



Worcester City Welcomes Refugees

Registered Charity No. 1209008

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 July 2025

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Trustees Report

For the year 1st August 2024 to 31st July 2025

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) governed by a constitution dated 8th July 2024. The charity was registered with the Charity Commission on 8th July 2024, Charity number 1209008.

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the Financial Statements were:

Sunil de-Sayrah (Resigned on 2nd January 2025)

Ruth Coates

Simon Cottingham

Chris Russell

Brian Darwood

The affairs of the CIO are managed by the Charity trustees, who meet regularly to review the financial situation, and decide matters of policy.

Objective and activities

The objects of the CIO are, for the public benefit in the Worcester city and surrounding area:

To promote social inclusion among people who are refugees and asylum seekers, socially excluded on the grounds of their social and economic position, by promoting and/or co-ordinating, in partnership with voluntary, community and faith organisations, services and facilities designed to relieve need, prevent such people from being socially excluded and assist them to integrate into society and adapt to life within a new community and culture

Public benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Achievements and performance

Throughout the year, Worcester City Welcomes Refugees (WCWR) has supported Afghan, Syrian and other refugees who have settled in the city along with asylum seekers, in the Fownes Hotel, in Worcester City. We have been supporting refugees and those granted 'Leave to Remain' status, to open bank accounts, access their eVisa's, claim U/C credits, attend Job Centre appointments, and apply for accommodation. We have also worked alongside Maximus, a government contractor engaged to help those with 'Leave to Remain' to access training and employment, and are grateful for their help until their contract finished in January.

We also offer befriending, provide help and support to refugees turning houses into homes through the provision of non-essential items including TVs and toys for the children. English lessons, often on a one to one basis, help with transport to medical appointments, driving lessons, and moving as well as practically in the home and garden. We have taken refugee families on outings from Worcester Woods to Midlands Safari Park.

For those in the hotel, over one hundred and twenty men, practical help with large amounts of clothing, shoes, sportswear, suitcases and resettlement packs. Provision of phones and SIM cards for communication with family and friends, bicycles and padlocks, as well as a wide range of advice, supporting and signposting those with wellbeing and mental health needs, appealing for those claiming to be under eighteen years old.

English lessons were provided twice weekly, supported by a number of volunteers, occasionally with music and singing, artwork and craft ensuring a memorable and enjoyable time.

Working in partnership with Freedom Leisure, we have been able to provide sports trainers to enable access to the gym, 5 a side-football and Swimming passes. Several have been able to get three months gym membership free, which has proved very successful especially for those with bikes and has provided a real boost to their well-being.

A number of outings took place with local visits to the Hive to sign up for library services, to city museums, the Cathedral and a group outing for a walk on the Malvern Hills. We have found volunteering opportunities for them with Bike Worcester, Rivers & Canal Trust, Community Gardens, Salvation Army, and Worcester Wildlife Trust. We have strengthened our partnerships with Migrant Help UK, West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership, Serco, Red Cross and Refugee Action. Locally, we are working with the City University, the City Communities team, and other Welcome Groups across Worcestershire and further afield.

We have also been able to assist resettled asylum seekers from hotels in towns across the Midlands to shared houses in Worcester, with friendship as well as practical help like SIM cards, household items, toys for children and cycles to enable easier access to the city library.

The trustees remain extremely grateful for a team of loyal and dedicated volunteers who provide financial support, or have given their time, donated or sourced phones, clothing or bikes and organized social events. In addition, grants received were from William A Cadbury Trust, Worcestershire County Council, Worcester City Council and donations from St Barnabas Church and Hope Church, for all, which we are very appreciative.

Refugee Week, a national arts festival, was well supported and we helped to organized a number of activities in several locations across the city. This year's theme was 'Our Community as a Superpower' and we worked with Amnesty International, other charities, Faith and Community groups, and businesses to raise public awareness.

We have been involved in a number of promotional events and activities during the year including the Worcester Show and Volunteer Expo. It was a great success engaging with the public, signing up new friends, supporters, potential sponsors and asked to speak at local schools and organisations.

We attended a number of training and networking events, along with conferences and strategic meetings, ensuring our voices were heard by key players and partners including, The Home Office, Serco, Migrant Help and other stakeholders. We have in place a number of policies including Safeguarding, Data Protection, Confidentiality/Privacy, Finance, Lone Worker and Equality Diversity & Inclusion.

Plans for the Future Period

The Trustees continue to meet with the operational team to ensure our ongoing support for the needs of the asylum seekers and refugees, in the most effective ways. Whilst the Governments' long-term plan is for the closure of hotels, no clear alternative policy has been forthcoming. Our main grant funding from Worcester County Council and the City Council is likely to continue, and we will be developing additional funding streams. We have been working closely with Worcester City Council to help attain City of Sanctuary status and participated in a large presentation, network events, and liaising with and supporting local groups with similar objectives. As we grow, we plan to employ staff to undertake administration and other roles.

Financial Review

During the year the net surplus amounted to £942 (2024 surplus £5,633). This increased the overall funds of the charity to £7,815 as at 31 July 2025. The funds are made up of unrestricted funds of £6,793 and restricted funds of £1,022.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the Charity that unrestricted funds not designated for a specific purpose, be maintained at an equivalent level to between three and six month's expenditure.

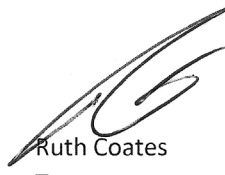
Risk Management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to these.

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Brian Darwood
Trustee



Ruth Coates
Trustee

Date: 13th November 2025

WCWR Accounts for the year ended 31 July 2025

Receipts and Payments

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		2025	2025	2025	2024
		£	£	£	£
Receipts:					
Worcester City Council Grant	1	22,074	-	22,074	5,090
Worcestershire County Council Grant	2	-	1,700	1,700	500
Wychavon District Council Grant		-	-	-	4,000
William A Cadbury Donation		500	-	500	-
Rotary Club Donation		-	-	-	200
Other donations		3,014	-	3,014	345
Other income		-	-	-	100
Interest received		60	-	60	12
Total income received		25,648	1,700	27,348	10,247
Payments:					
<i>For Asylum Seekers housed in hotels:</i>					
Education		7,819	-	7,819	2,048
Clothing		5,679	-	5,679	242
Sport		3,275	303	3,578	-
Transport		3,220	-	3,220	-
Communications		1,034	-	1,034	-
Social events		789	-	789	354
Bicycles		461	375	836	90
Various living costs		358	-	358	165
<i>For Refugees:</i>					
Various housing costs		323	-	323	252
Education		605	-	605	305
Refugee Week		324	-	324	213
<i>Administrative costs:</i>					
IT systems costs		593	-	593	90
Insurance		243	-	243	277
Volunteers mileage expenses	3	734	-	734	283
Charity Registration costs		250	-	250	295
Bank charges		21	-	21	-
Total expenditure		25,728	678	26,406	4,614
Surplus/(Deficit)		(80)	1,022	942	5,633
Fund balances at 01 August 2024		6,873	-	6,873	1,240
Fund balances at 31 July 2025	4	6,793	1,022	7,815	6,873

The Accounts were approved by the Trustees on

13th November 2025



Brian Darwood
Trustee



Ruth Coates
Trustee

Notes to the Accounts

1. The Worcester City Council Grants are for the year to 31 May 2025, £20,360, of which £15,269 was received in the Financial year and for the year to 31 May 2026, £27,219, of which £6,805 was received in the Financial year. These grants are unrestricted.
2. The Worcester County Council Grant is for the period 01 February 2025 to 31 January 2026, £1,700, all of which was received in the Financial year. This grant is restricted and for improving access to sport and leisure activities for Worcester City refugees.
3. Volunteers' mileage expenses £734 (2024 £283) are sums reimbursed to volunteers for the use of their own vehicles in carrying out the Charity's purposes on the recognised HMRC mileage scale. Included in this sum is £362 paid to one of the Trustees in his capacity as a volunteer.
4. Fund balances are fully held in cash.
5. Employees – the charity had no employees in the year (2024 none).
6. Debtors – none.
7. Creditors – Mr E A Davidson Independent Examiners fee £250. (2024 Charity Commission Registration cost £250).

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Report to the Trustees of Worcester City Welcomes Refugees on the Accounts for the period ended 31 July 2025 set out on pages 4 and 5.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiners statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Date

16 November 2025

Edwin Davidson
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