

FURNESS REFUGEE SUPPORT

England & Wales · Charity number 1201677

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2023-01-23

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

Contact

Address 5 Ainslie Street
Ulverston
LA12 7JE

Phone 07966333017

Email furnessrefugees@gmail.com

Website www.furnessrefugeesupport.co.uk

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE:• TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF ASYLUM SEEKERS, THOSE GRANTED REFUGEE STATUS AND THOSE FLEEING CONFLICT AND PERSECUTION AND THEIR DEPENDANTS IN NEED THEREOF SO AS TO ADVANCE THEM IN LIFE AND ASSIST THEM TO ADAPT WITHIN AND CONTRIBUTE TO A NEW COMMUNITY. • TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES 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, IMMIGRATION STATUS OR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES. • TO SUPPORT THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH OF THOSE GRANTED REFUGEE STATUS AND THEIR DEPENDANTS, ASYLUM SEEKERS AND THOSE FLEEING CONFLICT AND PERSECUTION • TO RELIEVE FINANCIAL HARDSHIP AMONGST ASYLUM SEEKERS, THOSE FLEEING CONFLICT AND PERSECUTION AND THOSE GRANTED REFUGEE STATUS AND THEIR DEPENDANTS LIVING (TEMPORARILY OR PERMANENTLY) IN THE FURNESS AREA. • TO RELIEVE THE CHALLENGE OF UNEMPLOYMENT (IMMEDIATELY OR IN THE FUTURE) OF THOSE GRANTED REFUGEE STATUS, THOSE FLEEING CONFLICT AND PERSECUTION AND THOSE SEEKING ASYLUM IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND IN PARTICULAR IN THE FURNESS AREA, BY THE PROVISION OF VOCATIONAL AND SKILLS TRAINING, ADVICE AND SUPPORT. • TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL ABOUT THE ISSUES RELATING TO REFUGEES AND THOSE SEEKING ASYLUM. AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ABOVE, TO UNDERTAKE ANY OTHER ACTIVITY WHICH WITH THE APPROVAL OF TRUSTEES IS DEEMED TO MEET AND SUPPORT THESE OBJECTIVES.

Activities: Furness Refugee Support provides support to refugees and asylum seekers living in the Furness geographical area. We provide practical support helping people to create a home, attend appointments, learn English, liaise with other agencies. We also facilitate community engagement through a range of activities. We also support those in camps overseas through donation both financial and of clothing.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Accommodation/housing, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Recreation, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Cumbria

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£82,448	£44,482	-	-
2023-12-31	£49,031	£42,887	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Kim Farr MSc.	Chair	2023-01-01
Akram Aljouri		2025-09-08
Dr JOHN ANTHONY RAMMELL BRICE		2023-01-01
Frankie Marlon Gibbs Baker		2024-01-01
Linda Wood		2023-01-01
Matthew Burden		2025-09-08
Pamela Anne Harper		2024-01-01

FURNESS REFUGEE SUPPORT

England & Wales - Charity number 1201677

Accounts

Trustees of Furness Refugee Support Annual Report For the year ending 31 December 2024

Registered Charity Number 1201677

Registered Office

5 Ainslie Street
Ulverston
LA12 7JE

Trustees

Kim Farr, Chair from 1/1/23
Linda Wood, Vice Chair from 1/1/23
Liz Hill, Secretary from 1/1/23 to 31/12/24
John Brice, from 1/1/23, Treasurer from 1/1/23 to 31/12/23
Frankie Baker, incoming Treasurer from 1/1/24
Pamela Harper from 1/1/24
Matthew Burden from 8/9/25
Akram Aljouri from 8/9/25

Trustees meet every two months and volunteers have a monthly planning meeting. The charity has due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit. Furness Refugee Support is a CIO with a constitution dated January 9th 2023 and the AGM is held in February.

Furness Refugee Support has been running since 2015 but only registered as a charity in 2023 due to a dramatic increase in workload following the standing up of two asylum hotels in Barrow by the Home Office. This meant we had to raise very much more money each month and so could no longer operate as a "Small Charity". The original four trustees of the charity have been involved since the very early days of the group and were obvious choices to be trustees of the registered charity. Frankie Baker and Pamela Harper had been involved as volunteers for some time before becoming trustees. We need a minimum of three trustees, but In 2025 we have looked for and appointed two new trustees from September 8th 2025. We wanted one with charity experience outside Furness Refugee Support, advertised for that on facebook and have been fortunate to find Matthew Burden who is the manager of Barrow Food Bank. We also wanted one trustee with lived experience of the support provided by Furness Refugee Support, wrote to a number of longstanding refugees still living locally and were fortunate to be joined by Akram Al Jouri who came from Syria, via Lebanon with his family in March 2020.

Bankers

Barclays Bank, 1 Churchill Place, London E14 5HP

CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ.

We opened an account with CAF Bank Ltd because they would allow us to make electronic payments. We maintain the Barclays account for un-ringfenced monies and some direct debits coming from online concerts during Covid for whom we do not have contact details.

The objects of the CIO are:

- To advance the education and training of asylum seekers, those granted refugee status and those fleeing conflict and persecution and their dependents in need thereof so as to advance them in life and assist them to adapt within and contribute to a new community.
- To provide opportunities 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, immigration status or social and economic circumstances.
- To support the physical and mental health of those granted refugee status and their dependants, asylum seekers and those fleeing conflict and persecution
- To relieve financial hardship amongst asylum seekers, those fleeing conflict and persecution and those granted refugee status and their dependents living (temporarily or permanently) in the Furness area.
- To relieve the challenge of unemployment (immediately or in the future) of those granted refugee status, those fleeing conflict and persecution and those seeking asylum in the United Kingdom, and in particular in the Furness area, by the provision of vocational and skills training, advice and support.
- To advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.

Achievements

This year has shown very clearly how important it is for us to work in collaboration/partnership with a wide range of organisations to enable us to deliver varied and high quality support to an increasing number of people of all ages and

nationalities. Our key delivery partners are Furness Multicultural Community Forum (FMCCF) and the Salvation Army. We also work closely with Art Gene, Signal Film and Media, Lakes & Mountains with Matt, Barrow Library, Westmorland and Furness Council, The Wordsworth Trust, the Hope & Anchor, Barrow Community Garage, CVS and latterly Cumbria Wildlife Trust. We are now supporting resettled families, Ukrainian guests (mostly women and children), asylum seekers (men on their own, women on their own and families in dispersal accommodation) and asylum seekers who have gained refugee status and stayed in the Barrow area (individuals and families). We use WhatsApp groups, our facebook pages and regular texts and emails for communicating and we have also updated our website.

We started the year with a Welcome party for the thirteen new families seeking asylum which included all the resettled families, volunteers and staff from Furness Multicultural Community Forum.

English Language/Education/Training Support

For two years, since the asylum hotels were opened, we had offered an English class every week to the men from the hotels. Once the hotels closed and all the community houses were established we started offering a weekly English class to women. This was in addition to the classes run by FMCCF and the Council, but it was felt that a women only class, in addition to the mixed classes run by other organisations, would be of benefit. The English class, of between 12 and 15 learners, is planned and delivered by volunteers, the majority of whom are teachers. We also deliver a weekly Coffee & Chat session which gives opportunities for conversation between volunteers and refugees and asylum seekers. This is attended by up to 12 volunteers and up to 50 refugees and asylum seekers and is also an opportunity for buying bikes from the Salvation Army and new clothing distribution. In addition, there is a monthly meal (Culture Cafe) with food cooked by refugees and asylum seekers, a monthly "Free Jumble Sale" to distribute donated kitchenware, clothes, toys and bedding and a monthly visit from a member of staff from Cumbria CVS. We help refugees and asylum seekers to access both English classes and other courses offered by the Council, Furness College, Adult learning and PHX training and work with organisations such as Signal Film and Media to put on some courses especially around photography, textiles and film making. To support the mental and physical health of asylum seekers we offer forty 24/7 gym memberships. We also support refugees settled in Barrow to learn to drive by paying for provisional licences, driving theory tests and some practical driving lessons. In addition we support resettled families with regular visits for conversation and targeted support for children by both volunteers who are experienced teachers and professional English tutors as required. We have also worked alongside the Library to provide laptops and tablets where helpful, especially for children at High School. The Ukrainian guests have been supported with monthly networking meetings at the Hope & Anchor in

Ulverston and targeted supply of online English tutoring (for struggling teenagers), online Maths tutoring for a struggling A level student, exam costs (for a mother taking UK Accountancy courses to add to her Ukrainian qualifications) and laptops where appropriate.

Volunteering/Community Integration

We feel that by involving people in volunteering and Community events it helps a sense of belonging, English acquisition and community integration. The Festival of Colours in March was a good example and everyone embraced the music and workshops and the opportunities to dress up! Eid is always a great time to celebrate with the local community, refugees and asylum seekers all together!

The Unity Festival is organised by FMCCF and supported by us and involves everyone in a parade , stewarding, music and an International Food Stall with contributions from Ukraine, Pakistan, Brazil, Albania, Syria, Spain etc and even some local Sticky Toffee Pudding!

The Lantern Parade in Ulverston in September offered an opportunity to both make some lanterns and take part in the event which a group of asylum seekers did and really enjoyed!

In addition to volunteering and participating in Community events, many people volunteered for a range of organisations and projects. We worked with Art Gene for a second year in connection with their Community Allotment on Walney Island. We purchased wellingtons and coats and paid bus transport costs to remove any barriers to volunteering, particularly for asylum seekers. As a result over 200 volunteering days were spent on Fridays between March and November and this additional manpower allowed the community allotment to carry out a number of land management projects that would not otherwise have happened. The volunteers really enjoyed the work and sociable break with refreshments and the chance to take a share of the produce.

We also arranged for people to volunteer with Cancer Care and the Salvation Army and Barrow Community Garage which has led to a refugee being offered a job as a mechanic.

Recently we have developed a partnership with Cumbria Wildlife Trust concerning beach cleans, marine surveys and habitat improvements and once again covered the travel costs to remove any barriers to volunteering. Even in the cold winter weather we have had good turnouts!

Support for Children

We like to support children in many ways. Outside of helping directly with English and IT we pay for sports clubs, school trips, gym memberships and holiday schemes and arrange holiday activities and trips including a February half term showing of Wonka at Signal Films with all the snacks! Fifty of us attended the London Science Museum Live at the Forum in Barrow and an Autumn half term workshop to make Wild Books after a trip to Barrow Park and a trip to the cinema were all popular.

Trips and Events

Trips and events can be just treats, but they often introduce people to the local area and culture as well. It is good for people to understand where they are living and maybe understand the history, geography and cultural activities that are usual for people in the UK. In February a group of asylum seekers was invited by The Wordsworth Trust and The Quakers to spend two days in Grasmere walking and learning about Wordsworth poetry. They were very engaged by the experience and enjoyed the short holiday and great food!

In May we organised a group visit to Muncaster castle for the Ukrainians which was a big success despite the rain!

All through the year we arranged walks in the local countryside. If they were low level walks then volunteers guided the walks and train travel was often used. If they were higher level walks we used walk leaders from Lakes and Mountains with Matt. These walks were very popular, good for mental and physical health and a great introduction to our area.

We were given free tickets to The Lakes International Comic Art Festival and we paid for the bus tickets to allow 10 asylum seekers to attend.

We worked with the Music Links charity to put on an international music workshop which 30 people attended.

We worked with the Ukrainians to put on an Independence Day Party, an Epiphany Party and a trip to the Winter Lights at Sizergh castle

And we wrapped up 2024 with a New Year Party for all the FMCCF families, resettled families and asylum families with lots of food, crafts and a wonderful magician!

Volunteers

We have about 28 regular volunteers who visit families, move furniture, help English classes, take families to the International Supermarket in Preston, organise day trips and parties and walks, accompany people to DWP interviews and hospital visits,

support the coffee and chat sessions, fundraise, apply for grants, attend meetings and much much more. We signpost them to training delivered by others, organise training days ourselves and have regular volunteer social events. Volunteers meet up monthly to plan delivery and communicate through facebook groups.

Financial Review

Income is from a range of grants from Westmorland and Furness Council and other grant making bodies in addition to fundraising activities such as concerts, talks, market stalls, sponsored walks and regular donations.

The charity had £12,959 in the bank at the start of the year and £50,996 at the end of the year. Our main grant from Westmorland and Furness Council comes in May/June so we had sufficient reserves. The board recognises the importance of ensuring that sufficient reserves are retained to maintain the activities and support for those in need. Furness Refugee Support has no staff and when the balance in the bank drops to circa £10,000 this triggers additional fundraising activities. As part of our risk management strategy we have identified the figure of £10,000 as the point at which we have sufficient funds to continue providing a minimal service to beneficiaries for 6 months. We have no control over the numbers of refugees and asylum seekers arriving in the area and having a reasonable reserve allows us to respond to demand. We can then initiate fund raising activities and consider a temporary scaling back of some provision. We know from experience that this time frame allows us to organise events and contact key supporters. We apply regularly for grants as we are made aware of opportunities by Cumbria CVS and other organisations. All invoices and expenses are sent to the Treasurer and electronic payments are made weekly and verified by the Chair or Vice Chair. The trustees review the risks associated with running the charity and have established policies and procedures to mitigate the risks, such as carrying out DBS checks on volunteers, having risk assessments, taking out insurance and offering training opportunities for volunteers and trustees.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Farr', is written over a faint, circular official stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kim Farr
Chair



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

FURNESS REUGEE SUPPORT

On accounts for the year
ended

31 DECEMBER 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1201677

Set out on pages

3 - 4

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 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:

- 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 order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

P Hornby

Date:

21.10.2025

Name:

PAUL HORNBY FCA

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

INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Address:

J F HORNBY & CO

THE TOWER, DALTONAGTE BUSINESS CENTER

ULVERSTON LA12 7AJ

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight 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.

None.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

FURNESS REFUGEE SUPPORT

1201677

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01.01.2024

To

31.12.2024

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 AND GRANTS	8,251	72,795	-	81,046	44,494
FUNDRAISING	1,210	-	-	1,210	4,537
REFUNDS	192	-	-	192	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	9,653	72,795	-	82,448	49,031
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
BANK INTEREST	40	-	-	40	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	40	-	-	40	-
Total receipts	9,693	72,795	-	82,488	49,031
A3 Payments					
GRANTS AND DONATIONS PAID	250	-	-	250	715
INSURANCE	-	431	-	431	431
OFFICE COSTS	-	139	-	139	366
TRAINING	24	72	-	96	99
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	284	43,221	-	43,505	41,276
BANK CHARGES	56	5	-	61	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	614	43,868	-	44,482	42,887
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	614	43,868	-	44,482	42,887
Net of receipts/(payments)	9,079	28,927	-	38,006	6,144
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	12,959	-	-	12,959	-
Cash funds this year end	22,038	28,927	-	50,965	6,144

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 ACCOUNTS	22,038	28,927	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	22,038	28,927	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	K Farr	Kim Farr	21.10.2025	

Accounts

Trustees of Furness Refugee Support-First Annual Report on 2023 covering October 2022 to December 2023

Registered Charity Number 1201677

Registered Office

5 Ainslie Street
Ulverston
LA12 7JE

Trustees

Kim Farr, Chair from 1/1/23
Linda Wood, Vice Chair from 1/1/23
Liz Hill, Secretary from 1/1/23
John Brice, outgoing Treasurer from 1/1/23
Frankie Baker, incoming Treasurer from 1/1/24
Pamela Harper from 1/1/24

Trustees meet every two months and volunteers have a monthly planning meeting. The charity has due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit. Furness Refugee Support is a CIO with a constitution and the AGM is held in February.

Furness Refugee Support has been running since 2015 but only registered as a charity in 2023 due to a dramatic increase in workload following the standing up of two asylum hotels in Barrow by the Home Office. This meant we had to raise very much more money each month and so could no longer operate as a "Small Charity". The original four trustees of the charity have been involved since the very early days of the group and were obvious choices to be trustees of the registered charity.

Bankers

Barclays Bank, 1 Churchill Place, London E14 5HP
CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ.

The objects of the CIO are:

- To advance the education and training of asylum seekers, those granted refugee status and those fleeing conflict and persecution and their dependents in need thereof so as to advance them in life and assist them to adapt within and contribute to a new community.

- To provide opportunities 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, immigration status or social and economic circumstances.
- To support the physical and mental health of those granted refugee status and their dependants, asylum seekers and those fleeing conflict and persecution
- To relieve financial hardship amongst asylum seekers, those fleeing conflict and persecution and those granted refugee status and their dependents living (temporarily or permanently) in the Furness area.
- To relieve the challenge of unemployment (immediately or in the future) of those granted refugee status, those fleeing conflict and persecution and those seeking asylum in the United Kingdom, and in particular in the Furness area, by the provision of vocational and skills training, advice and support.
- To advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.

Achievements

This year has seen changes in the ways we are working and introduced us to two new groups of people. We are now supporting resettled families, Ukrainian guests (mostly women and children) and asylum seekers (males on their own in hotels, males on their own in dispersal accommodation and families in dispersal accommodation). We use our facebook pages and regular texts and emails for communicating and we have also updated our website. The Chair of FRS has regularly attended meetings with W&F and Serco throughout the year and has worked closely with CVS and other Refugee Groups concerning the safety of volunteers and sharing of experiences. Members of the group have accessed some training offered by other organisations and we are putting training on ourselves for volunteers. The wide range of activities we have organised included:

- An Epiphany Party for Ukrainians in January in Ulverston
- A trip to Brantwood for Ukrainians in April
- A New Year party for all our groups in Barrow in January
- Volunteering opportunities for refugees and asylum seekers at the Community Allotment on Walney with Art Gene

- Countryside walks for refugee and asylum seekers with volunteers.
- A short break for resettled refugee families at Rookhow in May
- A picnic at Furness Abbey with resettled refugee families and Ukrainians in August
- Eid celebrations in June for everyone
- Attendance at the Lantern Procession in Ulverston in September for resettled refugee families
- Attendance at a brass bands concert in Ulverston in October for asylum seekers
- A Winter Cinema series for asylum seekers in partnership with Signal Films
- Attendance at the annual Candlelit Walk in October in Ulverston for Ukrainians
- A Christmas Party in December for families and individuals seeking asylum, resettled families and local families and volunteers

English Language Development/Education

Volunteers supported people from resettled families in their own homes or via social media as friends and we estimate 1000 hours of support were dedicated to conversational English, and a further 300 hours for structured language support including email conversations to develop written English and expand specific vocabulary such as helping a Syrian woman work towards a career in Health and Social Care, supporting a Syrian family towards their Life in the UK and English tests, supporting two Syrian boys to make a good start in reading at the beginning of school and supporting a teenage Syrian boy with GCSEs and applications for college and an apprenticeship. Private online ESOL teaching was used when appropriate. Nine year old twins of one Syrian family were struggling at school so, in partnership with the school, we have continued to provide private booster sessions from a primary school teacher for two 1 hour slots a week.

Volunteers, guided by two experienced teachers (also volunteers), have developed teaching materials and are delivering two hours of English classes each week to the gentlemen from the two asylum hotels in Barrow and up to eight families and fourteen men in dispersal accommodation by the end of 2023 . Class sizes are usually around 20 to 30. Now that many of the gentlemen have been in the UK for over 6 months the Council are delivering ESOL classes for them, but there are many

who do not qualify and many who go to whatever classes are in place. To support this learning we have bought Collins English Visual Dictionaries for all who want them and rent a weekly space from The Drop Zone in Barrow.

Partnership working with educational publisher CGP Books (through one of our volunteers) has provided life skills books for the asylum seekers, GCSE books for the Syrian teenager and primary books for the nine year old twins.

Driving: one Syrian woman has passed her test this year and one man from Afghanistan is currently having lessons. In the past six years we have supported 12 people to pass their driving tests at the cost of approximately £1200 per person and we have offered six lessons to the teenage son of one Syrian family where we have put both his parents through their tests. The women from Afghanistan seem a little slower to show commitment to learning to drive. We are currently only offering this expensive support to families with refugee status.

FRS have provided laptops/tablets to families to facilitate the learning for children in particular. We have a meeting with Barrow Library arranged in the New Year to see if we can collaborate in this area.

Community Integration & Social

We have continued to work closely with Furness Multicultural Community Forum (FMCCF), the Salvation Army, W&F staff, Signal Film and Media and Art Gene. FRS regularly contributes to and attends Eid and other events organised by FMCCF such as the Unity Festival which are attended by resettled families, Ukrainians and asylum seekers. Taking part in the Forum's events has enabled the resettled families, Ukrainians and asylum seekers to socialise with other families from around the world as well as local Cumbrian families. We supported the Festival of Colours and joint events with the Ukrainians from Grange over Sands.

The resettled families have been supported to attend a 3 day break at Rookhow, the picnic at Furness Abbey, the two Eid celebrations, the Lantern Procession in Ulverston and the Christmas party. . Each family still has specific volunteers to support them, even if they have been here for more than five years and they have been helped in a variety of ways. This has included helping with the costs of moving within Barrow, identifying and booking a private dentist, liaising with a school or trips out. There are now five Syrian families in Barrow (including two who arrived recently as asylum seekers) and we are working with them to support a monthly social event for Syrians that they will organise. Four of the resettled families include an adult who is in employment and four adults are volunteering.

We have supported members of resettled families to give talks about their experiences, volunteer with the Salvation Army and Vision Support, take part in the

Allotment Soup project, welcome asylum seekers, show people how to cook Syrian food and contribute to a book. We have supported the children of resettled families to take part in FMCCF youth clubs and holiday activities, swimming lessons, football clubs and school visits in addition to Gym membership for the eldest one. When we have a stall to promote our activities at events such as the Barrow Unity Festival or the Ulverston stall in Refugee Week resettled families support us with baking and henna hand painting.

By working closely with the Salvation Army and St Mark's Church and Clothes Bank we continue to clothe over 165 asylum seekers (turnover in a 12 month period) which has involved us in sorting lots of clothing donations and evolving the best ways to get clothes to the gentlemen despite a lack of support from the Serco staff. This year, as the clothing donations have dried up we have been forced to spend over £1000 a month in purchasing inexpensive clothes and shoes. We have tried buying from charity shops, getting donations from staff at Centrica and BAe and Ulverston Sixth Form, the general public via facebook and NHS staff and W&F staff via internal emails etc but we haven't been able to generate enough donations of clothing suitable for young men. Every Tuesday we deliver a social session for the asylum seekers at the main Salvation Army building in Barrow. We provide fresh fruit, nuts and cakes and chat while we play dominoes, cards, chess, draughts and Jenga. We also pick up on any problems such as hate crimes to be recorded and distribute pens, notebooks, toiletries and anything else that is needed. As part of the mental health support we purchase individual gym memberships for 40 men. These social sessions have had up to 50 men attending but the numbers are usually about 25, Many of the asylum seekers have been volunteering in charity shops, a community garage, at community events, at litter picks, creating paintings and donating them to charity shops to sell and supporting the community pub and workshop in Lowick. By PAT testing and repairing electricals and upcycling furniture two asylum seekers raised over £25,000 for St Mary's Hospice.

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Income is from a range of grants from Westmorland and Furness Council and other grant making bodies in addition to fundraising activities such as concerts, talks, market stalls, sponsored walks and regular donations.

The charity made a surplus of £6,144 in the period of this report. This surplus, along with the group's bank balance of £6,815 on registration as a charity, has resulted in year-end reserves of £12,959.

The board recognises the importance of ensuring that sufficient reserves are retained to maintain the activities and support for those in need. Furness Refugee Support has no staff and when the balance in the bank drops to circa £5000 this triggers fundraising activities. As part of our risk management strategy we have identified the figure of £5000 as the point at which we have sufficient funds to continue providing a minimal service to beneficiaries for 3 months. We can then initiate fund raising activities and consider a temporary scaling back of some provision. We know from experience that this time frame allows us to organise events and contact key supporters. We apply regularly for grants as we are made aware of opportunities by Cumbri CVS and other organisations. All invoices and expenses are sent to the Treasurer and electronic payments are made each Friday and verified by the Chair, Vice Chair or Secretary. The trustees review the risks associated with running the charity and have established policies and procedures to mitigate the risks, such as carrying out DBS checks on volunteers, taking out insurance and offering training opportunities for volunteers and trustees.

We are delighted to conclude with the information that we were chosen as finalists in the Love Barrow Awards



Kim Farr
Chair



Furness Refugee Support Group Accounts for the period
7th October 2022 to 31st December 2023

Receipts					Payments			
Regular Donations			7411.84		Charitable Payments		42886.72	
Council Grants			17500.00					
Fundraising and Other Donations			24118.80					
					Excess Receipts over Payments		6143.92	
			49,030.64				49,030.64	
Balance at Bank					Balance at Bank			
As At 7th October 2022					As At 31st December 2023			
Barclays: Community Account			6815.48		Barclays: Community Account		11959.40	
Excess Receipts over Payments			6143.92		Barclays: Charity Account		1000.00	
			12,959.40				12,959.40	



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of
period
On accounts for the year
ended

Charity Name

FURNESS REFUGEE SUPPORT

31-DEC-2023

Charity no
(if any)

1201677

Set out on pages

3 to 12

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/12/2023**.
period

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 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 (~~other than that disclosed below~~*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- 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 order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

15-10-2024

Name:

MR P. HORNBY

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

FCA

Address:

J. F. HORNBY & CO, CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
DALTONGATE BUSINESS CENTRE
ULVERSTON, LA12 7AS

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight 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.

**Trustees of Furness Refugee Support-First Annual Report on 2023 covering
October 2022 to December 2023**

Registered Charity Number 1201677

Registered Office

5 Ainslie Street
Ulverston
LA12 7JE

Trustees

Kim Farr, Chair from 1/1/23
Linda Wood, Vice Chair from 1/1/23
Liz Hill, Secretary from 1/1/23
John Brice, outgoing Treasurer from 1/1/23
Frankie Baker, incoming Treasurer from 1/1/24
Pamela Harper from 1/1/24

Trustees meet every two months and volunteers have a monthly planning meeting. The charity has due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit. Furness Refugee Support is a CIO with a constitution and the AGM is held in February.

Furness Refugee Support has been running since 2015 but only registered as a charity in 2023 due to a dramatic increase in workload following the standing up of two asylum hotels in Barrow by the Home Office. This meant we had to raise very much more money each month and so could no longer operate as a "Small Charity". The original four trustees of the charity have been involved since the very early days of the group and were obvious choices to be trustees of the registered charity.

Bankers

Barclays Bank, 1 Churchill Place, London E14 5HP
CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ.

The objects of the CIO are:

- To advance the education and training of asylum seekers, those granted refugee status and those fleeing conflict and persecution and their dependents in need thereof so as to advance them in life and assist them to adapt within and contribute to a new community.

- To provide opportunities 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, immigration status or social and economic circumstances.
- To support the physical and mental health of those granted refugee status and their dependants, asylum seekers and those fleeing conflict and persecution
- To relieve financial hardship amongst asylum seekers, those fleeing conflict and persecution and those granted refugee status and their dependents living (temporarily or permanently) in the Furness area.
- To relieve the challenge of unemployment (immediately or in the future) of those granted refugee status, those fleeing conflict and persecution and those seeking asylum in the United Kingdom, and in particular in the Furness area, by the provision of vocational and skills training, advice and support.
- To advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.

Achievements

This year has seen changes in the ways we are working and introduced us to two new groups of people. We are now supporting resettled families, Ukrainian guests (mostly women and children) and asylum seekers (males on their own in hotels, males on their own in dispersal accommodation and families in dispersal accommodation). We use our facebook pages and regular texts and emails for communicating and we have also updated our website. The Chair of FRS has regularly attended meetings with W&F and Serco throughout the year and has worked closely with CVS and other Refugee Groups concerning the safety of volunteers and sharing of experiences. Members of the group have accessed some training offered by other organisations and we are putting training on ourselves for volunteers. The wide range of activities we have organised included:

- An Epiphany Party for Ukrainians in January in Ulverston
- A trip to Brantwood for Ukrainians in April
- A New Year party for all our groups in Barrow in January
- Volunteering opportunities for refugees and asylum seekers at the Community Allotment on Walney with Art Gene

- Countryside walks for refugee and asylum seekers with volunteers.
- A short break for resettled refugee families at Rookhow in May
- A picnic at Furness Abbey with resettled refugee families and Ukrainians in August
- Eid celebrations in June for everyone
- Attendance at the Lantern Procession in Ulverston in September for resettled refugee families
- Attendance at a brass bands concert in Ulverston in October for asylum seekers
- A Winter Cinema series for asylum seekers in partnership with Signal Films
- Attendance at the annual Candlelit Walk in October in Ulverston for Ukrainians
- A Christmas Party in December for families and individuals seeking asylum, resettled families and local families and volunteers

English Language Development/Education

Volunteers supported people from resettled families in their own homes or via social media as friends and we estimate 1000 hours of support were dedicated to conversational English, and a further 300 hours for structured language support including email conversations to develop written English and expand specific vocabulary such as helping a Syrian woman work towards a career in Health and Social Care, supporting a Syrian family towards their Life in the UK and English tests, supporting two Syrian boys to make a good start in reading at the beginning of school and supporting a teenage Syrian boy with GCSEs and applications for college and an apprenticeship. Private online ESOL teaching was used when appropriate. Nine year old twins of one Syrian family were struggling at school so, in partnership with the school, we have continued to provide private booster sessions from a primary school teacher for two 1 hour slots a week.

Volunteers, guided by two experienced teachers (also volunteers), have developed teaching materials and are delivering two hours of English classes each week to the gentlemen from the two asylum hotels in Barrow and up to eight families and fourteen men in dispersal accommodation by the end of 2023. Class sizes are usually around 20 to 30. Now that many of the gentlemen have been in the UK for over 6 months the Council are delivering ESOL classes for them, but there are many

who do not qualify and many who go to whatever classes are in place. To support this learning we have bought Collins English Visual Dictionaries for all who want them and rent a weekly space from The Drop Zone in Barrow.

Partnership working with educational publisher CGP Books (through one of our volunteers) has provided life skills books for the asylum seekers, GCSE books for the Syrian teenager and primary books for the nine year old twins.

Driving: one Syrian woman has passed her test this year and one man from Afghanistan is currently having lessons. In the past six years we have supported 12 people to pass their driving tests at the cost of approximately £1200 per person and we have offered six lessons to the teenage son of one Syrian family where we have put both his parents through their tests. The women from Afghanistan seem a little slower to show commitment to learning to drive. We are currently only offering this expensive support to families with refugee status.

FRS have provided laptops/tablets to families to facilitate the learning for children in particular. We have a meeting with Barrow Library arranged in the New Year to see if we can collaborate in this area.

Community Integration & Social

We have continued to work closely with Furness Multicultural Community Forum (FMCCF), the Salvation Army, W&F staff, Signal Film and Media and Art Gene. FRS regularly contributes to and attends Eid and other events organised by FMCCF such as the Unity Festival which are attended by resettled families, Ukrainians and asylum seekers. Taking part in the Forum's events has enabled the resettled families, Ukrainians and asylum seekers to socialise with other families from around the world as well as local Cumbrian families. We supported the Festival of Colours and joint events with the Ukrainians from Grange over Sands.

The resettled families have been supported to attend a 3 day break at Rookhow, the picnic at Furness Abbey, the two Eid celebrations, the Lantern Procession in Ulverston and the Christmas party. . Each family still has specific volunteers to support them, even if they have been here for more than five years and they have been helped in a variety of ways. This has included helping with the costs of moving within Barrow, identifying and booking a private dentist, liaising with a school or trips out. There are now five Syrian families in Barrow (including two who arrived recently as asylum seekers) and we are working with them to support a monthly social event for Syrians that they will organise. Four of the resettled families include an adult who is in employment and four adults are volunteering.

We have supported members of resettled families to give talks about their experiences, volunteer with the Salvation Army and Vision Support, take part in the

Allotment Soup project, welcome asylum seekers, show people how to cook Syrian food and contribute to a book. We have supported the children of resettled families to take part in FMCCF youth clubs and holiday activities, swimming lessons, football clubs and school visits in addition to Gym membership for the eldest one. When we have a stall to promote our activities at events such as the Barrow Unity Festival or the Ulverston stall in Refugee Week resettled families support us with baking and henna hand painting.

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Kim Farr

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Farr', is written over a faint, circular watermark logo.

Chair





CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

FURNESS REFUGEE SUPPORT

1201677

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

07-Oct-22

To

31-Dec-23

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 AND GRANTS	26,994	17,500	-	44,494	-
FUNDRAISING	4,537	-	-	4,537	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	31,531	17,500	-	49,031	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	31,531	17,500	-	49,031	-
A3 Payments					
GRANTS AND DONATIONS PAID	715	-	-	715	-
INSURANCE	431	-	-	431	-
OFFICE COSTS	107	259	-	366	-
TRAINING	39	60	-	99	-
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	24,095	17,181	-	41,276	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	25,387	17,500	-	42,887	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	25,387	17,500	-	42,887	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	6,144	-	-	6,144	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	6,144	-	-	6,144	-

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	12,959	-	-
	FUNDS ON REGISTRATION	- 6,815	-	-
			-	-
	Total cash funds	6,144	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

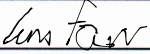
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	K. Farr	15-Oct-24