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**THE DEPOT – SUPPORTING REGUGEES IN  
DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY (SCIO)**

**UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2025**

**COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER:- SC046366**

**CARSON & TROTTER**

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

123 IRISH STREET

DUMFRIES

DG1 2PE

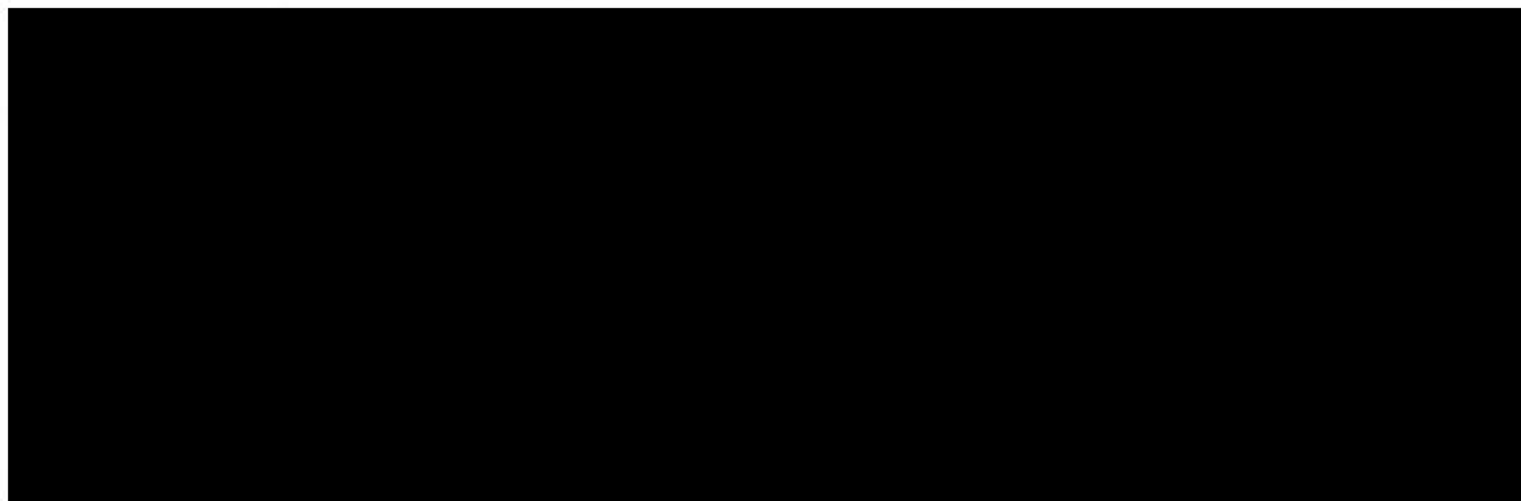
**The Depot-Supporting Refugees in Dumfries & Galloway(SCIO)**

**Charity information**



**Scottish Charity Number**

SC046366



**Independent Examiner**

Carson & Trotter  
Chartered Accountants  
123 Irish Street  
Dumfries  
DG1 2PE

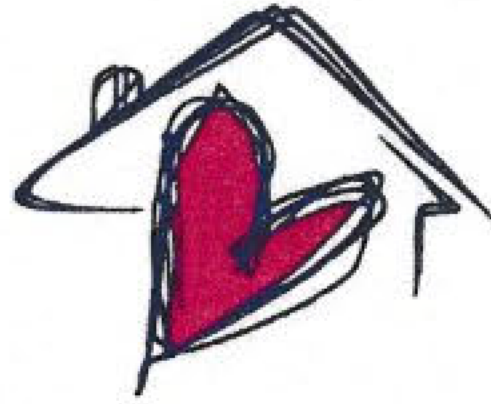
## **The Depot-Supporting Refugees in Dumfries & Galloway(SCIO)**

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The Depot

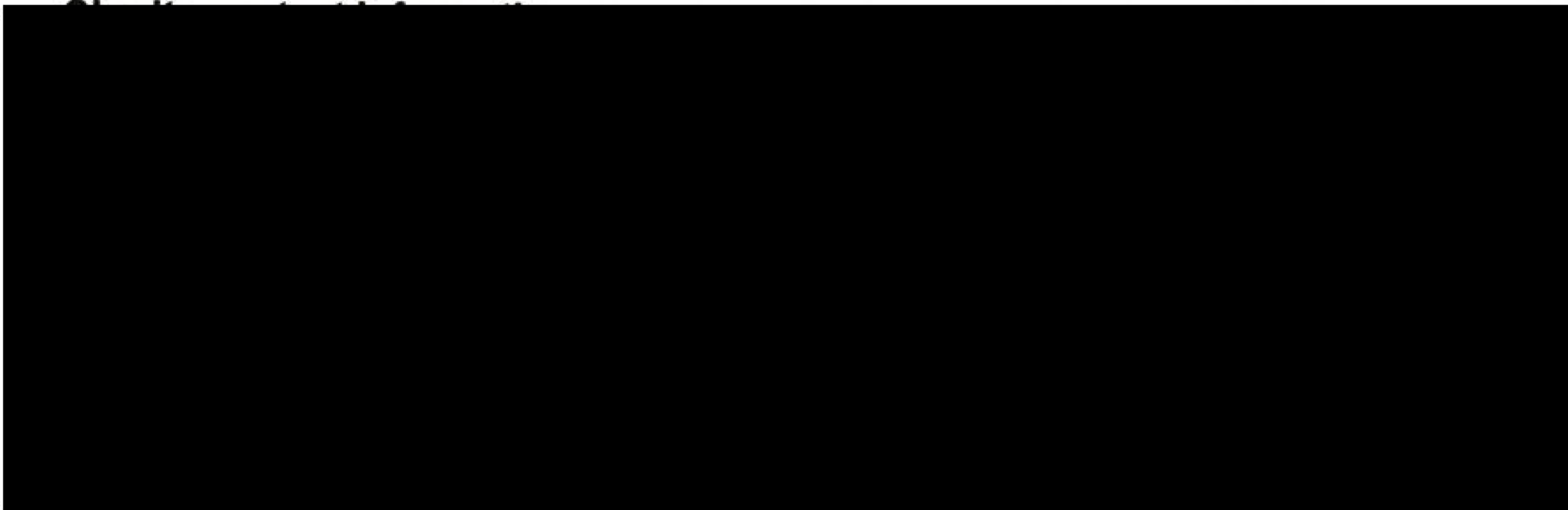


Supporting Refugees in  
Dumfries and Galloway

**Trustees' Report  
For the year ended 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025  
Scottish Charity Number SCO46366**

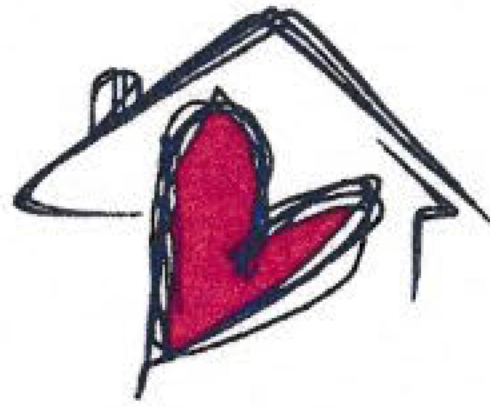
**Structure, governance and management:**

- For the duration of the March23 to Feb 24 Financial year we were known as Massive Outpouring of Love (MOOL)
- **We have obtained permission to change this name and updated Objects with The Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)**
- **We are a single tier charity and our SCIO registration number remains SC046366**
- With effect from 1<sup>st</sup> March we have a new name The Depot – Supporting Refugees in Dumfries and Galloway also known as The Depot





# The Depot



Supporting Refugees in  
Dumfries and Galloway

## **The Board of Trustees:**

The trustees who have served during this Financial Year were as follows:



## **Appointment and Recruitment of Trustees:**

The board may at any time appoint any person to be a charity trustee by way of a resolution passed by majority vote at a board meeting.

## **Staff:**

We have 3 part time members of staff:

- Operations Manager,
- Volunteer Coordinator and
- Depot Manager

This team has been crucial in enabling speedy, effective and consistent responses to changing demand in The Depot, managing volunteers as well as developing new relationships with other local and national organisations that work with Refugees.

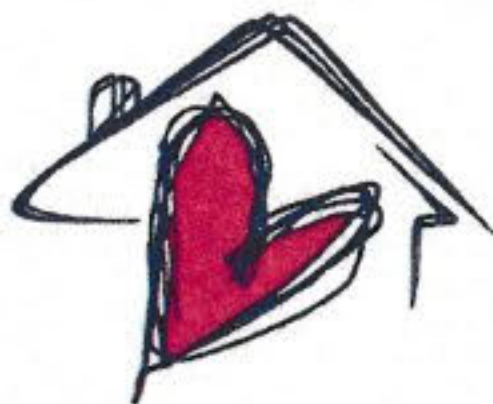
## **Volunteers:**

None of this would have been possible without the wonderful efforts of our loyal and hardworking volunteer group. They do this in a wide variety of ways - from being there when our new arrivals come to see us usually every Friday, organising and helping out at events, as well as helping to spread positive messages about those people coming into our area.





# The Depot



Supporting Refugees in  
Dumfries and Galloway

## **Background:**

We are a community-led charity, founded in September 2015. Initially set up and (then known as MOOL) to support arriving Syrian families, we then organised and sent donations for displaced populations overseas. Since then we have welcomed many Ukrainian refugees, set up homes for Afghan families and provided early welcome and ongoing support to a steady stream of Asylum Seekers who are placed in our region. We secured SCIO status in February 2016 and our recent name change to The Depot reflects a space that organises a wide range of initiatives, in and beyond the building, we always provide a warm welcome and safe place for all people who have been forced to flee their homes and arrive in Dumfries & Galloway.

## **Syrian and Afghan Refugees:**

Since our early response to Dumfries and Galloway initiative to house and integrate Syrian Refugees into the community in 2015, we have also helped to settle a number of Afghan families. We still are in contact with them and they are a significant part of our Depot community. We've been delighted to learn that some Syrians are now achieving British Citizenship.

## **Ukrainian Welcome and Support:**

We have provided varied and significant support to Ukrainian refugees who were initially placed in hotels, temporary housing and with host families since early 2022. We worked in partnership with Dumfries & Galloway's resettlement board and during the last financial year we have helped the Council progress plans to move Ukrainian families into more permanent arrangements by organising transport for removals and sourcing household items such as curtains, bedding and kitchen equipment.

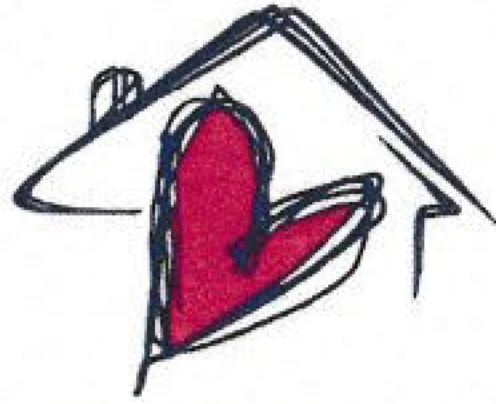
## **Asylum seekers:**

Asylum Seekers, mainly young men who have been arriving since late 2023. They have been placed in a local hotel at very short notice. Some had just arrived by boat while others had been moving around Europe for a number of years. They are from a wide range of countries, including Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan, Eritrea, Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen. The last year has been very busy as numbers fluctuate due to some being moved to other locations in the UK and others arriving – often with less than 24 hours notice.





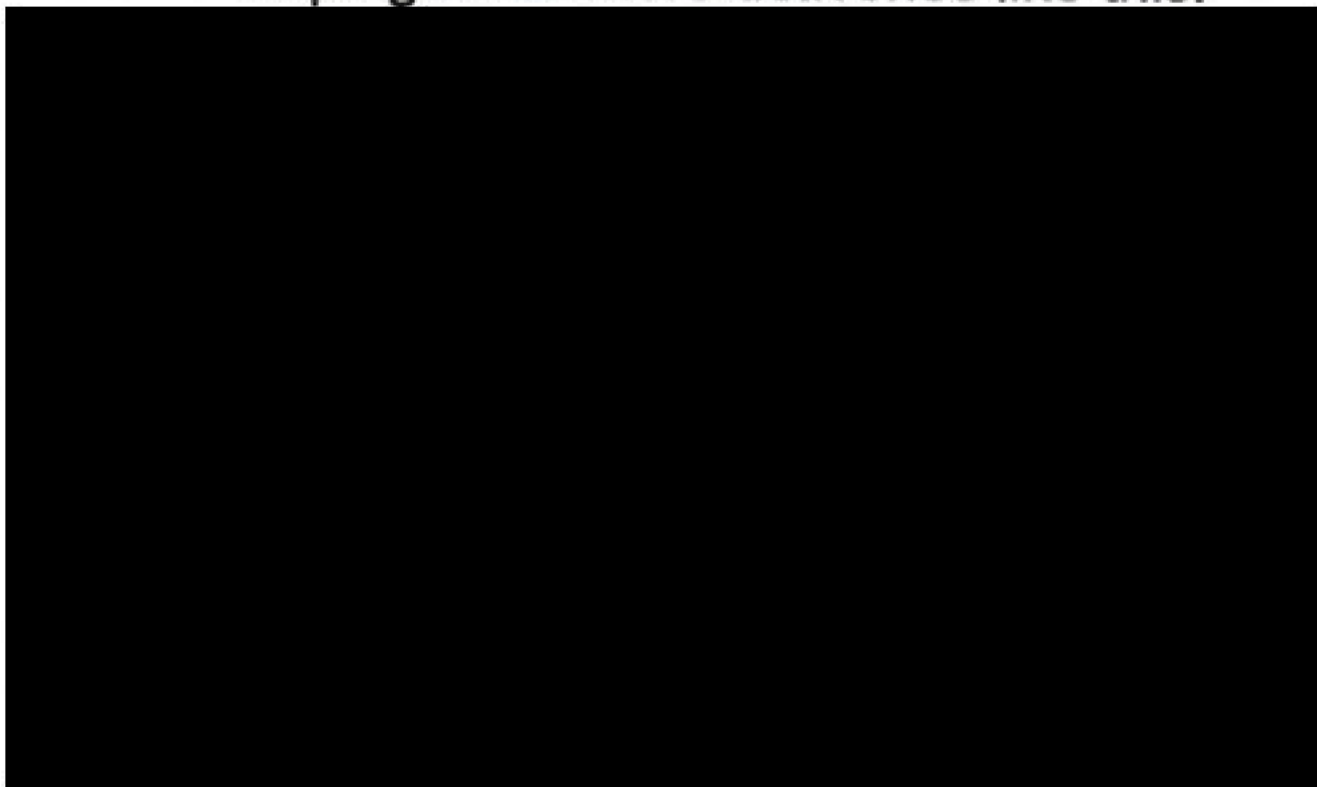
# The Depot



Supporting Refugees in  
Dumfries and Galloway

## Achievements and Performance by our Purposes:

1. **To prevent and relieve poverty by collecting, sorting and distributing donations in response to need for aid in Dumfries and Galloway and overseas**
  - **Help for Refugees and Asylum Seekers** in Dumfries and Galloway – We request, receive and sort donations which are available to anyone who comes into our depot. Sometimes we put out a special call for items (such as baby equipment or household items) when there is a need. We are always seeking appropriate clothing and old phones for our asylum seekers.
  - **Help for Ukrainians in Ukraine** – Our depot manager is Ukrainian and as well as working at our Depot, she also volunteers with a Charity in Ukraine which is about 30km from the Russian border. We are helping by providing a base so that volunteers can sort and send donations of clothing and medicines/bandages. We try to send about 100Kilo/10-15 bags) every couple of months. We've also sent out bicycles for children in Ukraine as well as musical instruments. This team are quite resourceful! At the end of last year, the team filled a mini bus which a volunteer driver delivered and left in Ukraine. This is a great way to get donations out, since it also provides vehicles that can be used to evacuate people out of harm's way. The team are hoping to do more deliveries like this.

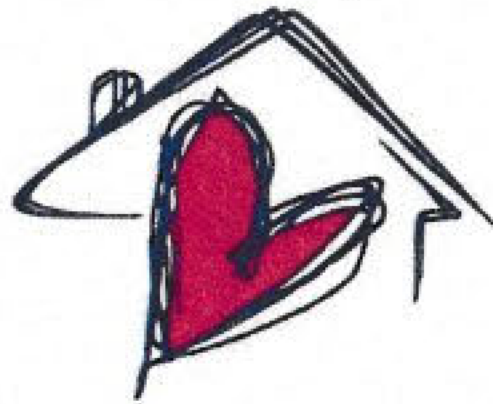


**A shipment  
reaching  
those in need  
in Ukraine**





# The Depot



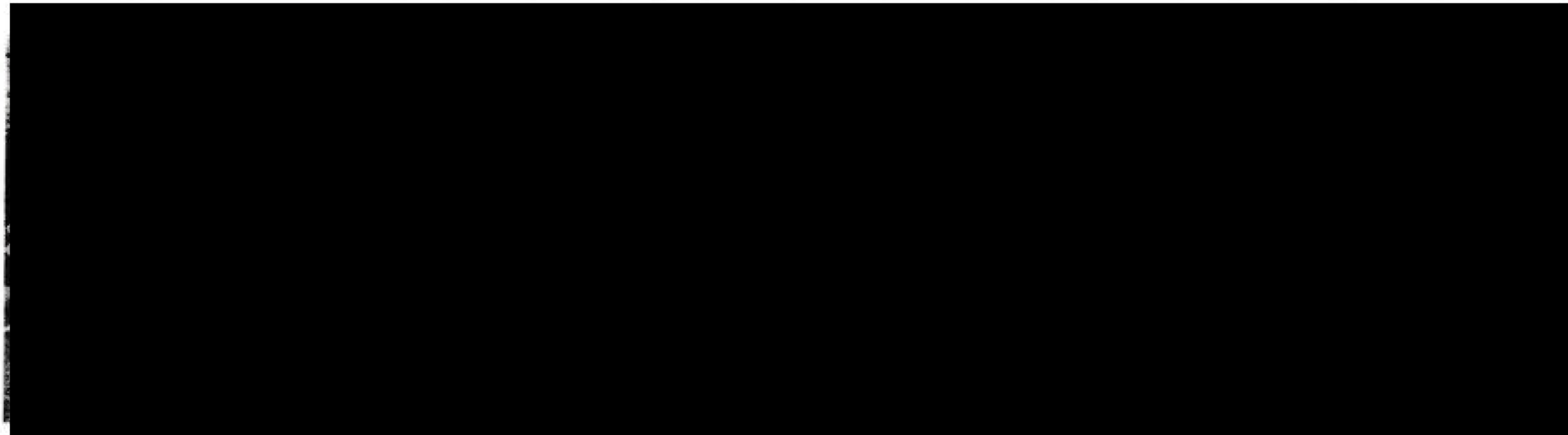
Supporting Refugees in  
Dumfries and Galloway

## 2. To advance citizenship and community integration through the provision of aid, support and information to Asylum Seekers, Refugees and New Scots in Dumfries and Galloway

The Depot is a place where everyone can meet, share food, receive welcome packs, access donations of clothes, bicycles and requested essentials. We also organise and fund events and activities to promote social contact and encourage language skills for all.

We organise a wide range of **weekly** events such as:

- Bus excursions, days out and wellbeing events
- Mix and Mingle events, designed to be an informal chance to chat and try out something new
- English basic and improvement sessions.
- Shared Food events and festivals



Bus Excursion to Glasgow      Local Day out      Mix and Mingle African Drumming

### **Asylum Seekers:**

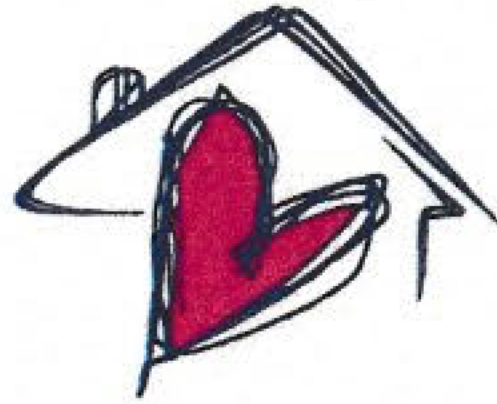
We generally get very short notice of new arrivals to enable us to prepare so that when they arrive - :

- we provide welcome packs with some basic essentials i.e. new underwear, notebook and pen and toiletries etc.
- tell them what we do here, and help them find their way around





# The Depot

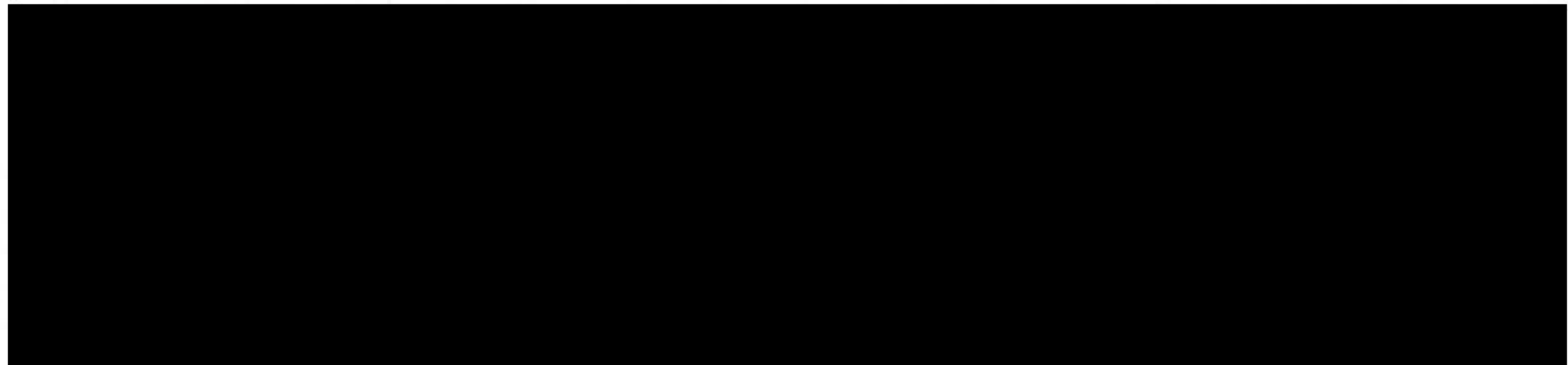


Supporting Refugees in  
Dumfries and Galloway

- we also provide SIM cards and check if support is needed for phone repair/replacement. Phones are an essential tool to keep in touch with family and legal contacts. A generous anonymous donation meant we could repair or provide useable phones to more than 100 newcomers.

## **Refugees:**

- **Friendly Faces** program where volunteers provide one to one support to Ukrainians and Afghan families.
- **Houses to homes** – Set up to prepare homes as Afghan families arrive. Also supporting Ukrainians moving out of the hubs to more permanent homes



3. **To advance education through establishing learning and information events and programmes which engage, educate and develop the personal skills and knowledge of our service users and members of the local community.**

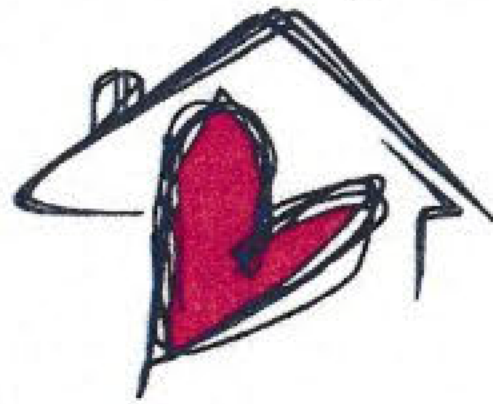
The depot hosts:-

- English Language and conversation sessions
- Information and orientation sessions to help our new Scots understand more about the way we do things in the UK and Locally.
- Information sessions, cultural awareness and wellbeing events provided by external organisations including Refugee Council and 3rd Sector.



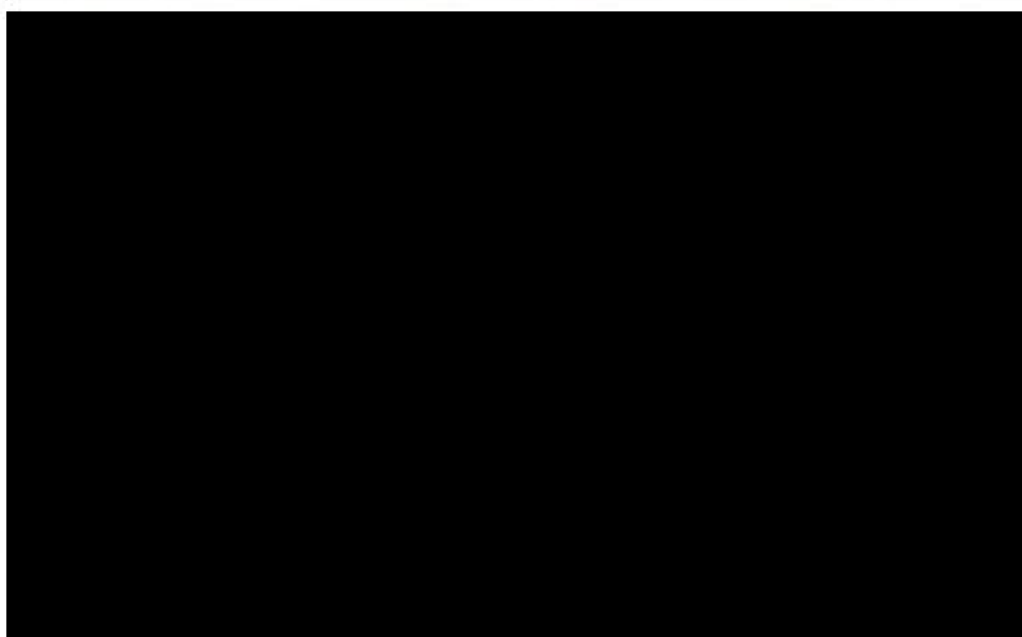


# The Depot



Supporting Refugees in  
Dumfries and Galloway

4. To provide recreational activities through organising, facilitating and delivering opportunities and events for the improvement and promotion of community, wellbeing and mental and physical health
- **Gym membership** is very popular and this has been made possible with significant financial help from our local TUC and by regular donations from individuals. We have allocated over 90 memberships.
  - **The Bike Project**, in collaboration with other local cycling organisations, works to provide cycling trips and to help fix and maintain them. We have gifted more than 170 refurbished bikes to Asylum Seekers, Ukrainian and Afghan Families as well as some homeless and other people in need. This is also led to some great days out and a weekend adventure. This has been made possible by funding from council and private sector as well as regular individual donations.
  - **Organised events** such as trips to Edinburgh and Glasgow continue to be made possible by grants from the Arts
  - **Other** sports and outdoor activities including foraging event are always popular
  - **Mix and Mingle** events provide many different activities and experiences – for example to learn a new craft or skill and are also designed to be an informal chance to chat and try out something new.

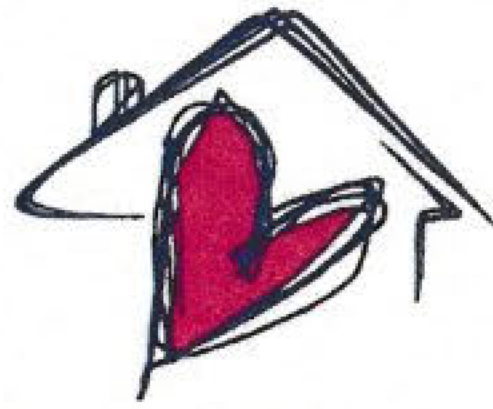


**Bike delivery and  
outside workshop**

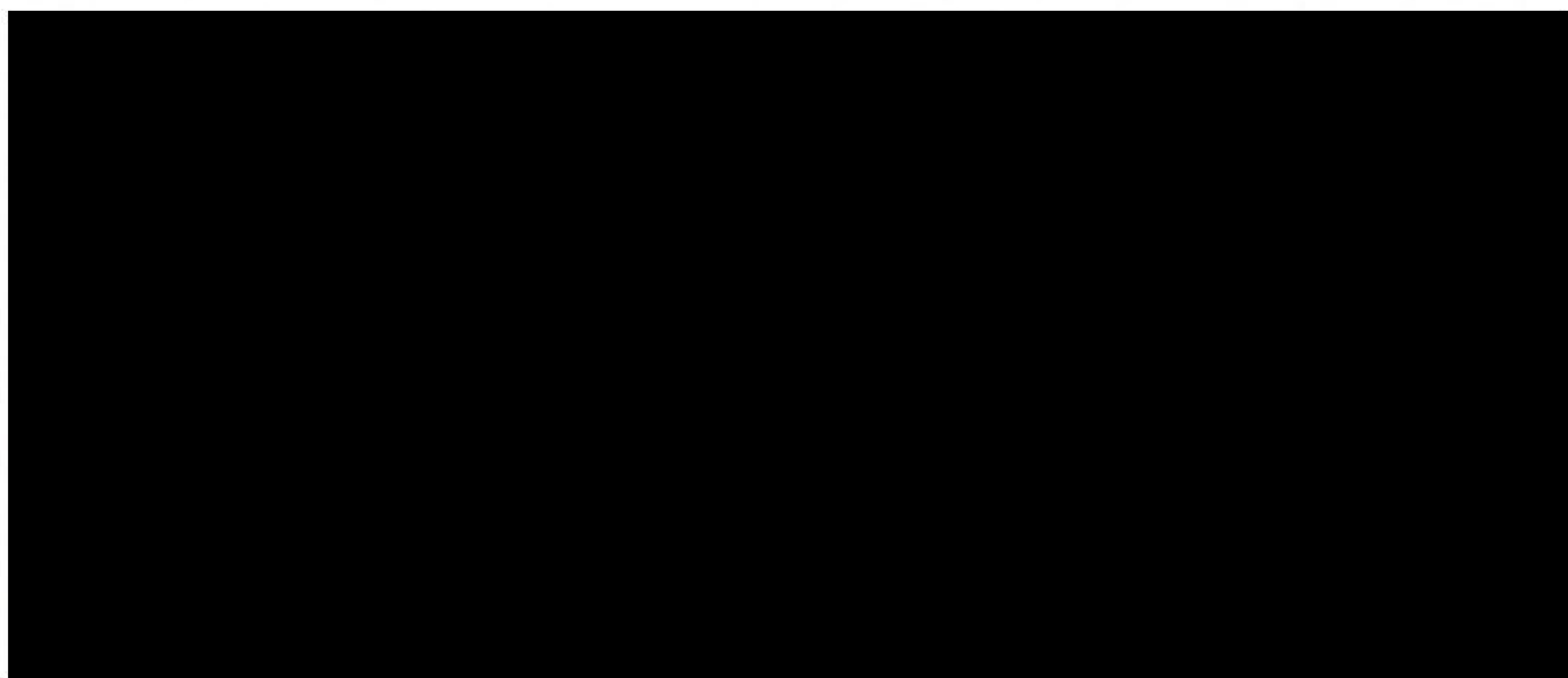




The Depot



Supporting Refugees in  
Dumfries and Galloway



Forage and Cook

Arts Day in Glasgow

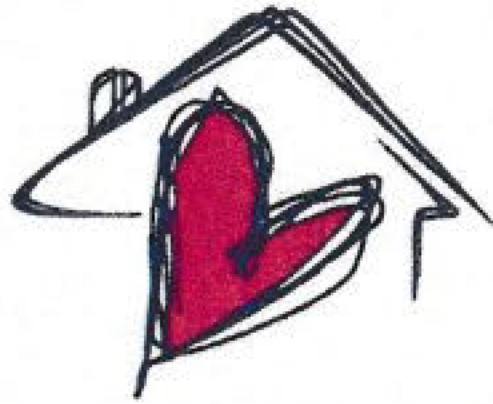
**5.To promote equality, diversity and religious and racial harmony by hosting cultural, educational and special events aimed at encouraging integration, building cultural knowledge and respect and informing our local communities**

- **Refugee Week** – we hired a local shop front to set up an installation of creative work, artwork and writings by our refugees and asylum seekers. We were able to welcome the public and encourage them to engage with the impact of what it means to have to leave home and what it means to be in our region.
- We always welcome invitations to join local organisations, schools and clubs to give talks, support cultural events and provide education materials. Last year we participated in Refugee Week and Youthbeatz music festival.





The Depot



Supporting Refugees in  
Dumfries and Galloway

### Refugee Week 'rise' Exhibition

writings & thoughts  
of refugees and  
asylum seekers in  
Dumfries and

Syrian refugees visiting a  
local school to talk about  
what it is like to be a  
refugee and introducing  
them to Syrian food.

**6.To advance human rights by developing advocacy, building supportive, proactive relationships with other organisations and working in partnerships to maximise effective assistance.**

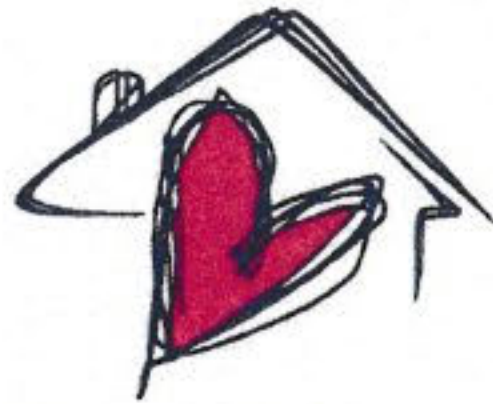
Sadly we have seen increasing racist and anti-migrant rhetoric, including negative targeting of asylum seekers. In the last year we have accepted invitations to speak at Anti Racism events and to counter anti refuge/migration protests.

Our principal concern is to raise awareness about unfair and racist treatment to displaced groups wherever they are. We currently share information generated by other refugee groups and organisations and have forged links with other local, national and international groups who we feel we have some affinity with.





# The Depot



Supporting Refugees in  
Dumfries and Galloway

## **Financial Review:**

Please refer to our accounts for 2024/2025 submitted with this report.

- As well as donating goods, we receive regular financial donations from individuals to support Gym, Cycling and Phone provision
- Dumfries and Galloway Council rely on us to deliver welcome and orientation activities.
- Overhead costs are apportioned as appropriate.

**Statement of the charity's policy on reserves** - Our policy states that we should keep sufficient unreserved funds to cover at least 3 months wages and rent. Including a £20,000 fund for Friendly Faces programmes

**Details of any deficit** - There have been no deficits.

**Donated facilities and services** – None

## **Future Plans:**

The way we use our space has changed and we expect to continue to adapt to changing needs.

We have known for some time that there will be decreased Council funding because the Government views there is decreased need i.e.

- Syrians – most now regarded as settled
- Afghans – not arriving in the numbers originally envisaged (this may change)
- Ukrainians – most are regarded as settled or about to be

Asylum Seekers are not funded. In the past they have been able to take up spare places on language courses. However, as this is reduced, there will be a reduction in opportunities for Asylum Seekers. We will be assessing where other provision for Education might be available.

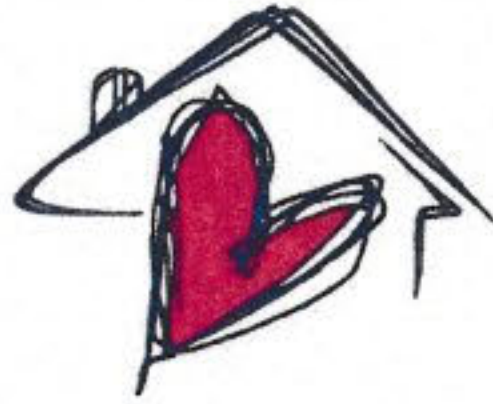
We are also aware of changes in the political climate and we will continue to assess and manage any impact to individuals who are affected by the following:

- Recent announcement that claims for Asylum from Syrians that have been paused





# The Depot



Supporting Refugees in  
Dumfries and Galloway

- Future of extensions to Leave to Remain for Ukrainians
- Further measures that are detrimental to the lives and hopes of Refugees and Asylum Seekers as they are announced by Government.

Our Operations Manager is seeking out and applying for funding from private sector and other sources to ensure we have funding for our staff and our key projects. As long as current funding allows and continues - we expect to continue to:

- Provide a safe environment where those seeking Asylum and Refugees can access -
  - A place to meet over food and drinks
  - English Language reading and conversation
  - Friendly advice and guidance
  - Appropriate sorted donations and essentials,
  - Other wellbeing activities such as Mix and Mingle, Music sessions etc
- Support Gym membership
- Deliver bikes through The Bike Project and associated activities and adventures
- Organise events such as trips to Edinburgh and Glasgow and sports and other outdoor activities
- Deliver Friendly Faces although this is likely to evolve to provide more group events
- Provide a base to enable donations to be sent to Ukraine
- Support phone repair/replacement when funding allows.

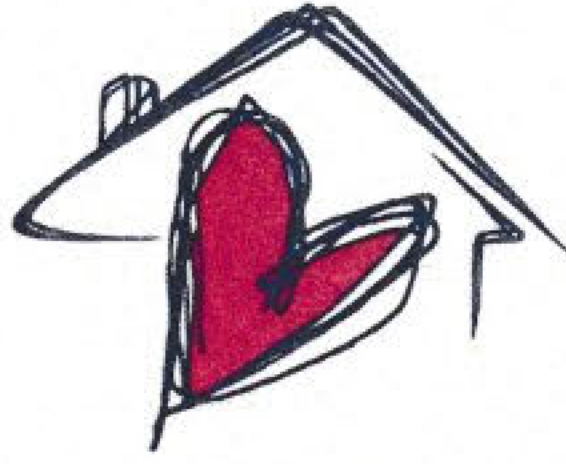
We also need to do more to raise our new profile including:

- **Online Presence:** We have been working to overhaul our online presence (i.e. website, Facebook and Instagram) to ensure everyone is aware of our new name, we expect to continue to raise our profile and become more accessible and informative.
- A launch party to include invitations to the wide community of regular and potential partners and funders
- Refresh merchandise and brand identity





# The Depot



Supporting Refugees in  
Dumfries and Galloway

## Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:



## Designation

Chair

## Date

14<sup>th</sup> May 2025





**The Depot-Supporting Refugees in Dumfries & Galloway(SCIO)**

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of**  
**The Depot-Supporting Refugees in Dumfries & Galloway(SCIO)**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 28th February 2025 which are attached as part of this document.

**Respective responsibilities of management committee and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1)(d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under Section 44(1)(c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of the independent examiner's statement**

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. 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 seeks 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

a. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

b. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



**Messrs Carson & Trotter**  
**Chartered Accountants**  
**123 Irish Street**  
**Dumfries**  
**DG1 2PE**

**Date: 27th June 2025**



**The Depot-Supporting Refugees in Dumfries & Galloway(SCIO)**

**Receipts and Payments Account**  
**for the year ended 28th February 2025**

		Unrestricted	Restricted	2025	2024
		funds	funds	Total	Total
	Notes	£	£	funds	funds
				£	£
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>					
Donations		13,485	6,488	19,973	12,193
Fundraising income		-	-	-	192
Grants	2	-	76,425	76,425	12,399
<b>Total receipts</b>		<u>13,485</u>	<u>82,913</u>	<u>96,398</u>	<u>24,784</u>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>					
<b><u>Charitable activities</u></b>					
Charitable activities		933	954	1,887	10,525
Purchases		460	1,009	1,469	-
Purchase of bikes		-	5,337	5,337	-
Basic Needs goods		-	2,599	2,599	-
Purchase of mobile phones		-	6,628	6,628	-
Gym memberships		-	5,408	5,408	-
Depot costs		336	1,361	1,697	-
Transport costs		1,993	-	1,993	-
Advertising/promotional		489	323	812	-
Donation charges		3	39	42	9
Other professional services		404	437	841	731
Wages and salaries		6,323	20,648	26,971	19,962
Staff expenses		-	185	185	25
Staff training		-	601	601	-
Rent		2,634	620	3,254	4,204
Venue hire		-	-	-	105
Travel and acomodation		15	2,563	2,578	729
General expenses		1,795	1,537	3,332	2,765
		<u>15,385</u>	<u>50,249</u>	<u>65,634</u>	<u>39,055</u>
<b>Governance costs</b>					
Independent examiner's fees		150	252	402	342
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>15,535</u>	<u>50,501</u>	<u>66,036</u>	<u>39,397</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		(2,050)	32,412	30,362	(14,613)
Transfers between funds		(33)	33	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<u>(2,083)</u>	<u>32,445</u>	<u>30,362</u>	<u>(14,613)</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		18,391	9,452	27,843	42,456
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<u>16,308</u>	<u>41,897</u>	<u>58,205</u>	<u>27,843</u>
All income and expenditure derived from continuing activities.					

The notes on page 16 to 19 form an integral part of these financial statements.



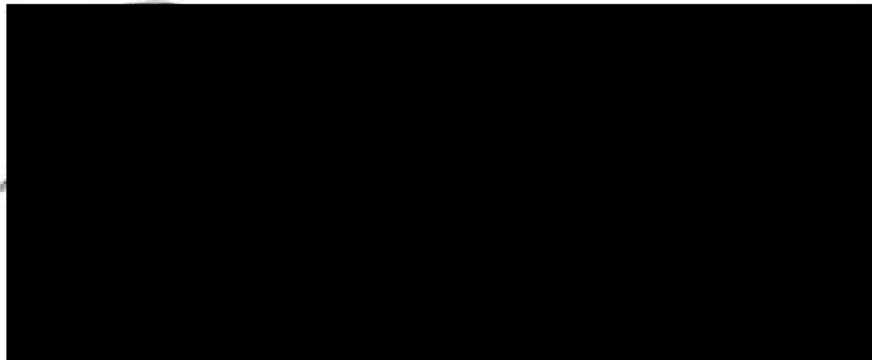
**The Depot-Supporting Refugees in Dumfries & Galloway(SCIO)**

**Statement of Balances**  
**as at 28th February 2025**

		2025 £	2024 £
<b>Bank and cash</b>			
Opening balance		27,843	42,456
Surplus / (deficit) for the year		30,362	(14,613)
<b>Closing balance</b>		<u>58,205</u>	<u>27,843</u>
<b>Reserves</b>			
Unrestricted funds	3	16,308	18,391
Restricted funds	3	41,897	9,452
<b>Total funds</b>		<u>58,205</u>	<u>27,843</u>

The Charity has no other investments, assets or material liabilities.

Approved by the Trustees on 14th May 2025 and signed on their behalf by:





**The Depot-Supporting Refugees in Dumfries & Galloway(SCIO)**

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 28th February 2025**

**1. Accounting policies**

**1.1. Basis of preparation**

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

**2. Grants**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
D & G Council	-	39,675	39,675	4,000
The Wood Foundation	-	-	-	2,750
Dumfries High School	-	-	-	250
Scottish Government	-	-	-	3,563
The Mears Foundation	-	-	-	1,836
ANCBC	-	10,000	10,000	-
D & G Council - NSF	-	4,000	4,000	-
Scottish Refugees	-	750	750	-
Faith in Community	-	500	500	-
CMHW	-	10,000	10,000	-
Loreburn CC	-	500	500	-
Galloway & South Climate Hub	-	1,000	1,000	-
BOS Foundation	-	10,000	10,000	-
	-	76,425	76,425	12,399

All of the income from grants in 2024 was restricted.



**The Depot-Supporting Refugees in Dumfries & Galloway(SCIO)**

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 28th February 2025**

**3. Statement of funds**

	Balance at 29th February 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 28th February 2025 £
<b>Restricted funds:</b>					
DG Council Research	2,137	-	(2,121)	(16)	-
Ukrainian Support/Friendly Faces	945	25,000	(14,699)	-	11,246
Welcome Hubs	1,755	-	(1,754)	(1)	-
Mears Foundation	792	-	(692)	-	100
D & G Summer Activities	2,000	250	(2,282)	32	-
YPI	1,823	-	(1,806)	-	17
ANCBC	-	10,000	(560)	-	9,440
Basic Needs	-	3,000	(2,599)	-	401
CMHW Fund	-	10,000	(985)	-	9,015
Bike fund	-	7,675	(6,357)	-	1,318
Enable grant	-	10,000	(1,644)	-	8,356
Faith in community	-	500	(500)	-	-
Gym memberships	-	5,738	(5,408)	-	330
Mobile devices	-	7,000	(6,628)	-	372
NSAF Fruity Friday	-	500	(66)	-	434
NSAF Info sessions	-	500	(201)	-	299
NSAF M & M	-	1,000	(639)	-	361
NSAF Trips	-	500	(292)	-	208
NSAF UKR Party	-	500	(518)	18	-
Scottish Refugee Council	-	750	(750)	-	-
	<u>9,452</u>	<u>82,913</u>	<u>(50,501)</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>41,897</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>					
Unrestricted general funds	<u>18,391</u>	<u>13,485</u>	<u>(15,535)</u>	<u>(33)</u>	<u>16,308</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>27,843</u>	<u>96,398</u>	<u>(66,036)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,205</u>

The unrestricted general funds represent the free funds of the charity which are not designated for particular purposes.

**DG Council Research**

Funding was received from Dumfries and Galloway Council to conduct research into the degree of integration of the 20 Syrian families who have come into Dumfries and Galloway over the past 4 years. This fund is now closed.

**Welcome Hubs**

Grant from Dumfries and Galloway Council for work and materials to welcome Ukrainian refugees. This fund is now closed.

**Ukrainian Support UK / Friendly Faces**

Further grant from Dumfries and Galloway Council for work and materials to welcome Ukrainian refugees.



**The Depot-Supporting Refugees in Dumfries & Galloway(SCIO)**

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 28th February 2025**

**Mears Foundation**

Grant to support outdoor volunteering for asylum seekers based at Mercure Hotel.

**D & G Summer Activities - Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund**

Grant for summer activities and trips for asylum seekers based at Mercure Hotel. This fund is now closed.

**Youth Philanthropy Initiative - School Grants Competition**

Restricted fund for donations overseas.

**ANCBC**

Restricted grant to extend the opening hours of The Depot.

**Basic Needs**

Restricted fund to support the basic needs of those claiming asylum at the Mercure Hotel.

**CMHW Fund**

Restricted grant to support activities for New Scots within The Depot.

**Bike Fund**

Restricted Fund to support the provision of bikes to New Scots.

**Enable Grant**

Restricted grant to support our volunteers.

**Faith in Community**

Grant for support for provision of bikes.

**Gym Memberships**

Fund for subsidised gym memberships.

**Mobile Devices**

Restricted fund to support the IT needs of those claiming asylum at the Mercure Hotel.

**NSAF Fruity Friday**

Restricted grant to provide healthy snacks at The Depot.

**NSAF Info Sessions**

Restricted grant to provide information sessions for New Scots.

**NSAF M & M**

Restricted grant for provision of Mix and Mingle Activities at The Depot.

**NSAF Trips**

Restricted grant for provision of trips for New Scots.

**NSAF UKR Party**

Restricted grant for provision of volunteer celebration party.

**Scottish Refugee Council**

Grant for refugee week exhibition.



**The Depot-Supporting Refugees in Dumfries & Galloway(SCIO)**

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 28th February 2025**

**4. Transfers between funds**

Funds are transferred from restricted funds to unrestricted funds where the project has ended and the funders have agreed that any surplus funds can be used for general funds. Where a restricted fund has had an overspend, funds are transferred from unrestricted funds to clear this.