

## **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
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## **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.

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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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### **Personal**

We regularly accompany people from the resettled families to health appointments at hospital or schools, Biometric appointments, meetings with Inspira or DWP, visits to the local library, trips to a gym or leisure centre to arrange swimming lessons or gym membership or interviews for voluntary work. We also give lifts to families to access social events of all kinds if they are not driving yet.

We liaise with the caseworker during any crisis to offer extra support or funding and take part in team discussions around families with an individual volunteer as contact point for one family

### **Service User feedback**

We hold regular meetings to share feedback and requests from families and asylum seekers and resolve problems or send out social media questions to ask families for feedback or to encourage participation.

FRS volunteers regularly visit families in their homes for coffee and meals and planning outings with families in addition to continuing much online support.

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Volunteers supply extra needs for new families on arrival , for example, the first family from Afghanistan were given phones, a laptop, a TV, kitchen equipment, toiletries, baby clothes and toys, a car seat, baby carrier and £300 for weatherproof clothing. The group usually organises for two or three people to focus on a new family and build relationships with them.

We will support Ukrainians to look for private rental properties and integrate with the local community and continue to support hosts and welcome new families.

We will continue to work with the Police and Simon Fell MP in connection with hate incidents and crimes and in connection with Far Right leafleting.

### **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 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.

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Kim Farr

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Farr', 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<br>funds<br>to the nearest<br>£ | Restricted<br>funds<br>to the nearest £ | Endowment<br>funds<br>to the nearest £ | Total funds<br>to the nearest £ | Last year<br>to the nearest £ |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>A1 Receipts</b>                                    |                                              |                                         |                                        |                                 |                               |
| DONATIONS AND GRANTS                                  | 26,994                                       | 17,500                                  | -                                      | 44,494                          | -                             |
| FUNDRAISING                                           | 4,537                                        | -                                       | -                                      | 4,537                           | -                             |
|                                                       | -                                            | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                       | -                                            | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                       | -                                            | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                       | -                                            | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                       | -                                            | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
| <b>Sub total</b> (Gross income for AR)                | 31,531                                       | 17,500                                  | -                                      | 49,031                          | -                             |
| <b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>    |                                              |                                         |                                        |                                 |                               |
|                                                       | -                                            | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                       | -                                            | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
| <b>Sub total</b>                                      | -                                            | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
| <b>Total receipts</b>                                 | 31,531                                       | 17,500                                  | -                                      | 49,031                          | -                             |
| <b>A3 Payments</b>                                    |                                              |                                         |                                        |                                 |                               |
| 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                          | -                             |
|                                                       | -                                            | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                       | -                                            | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                       | -                                            | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
| <b>Sub total</b>                                      | 25,387                                       | 17,500                                  | -                                      | 42,887                          | -                             |
| <b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b> |                                              |                                         |                                        |                                 |                               |
|                                                       | -                                            | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|                                                       | -                                            | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
| <b>Sub total</b>                                      | -                                            | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
| <b>Total payments</b>                                 | 25,387                                       | 17,500                                  | -                                      | 42,887                          | -                             |
| <b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>                     | 6,144                                        | -                                       | -                                      | 6,144                           | -                             |
| A5 Transfers between funds                            | -                                            | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
| A6 Cash funds last year end                           | -                                            | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
| <b>Cash funds this year end</b>                       | 6,144                                        | -                                       | -                                      | 6,144                           | -                             |

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

| Categories    | Details                                                | Unrestricted funds<br>to nearest £ | Restricted funds<br>to nearest £ | Endowment funds<br>to nearest £ |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| B1 Cash funds | BANK ACCOUNT                                           | 12,959                             | -                                | -                               |
|               | FUNDS ON REGISTRATION                                  | - 6,815                            | -                                | -                               |
|               |                                                        |                                    | -                                | -                               |
|               | <b>Total cash funds</b>                                | <b>6,144</b>                       | <b>-</b>                         | <b>-</b>                        |
|               | (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s)) | OK                                 | OK                               | OK                              |

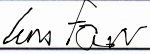
|                          | Details | Unrestricted funds<br>to nearest £ | Restricted funds<br>to nearest £ | Endowment funds<br>to nearest £ |
|--------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| B2 Other 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        |
|                                                                                     |            |                  |