launched for coats and shoes for men in hotels. Coastal Solidarity Vigil to remember the 27 people who died in 2021.
Dec	HCoS help inform a motion to Rother District Council to become a Council of Sanctuary.
Jan-24	Trustees Meeting
Feb	Strategy session facilitated by Deanne Nuala to help identify key goals and aims for HCoS over the next year. Fundraising Comedy Night with James Ross.
Mar	Meetings with Hastings Museum & Art Gallery about becoming a Museum of Sanctuary. with the aim to present the award at Sanctuary Festival 2024.

Hastings City of Sanctuary

Receipts & Payments Account

for the period

1 November 2022 to **31 March 2024**

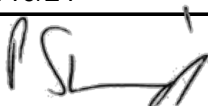
	Notes	Current Year			Total funds
		Restricted funds	Designated funds	Unrestricted funds	
<u>Receipts</u>					
Donations and legacies		-	7,323.33	1,132.42	8,455.75
Income from charitable activities		58,535.00	1,333.69	2,732.97	62,601.66
Other income		-	693.09	1,699.75	2,392.84
Other trading activities		-	-	-	-
Investments		-	-	-	-
Total Receipts		58,535.00	9,350.11	5,565.14	73,450.25
<u>Expenditure</u>					
Expenditure on charitable activities		36,237.34	9,473.84	3,270.10	48,981.28
Other expenditure		-	1,214.34	1,904.63	3,118.97
Raising funds		-	-	-	-
Total Expenditure		36,237.34	10,688.18	5,174.73	52,100.25
Net surplus (deficit)		22,297.66	(1,338.07)	390.41	21,350.00
Movement in funds		-	-	-	-
Funds brought forward	31/10/22	1,023.00	5,971.83	3,132.26	10,127.09
Funds carried forward	31/3/24	23,320.66	4,633.76	3,522.67	31,477.09

Hastings City of Sanctuary
Statement of Assets & Liabilities
as at
31 March 2024

		Restricted Funds	Designated Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total
Current assets					
HCOS Account	@ 31/03/24	23,320.66	588.95	3,148.94	27,058.55
HSR Account	@ 31/03/24	-	4,007.79	300.48	4,308.27
Paypal Account	@ 31/03/24	-	37.02	73.25	110.27
		23,320.66	4,633.76	3,522.67	31,477.09
Current liabilities					
		23,320.66	4,633.76	3,522.67	31,477.09

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which comply with the regulations set out in the Charities Act 1993. The trustess have elected to take advantage of the provisions that apply to small charities and have prepared a Receipts and Payments account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Approved by the Trustees on 31/10/24 and signed on their behalf by


Chair : Polly Gifford


Treasurer : Julie Todd

Hastings City of Sanctuary

Notes to the accounts for the 18 months ended 31 March 2024

1 Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts are statements that summarise the movement of cash into and out of the charity during the financial year. In this context "cash" includes cash equivalents, for example, bank accounts where cash can be readily withdrawn to pay for debt as they become due.

2 Premises & staff

The organisation has no premises.
The organisation has no employees.

3 Trustees' remuneration

2 of our trustees received remuneration in the period. Polly Gifford was paid £6250 for managing the library and schools project. This was discussed in Polly's absence by the other trustees in a meeting on 21/11/2022. It was felt that Polly with her arts festival management experience, her connections with City of Sanctuary, and her in depth local knowledge of the current situation in Hastings was the person best placed to undertake this work with the library and schools.

Rachel Lowden was paid £600 for organising the volunteers for the Sanctuary Festival. Again this was agreed and confirmed by other trustees in Rachel's absence. It was felt that Rachel's ongoing connection and links with our volunteers made her the most appropriate person to undertake this work.

4 There were no related party transactions during the period.

5 Previous period comparison

The previous period's figures have been included for comparison.

6 Glossary of terms

Restricted funds: These are funds given to the charity, subject to specific restrictions set by the donor, but still within the general objects of the charity.

Designated funds: These are funds, not subject to any specific restrictions, but which the charity has decided to set aside for a specific purpose. In this case, the purpose is to earmark online fundraising to support work with refugees.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Committee of Hastings City of Sanctuary

I report on the accounts of Hastings City of Sanctuary
for the Eighteen month period ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on the previous pages.

Respective responsibilities of committee & examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility:

- to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's 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 supporting documentation presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the 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 Charities Act
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Acthave 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.



Laura Dawson
Finance Manager, Hastings Voluntary Action
Jackson Hall, Portland Place, Hastings, TN34 1QN

Dated: 28.10.2024