



Richmondshire Refugee Support Group

**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

**for the period 1 January to 31 December 2024**

**Charity Number: 1206408**

## **Charitable Objectives**

To advance the education and relieve financial hardship of those granted refugee status and other displaced people predominantly in the former Richmondshire District of North Yorkshire and surrounding area through:

- increasing opportunities to engage with service providers, to enable those providers to adapt services to better meet the needs of that community.
- providing peer support and other activities that build people's confidence and enable them to participate more effectively with the wider community.
- promoting educational, training, social and recreational events involving the local community

RRSG is an Unincorporated Association. The organisation works closely with the Refugee Council and benefits from their overview in terms of mentoring, DBS checks and training courses.

## **Trustees**

RRSG has three trustees, all elected at the AGM:

- David Walker
- Annette Clark
- Iryna Koroieva

The Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

## **Officers**

RRSG has three officers, all elected at the AGM:

- Chair: David Walker
- Secretary: Annette Clark
- Treasurer: Iryna Koroieva

## **Administrative Information**

Principal address: 33 Aske Avenue, Richmond, N Yorks, DL10 5DA

Email contact: [rrsg773@gmail.com](mailto:rrsg773@gmail.com)

Number of Members as of 2 December 2024: 34

Bank: Darlington Credit Union, 41 Tubwell Row, Darlington, DL1 1DP

Independent examiner: William Gedye

Policies and procedures maintained:

- Equal Opportunities
- Health and Safety
- Safeguarding Adults
- Safeguarding Children

Serious incidents: None

## Chair's Report

RRSG was formed at the end of 2017 to support families arriving from Syria and Iraq. At that time, it was a small group of volunteers supporting just a few families. However, the organisation has grown significantly since then. During the period 1 January to 31 December 2024 the charity supported a total of 44 Syrian, Iraqi and Afghan families totalling some 239 individuals. In addition, the charity supports Ukrainian families in the area numbering around 100 people. The primary role of the charity remains the same – to welcome families to the area and provide them with the support and encouragement they need as they seek to rebuild their lives. The organisation has continued to work closely with the Refugee Council, North Yorkshire Council and the MOD as we support the families.

Some of the highlights from our activities this year include:

- Receiving donations of clothes, TVs, sewing machines, blankets, household goods and the like and distributing them to the families. This has included supporting a number of Afghan families living temporarily on Catterick Garrison under the remit of the MOD. A storage facility for the donations was kindly provided by the MOD.
- Facilitating a room to host Friday prayers in an MOD building on Catterick Garrison. This enabled settled and transit Afghan families and the wider Muslim community to come together to worship locally.
- Supporting families to access medical and employment related appointments.
- Sourcing and servicing bikes, mainly for adults, to enable them to better access Richmond and the surrounding area.
- Organising a large Fusion Tea social event to welcome families to the area and encourage them to get to know one other.
- Supporting a Syrian gentleman setting up a catering business through mentoring and purchase of a banner.
- Operating a maternity grant scheme to help with the initial costs of maternity items for a first, UK newborn child.
- Supporting families trying to gain permission for additional family members to come to the UK, fleeing persecution, by facilitating introductions to lawyers and lobbying with local MPs to try and establish why applications are being delayed.
- Organising a trip to Fountains Abbey with the support of the National Trust who provided free access.
- Organising trips into the Yorkshire Dales with the Yorkshire Dales National Park to introduce families to the opportunities and landscapes available in that part of the world.
- Organising exclusive cinema screenings provided free by the Station Cinema.
- Raising funds by running coffee mornings in Richmond Town Hall.
- Organising monthly 'Hokey Cokey' sessions – craft and play days for the ladies and children, with on average 20 ladies and 40 children attending each day.
- Applying for, and successfully receiving, three grants from the Marsh Awards – operated by the Refugee Council. The grants covered the cost of a trip to Big Sheep Little Cow Petting Farm; an initiative to encourage growing from seeds that tracked the gardening from planting through to growth, harvesting and the production of food; and

two separate initiatives for teenagers to explore the wider North East using public transport and to enjoy leisure activities.

- Encouraging families to participate in local events in Richmond such as MayFest Community Festival.

With regard to our activities supporting the Ukrainian families our regular activities during the year have included:

- Language classes for those learning English – three online classes and one face to face class delivered each week, with 5-6 students in each class.
- Informal coffee and chat sessions with native English speakers (two hours per week).
- A Ukrainian language Saturday school (two classes for different age group), around 12 pupils in all.
- A photographic display to mark Ukrainian Independence Day in August. The theme of this was “Ukraine in peace and war” and was intended to inform and educate people about the war. This has now been taken up by North Yorkshire Council and we are working with them to take a similar display “on the road” around the county.
- A trip to the Lake District for the Ukrainian refugees and a Christmas party.
- Collected surplus medical supplies (mainly through the Hospital at Home team in Richmond) and sent them to those in need in Ukraine.

## Treasurer’s Report

The statement below sets out the income and expenditure and Balance Sheet for the period 1 January to 31 December 2024. All of the income has come from grants, donations or other general fund raising. None of the income has come from endowments. The charity has no fixed or investment assets. The year end balance is significantly more than that at the end of the 2023 financial year. This relates mainly to the Restricted Funds received during 2024 where grant agreements note that they will be expended on agreed activities in 2025. The charity operates as a going concern.

The Independent Examiner’s Report is also attached below.

Richmondshire Refugee Support Group (RRSG) Funds as at

31/12/2024

Unrestricted Funds:		YR End Balance 2023	Income 2024	Expenditure 2024	YR End Balance 2024
1	General Fund	£3,800.98	£2,591.20	£3,256.30	£3,135.88
Sub-Total		£3,800.98	£2,591.20	£3,256.30	£3,135.88
Restricted Funds:		YR End Balance 2023	Income 2024	Expenditure 2024	YR End Balance 2024
2	English@Home Grant	£2,632.07	£2,900.00	£2,466.84	£3,065.23
3	Loving Earth Grant	£60.07	£0.00	£60.07	£0.00
4	Ukraine Fund	£3,890.54	£34,520.00	£20,510.11	£17,900.43
5	Walking Grant NYCC	£0.00	-	-	£0.00
6	Space Creative Project	£439.98	£0.00	£99.00	£340.98
7	Grant for TVs from Garrison/donation Blenkins	£0.00	-	-	£0.00
8	Summer Activities Grant NYCC	£329.72	£120.27	£449.99	£0.00
9	Richmond Town Council	£150.00	£250.00	£150.00	£250.00
10	Room hire		£328.00	£328.00	£0.00
Sub-Total		£7,502.38	£38,118.27	£24,064.01	£21,556.64
Overall Total		£11,303.36	£40,709.47	£27,320.31	£24,692.52

Current balance:

£24,692.52



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees	Richmond Refugee Support Group		
On accounts for the year ended	2024	Charity no (if any)	126408
Set out on pages	1-2		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/12/2024**.

**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

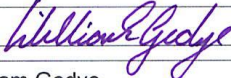
[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [ ] if not applicable.

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:  Date: 20 March 2025

Name: William Gedye

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

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**Address:**

55 Maison Dieu

Richmond

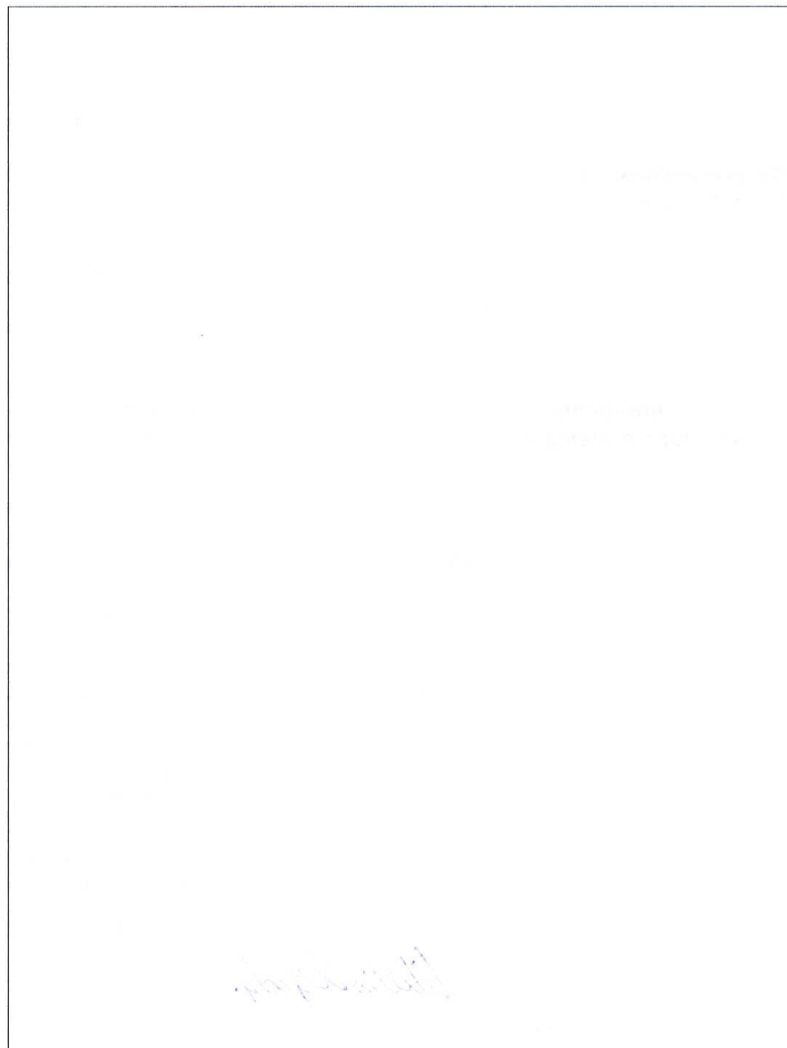
DL10 7AU

**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.



**Declaration**

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' report above

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees:

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Walker', written in a cursive style.

Full name: David William Walker

Position: Chair

Date: 21 May 2025