



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 9 March 2023 To 31st August 2024

Charity name: Penrith and Eden Refugee Network

Charity registration number: 1202270

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>(a) To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people, and their dependants, from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society. For the purpose of this clause 'socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of discrimination or social and economic disadvantage on the grounds of race or ethnic origin, including those with refugee or immigrant status.</p> <p>(b) The prevention or relief of poverty among individuals who are excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of discrimination or social and economic disadvantage on the grounds of race or ethnic origin, including those with refugee or immigrant status, through the provision of emergency grants of financial assistance.</p> <p>(c) 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 of different races and ethnicities, including those with refugee or immigrant status.</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>Penrith and Eden Refugee Network's main activities were as follows:</p> <p>Penrith Welcomes Diversity For all people of minoritized ethnic and migrant background in Penrith and surrounding area: weekly English Club; Women's group meetings; Art and Wellbeing</p>

		<p>workshops with partner organisation BlueJam; multiple community outreach events; 1-2-1 case work.</p> <p>PERN English Classes: For asylum seekers in Carlisle; We run two centres, with classes on two days a week. On average, 16 volunteers a week run the service, which is open almost every single week of the year. We deliver 4 levels of English classes, alongside personal support for students including registering with GPs and accessing Carlisle College courses. Since April 2024 we have provided classes to an average of 50 students a week, including 5-10 complete beginners. Over the reporting period of this TAR we have had around 3600 student attendances each for a two hour English class.</p> <p>PERN Legal and Information: For asylum seekers in West Cumbria and Carlisle; weekly drop-in for asylum application and asylum rights alongside wide ranging triage of other queries. In July 2023 this service gained OISC Level 2 registration in asylum and protection (OISC number N202331531). This service was initially volunteer-led; we now have two part-time paid workers in addition to the volunteers, and an office base in Carlisle. For the four month period from May 2024 to August 2024, we have dealt with 14 asylum claims; 3 family reunions; advised on more than 22 non-legal/ information/ rights issues; and made 21 successful lawyer referrals.</p> <p>PERN Rent a Room scheme: For new refugees at risk of homelessness service development July/ August 2023. Under this scheme new refugees lodge in local homes (paying a basic rent). We moved quickly on this project when people in the Carlisle hotels started to be granted refugee status, and some, having had good experience of living in Carlisle, wanted to remain local. We have also supported people into medium and long-term housing, mostly using PERN's local contacts. From May 2024 to July 2024 , we supported 20 people into private housing. 2 people into social housing, 5 people who were sofa surfing/ street homeless and 1 person into a council hostel.</p> <p>New Refugee Support: For new refugees in Carlisle: this service</p>
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		<p>began in December 2023 and works hand-in-hand with our homelessness prevention work. It provides long-term, person-centred support and guidance for new refugees to navigate life and thrive in the UK, including support on finding a job and housing and claiming benefits. We supported 29 people over the period.</p> <p>Multiple community events: Including an all-day stall in the town centre during Refugee Week with a new 'myth-buster' publication we co-wrote with a refugee organisation based in Carlisle to raise awareness of the truth about migration; a members' Anti-Racist learning event led by Anti-Racist Cumbria; fundraisers for Ukrainian refugees; contact with our local MP about the UK Government's Illegal Migration Bill and raising concern about national and local intimidation and racism directed towards asylum seekers.</p> <p>Escape to Safety: we partnered with Carlisle College and Carlisle Refugee Action Group to host Escape to Safety, an interactive, multimedia walk-through exhibition (designed by Global Link). We held it at Carlisle College, where students, lecturers and the general public put themselves in asylum-seekers' shoes and listened to and experienced refugees' stories as they navigated through the exhibit and completed activities. Over the 10 days over 900 students completed the Exhibition experience and were supported by 27 volunteers and a freelance Project Manager.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The trustees confirm that they have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. This has been taken into account while planning and delivering all charity activities as well as while determining how best to utilise grants and funds.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	N/A
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	N/A

Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	<p>Volunteer roles at Penrith and Eden Refugee Network include befriending, English teaching and session support, as well as information and advice giving. We had approximately 55 active volunteers at any one time and are so grateful for their support.</p> <p>Our volunteers have helped us immeasurably in delivering our activities for the public benefit. We could not function to the level we do without their time and dedication.</p>
Other		N/A

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>This year our priority was social and economic needs of housing and work, leading to better mental health / wellbeing and social inclusion for asylum seekers, refugees and migrants. We have provided essential practical support to refugees and asylum seekers, who are a highly disadvantaged, vulnerable group, making a positive difference to their lives.</p> <p>Refugees on resettlement schemes have lived in Cumbria for many years, and many more arrived under the UK government Homes for Ukraine Scheme in 2022. Asylum seekers began to arrive in Carlisle in April 2022, and were mostly housed in two hotels.</p> <p>By June 2023 there were 390 asylum places between the two Carlisle hotels. In December 2023 the two hotels were closed but meantime the Home Office have procured 296 places in community houses in Carlisle and West Cumbria.</p> <p>Asylum seekers are not eligible for universal credit and do not have the right to work. They are not permitted to attend Government-funded English classes for the first six months after arrival. They have many needs, including trauma/ mental health issues, isolation and poverty.</p> <p>One of our key aims is to reduce the despair, isolation and near destitution of asylum seekers by empowering them to make the best lives possible through practical support, friendship and upstream</p>

		<p>interventions to foster self-reliance and independence.</p> <p>We were able to make a difference by providing regular, quality English classes and legal support in a safe environment where people feel they belong. Both the language classes and Legal and Information workshops built trust between asylum seekers and volunteers, and are places where people are able to express concerns and get help.</p> <p>We have seen that coming to English classes and getting support in the arduous process of applying for asylum helps the students prepare for a new life in the UK, reduces their isolation and helps prevent a decline in mental health.</p> <p>Everyone seeking asylum must make a claim to the Home Office. This process requires legal support. There is a national crisis in the availability of even basic legal information, and there are no immigration lawyers at all in Cumbria. Our Legal and Information service provided beneficiaries access to relevant legal information in a safe environment of mutual support and solidarity. This is the only service of its kind in the area, and our provision of this made a positive difference to beneficiaries' lives, while helping them to navigate a complex system.</p> <p>Our beneficiaries are very marginalised and by helping them build trust and make connections with the local community through our activities, we are also contributing to social cohesion. The majority of asylum seekers (well over 80%) will be granted refugee status to stay in the UK. As asylum seekers they are preparing to make a new life here. Once granted refugee status they will be eligible to work so learning English is an important part of helping them to be economically active in the future. Cumbria, in particular, needs adults of working age to join the local workforce.</p> <p>Refugees who are in Penrith and Eden on resettlement projects were supported through our Penrith Welcomes Diversity activities. This strand of our work supports people of all minoritised ethnic background, some of whom experience social exclusion, microaggressions and hostility (sometimes amounting to hate crime) on account of their race or ethnicity.</p> <p>Our activities included a weekly conversation group and Women's group. We ran weekly art and wellbeing workshops jointly with BlueJam Arts CIC, an arts organisation in Penrith. We held two exhibitions in a local gallery to celebrate work by</p>
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		<p>members of our diverse community. Several outings were organised, especially for families, such as a visit to the Greggs local factory, a picnic in the park and a tea at a local church. This gave our beneficiaries somewhere to belong and a supportive community to feel part of, as well as practical skills helping them to navigate life in the UK (e.g. English comprehension) and fun experiences to help make positive memories together.</p> <p>Here are examples of some of the events we held for members and for the wider public, all of which helped to foster understanding and good relations:</p> <p>Stall in town centre in June 2023, as part of the UK's 245th Refugee Week, to raise awareness of the facts about refugees and asylum seekers via our myth-busters publication and through talking to passers-by. Asylum seekers from Eritrea, Ukraine, Afghanistan and Syria spoke about why they sought sanctuary in the UK. We also collected signatures for letters to our local MP Neil Hudson, objecting to the UK Government's approach to migration policy, in particular the plan to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda.</p> <p>We wrote press releases for most of these events, which were published in the Cumberland and Westmorland Herald. Where possible we encourage refugees and asylum seekers to speak for themselves, so they have agency in their own stories.</p> <p>We work closely with other voluntary organisations in Cumbria, such as the Carlisle Refugee Action Group, Westmorland and Furness Refugee group. We are grateful for support from churches such as St John's and St Augustine's in Carlisle and Carlisle College, which provide venues for our English classes and legal workshops.</p> <p>We have also become closer to the group, Anti Racist Cumbria (ARC), through the need that we recognise to challenge our own unconscious biases and for solidarity against the racially-motivated microaggressions and hate that some refugees and asylum seekers experience. We held an Anti-Racist Learning Event for PERN members in March 2023, at which ARC spoke powerfully, and we also joined them in standing against a far-right hate march that was planned against asylum seekers in Carlisle, also in March 2023.</p> <p>In the summer of 2024, we responded to the racist anti-immigrant Islamophobic rioting. We contacted</p>
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		<p>our members, some of whom felt under direct threat and many of whom felt highly unsettled by the violence. Despite this, many people told us that they know the violence is committed by a tiny minority and they recognise the overwhelming kindness and decency in their communities.</p> <p>The riots were and are a stark reminder of the importance of PERN's values and of our work in protecting and enabling the most vulnerable and in promoting understanding, justice and compassion.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	N/A
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	N/A
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	N/A
Other		N/A

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>We are in a stable financial position. As indicated in the end of year accounts the charity is able to meet the expenditure of current and future planned activities.</p> <p>On 31st August 2024 we had £139,897 in the bank.</p> <p>£121,251 of this is grant income, which is restricted and carried over to the next financial year. This is enabling all of our services to continue.</p> <p>£3339 is donations that have been reserved for items for asylum seekers, which is not covered by other funding. This includes things like school shoes, bus fares to meetings, and emergency food costs.</p> <p>Of the remaining £15,307:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £10,000 is held reserves - £5307 is unrestricted income <p>Over the almost 18 months that this report covers, we spent £111,855.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	We hold reserves to ensure contractual financial commitments can be made in the event of activity or charity closure and to ensure stability and sustainability of activities in the event of unforeseen financial requirements. The Trustees regard the reserves held to be adequate to meet the above.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£10,000
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	There are no uncertainties; we intend to continue as we have been into 2024-25.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	<p>Our principal source of funding was trusts and grants, as well as donations from organisations.</p> <p>From March 2023 to August 2024 we were grateful to receive grants from:</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cumberland Council - Westmorland and Furness Council - The National Lottery (Reaching Communities) - Cumbria CVS - LandAid - The Ben and Jerries Foundation - NACCOM - Cumbria Community Foundation, including support from Fibrus - Frieda Scott Charitable Trust - Hadfield Trust <p>We would also like to thank the generous companies and individuals who donated to our cause over this time. We would particularly like to thank SPB Computers.</p>
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	N/A
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The principal risk facing the charity is not being able to meet increased demand for the services of the charity with regard to supporting asylum seekers, new refugees and undocumented people. The charity has plans in place for growth including organisation readiness and application preparation for further grants in order to remedy this.
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	The first Trustees were active members of the association which the charity emerged from. The constitution states all stand down at the first AGM. Four of the initial Trustees were re-elected by PERN members at the first AGM, which was held on 17 May 2024.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	N/A
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	N/A
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	N/A

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Penrith and Eden Refugee Network
Other name the charity uses	PERN
Registered charity number	1202270
Charity's principal address	Penrith and Eden Refugee Network C/O Mostyn Hall, Friargate, Penrith, CA11 7XR

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Emma Gray		Whole Year	N/A
2	Alison Ross		Whole Year	N/A
3	Robert Postlethwaite		Whole Year	N/A
4	Sait Kuzu		Whole Year	N/A
5	Sue Castle-Clark		Until 31st March 2023	N/A

Corporate Trustees - Not applicable

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others - Not applicable

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

N/A

Other optional information

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.			
Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees			
	Signature(s)	<i>Robert Postlethwaite</i>	<i>Emma Gray</i>
	Full name(s)	Robert Postlethwaite	Emma Gray
	Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair of Trustees	Trustee
	Date	2024-10-27	2024-10-28

Signature Certificate

Reference number: IVMQS-ELJAK-RF9MZ-XUGUS

Signer

Timestamp

Signature

Robert Postlethwaite

Email: robertpostlethwaite@googlemail.com

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25 Oct 2024 09:42:57 UTC

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27 Oct 2024 13:36:54 UTC

Signed:

27 Oct 2024 13:37:29 UTC

Robert Postlethwaite

IP address: 86.150.248.207

Location: Harringay, United Kingdom

Emma Gray

Email: emma_gray25@hotmail.com

Shared via link

Sent:

25 Oct 2024 09:42:57 UTC

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28 Oct 2024 14:15:56 UTC

Signed:

28 Oct 2024 14:16:28 UTC

Emma Gray

IP address: 109.154.68.131

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**PENRITH AND EDEN REFUGEE NETWORK
UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS
FOR THE PERIOD 9 MARCH 2023 TO 31 AUGUST 2024**

Penrith and Eden Refugee Network Contents

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Penrith and Eden Refugee Network
Charity Details
For the Period 9 March 2023 to 31 August 2024

Charity

Mostyn Hall
Friargate
Penrith
CA11 7XR

Accountants

Charlton Baker
7-7c Snuff Street
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 1DU

**Penrith and Eden Refugee Network
Accounts Approval Statement
For the Period 9 March 2023 to 31 August 2024**

I approve these unaudited accounts which comprise a Receipts and Payments accounts, Balance Sheet and related notes.
I acknowledge my responsibility for the accounts including the provision of all the information and explanations necessary for the completion.

Signed

Alison Ross

Date

2024-10-25

**Penrith and Eden Refugee Network
Accountants' Report
For the Period 9 March 2023 to 31 August 2024**

Chartered Accountants' Report to Penrith and Eden Refugee Network on the Unaudited Financial Information of Penrith and Eden Refugee Network

In accordance with the engagement letter dated we have prepared for your approval the financial information of Penrith and Eden Refugee Network for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprises the Receipts and Payments accounts, the Balance Sheet and the related notes from the entity's accounting records and from information and explanations you have given us.

As a practising member firm of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed at <http://www.icaew.com/en/membership/regulations-standards-and-guidance>.

This report is made solely to you in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated . Our work has been undertaken solely to prepare for your approval the financial information of Penrith and Eden Refugee Network and state those matters that we have agreed to state to you in this report in accordance with the guidance of ICAEW as detailed at ICAEW Technical Release 08/16 AAF. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Penrith and Eden Refugee Network for our work or for this report.

You have approved the financial information of Penrith and Eden Refugee Network for the year ended 31 August 2024 and have acknowledged your responsibility for it, for the appropriateness of the financial reporting framework adopted and for providing all information and explanations necessary for its compilation.

We have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the financial information.

Signed



.....
Charlton Baker
7-7c Snuff Street
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 1DU

**Penrith and Eden Refugee Network
Receipts and Payments Accounts
For the Period 9 March 2023 to 31 August 2024**

	31 August 2024	
	£	£
Unrestricted Income		
Donations (unrestricted income)		14,178
Grants and subsidies received (unrestricted income)		15,000
		29,178
Cost of Sales		
Purchases	27,516	
Freelancer costs	55,796	
		83,312
GROSS PROFIT		(54,134)
Restricted Income		
Donations (restricted income)	500	
Grants and subsidies received (restricted income)	194,956	
		195,456
		141,322
Expenditure		
Wages and salaries	7,192	
Employers pensions - defined contributions scheme	132	
Staff training	2,242	
Travel and subsistence expenses	3,946	
Office rental and room hire	7,737	
Computer software, consumables and maintenance	370	
Insurance	1,384	
Printing, postage and stationery	1,164	
Advertising and marketing costs	1,521	
Telecommunications and data costs	656	
Accountancy fees	1,500	
Subscriptions	256	
Bank charges	95	
Sundry expenses	348	
		28,543
		112,779
Depreciation		
Depreciation	573	
		573
BALANCE		112,206

**Penrith and Eden Refugee Network
Balance Sheet
As At 31 August 2024**

	Notes	31 August 2024	
		£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Assets	2		2,152
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at bank and in hand		139,897	
Net wages		1	
		<u>139,898</u>	
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Accruals and deferred income		1,500	
		<u>1,500</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			138,398
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			140,550
NET ASSETS			140,550
CAPITAL ACCOUNT			
Balance at 9 March 2023			28,344
Balance for the period/year			<u>112,206</u>
Balance Carried Forward			140,550

Penrith and Eden Refugee Network
Notes to the Accounts
For the Period 9 March 2023 to 31 August 2024

1. Accounting Policy
Reserves Policy

Penrith and Eden Refugee Network has one bank account on the balance sheet. The closing balance on this account at 31st August 2024 is £139,896.90. However, £124,589.16 of this balance is restricted income. The remaining balance of £15,307.74 is unrestricted funds and £10,000 of this is official reserves that is in line with their reserves policy and is set aside for emergency situations.

2. Tangible Assets

	Fixtures & Fittings £
Cost	
As at 9 March 2023	195
Additions	2,530
As at 31 August 2024	<u>2,725</u>
Depreciation	
As at 9 March 2023	39
Provided during the period	534
As at 31 August 2024	<u>573</u>
Net Book Value	
As at 31 August 2024	<u>2,152</u>
As at 9 March 2023	<u>156</u>

Signature Certificate

Reference number: UTZYQ-UPALE-NDFTF-8CTAU

Signer

Alison Ross

Email: ali@parhelia.org.uk

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25 Oct 2024 09:52:11 UTC

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Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name

PENRITH AND EDEN REFUGEE NETWORK

On accounts for the year
ended

9th MARCH 2023 – 31st AUGUST 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1202270

Set out on pages

1

(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 period ended **31 / 08 / 2024**.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 all 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 (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

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

Signed:

E Killington

Date:

14/10/2024

Name:

ELLIE KILLINGTON

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

ICAEW

Address:

7-7c SNUFF STREET, DEVIZES, WILTSHIRE, SN10 1DU

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material 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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